

Words of Wisdom

'Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. ... Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.' (Proverbs 3:5-6 & 9)

Wise King Solomon has left us with three excellent and timely messages:

1. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart.

Keep thy heart with all diligence.

This has to do with our affections.

In Proverbs 4:23 we are told 'Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life'. We are listening here to something that touches the fundamentals of our very existence. It is about how we are and what we are inwardly. In this, the day that God has exhibited to us His love and grace, our life for Him must show, with gratitude, that same affection and implicit trust. This is the starting place on a road that leads to a fulfilled life.

2. Acknowledge the Lord in all thy ways.

This has to do with our activities.

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, is there time for consulting the Lord? It never occurs to the man in the street to consult Him. But if we profess to have put our faith in Him for personal forgiveness and salvation, He wants us to confide in Him. It may not minimise or prevent the problems of life, but we will have the contentment of knowing that in the eyes and heart of an all-knowing God, He is working out His purposes for our good.

3. Honour the Lord with all thy substance.

This has to do with your assets.

In all the things that God has given, and will yet give to us, we must honour – be accountable to – Him. We must ensure that we recognise that the source of all that we are and have comes from God Himself, be it little or much. This will lead us to have a big heart for others in need, both in the world and in the 'household of faith.' The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that 'God loveth a cheerful giver.' He says we must not give 'grudgingly or of necessity.' He also reminds us in 1 Corinthians 16:2 to 'lay by [us] ... as God has prospered [us].' The royal rule is, He gets first, not last!