November 22, 2026
Sea Change Church
Proverbs: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World S4E5
Straight paths
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Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. 6 Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will straighten your ways.

Main idea: Biblical faith is not simply the conviction that God is trustworthy; it encompasses a life lived trusting in His trust.

Verse 5a: Trust in the Lord
When our security is threatened, we naturally gravitate toward what we believe has the power to sustain, protect, or free us.

- **Ourselves:** Proverbs 28:26 — Those who trust themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom remain safe.
- **Our leaders: Psalm** 118:9 — It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.
- **Our churches:** Jeremiah 7:4 — Do not trust these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD."
- **Our riches:** Proverbs 11:28 — Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will prosper like a green leaf.

Verse 5a: With all your heart
The heart is the center that governs the inner person.

- The Hebrew word for heart is *lev* (לֵב), with the related form *levav* (לֵבָב). Unlike our modern Western understanding of the heart as the main seat of emotion, the Hebrew heart encompasses intellect, will, affection, motivation, and moral judgment.
- **Proverbs 4:23:** "Above all, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Verse 5b: And do not lean on your own understanding
Understanding your circumstances is not a requirement to trust God.

- **Philippians 4:6–7:** Do not worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, make your petitions known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Verse 6: In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will correct your ways

- In Proverbs 3:6, the emphasis on "ways" is not only geographic but also behavioral. It encompasses how we lead our lives, make decisions, manage relationships, respond to adversity, and pursue our ambitions.

We often worry more about where God takes us than who we will be when we arrive.

Practical conclusion: This week, focus your attention on how you are doing something instead of on what you are doing.

Small group questions

1. According to Proverbs 3:5, what does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart?
2. What does Proverbs 4:23 teach us about the relationship between our hearts and the way we live?
3. According to Philippians 4:6–7, how can we experience peace even when we do not understand our circumstances?
4. When your security is threatened, where do you instinctively turn and what does that reveal about your confidence?

5. How could your life change if you focused less on where God is taking you and more on who you are becoming on the path?