

# TRUST IN THE LORD

Passage: Proverbs 3:1-12

- Story – driving to RGS – skidding BMW
- At the centre – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” This is a well-known passage.
- It’s also a passage that we can read, nod sagely about, and have no idea how to put into practice!
- Plan today: I’m going to open up a couple of ways of looking at it, tell a story, then leave you to read more, talk more, and think about how this part of the Scriptures might go on changing your life!
  
- The whole book of Proverbs is built around some key assumptions:
  - God made the world to work a certain way
  - We need to understand more of God’s character, baked into the fabric of the world – that’s called wisdom
  - If we understand wisdom, we’ll live differently and it will have good outcomes
  - The responsibility for applying that wisdom lies with us
- So, first way of looking at the central verses – *put aside how you innately think the world should work, seek instead to understand how God has made the world to reflect his nature, and live his way instead of ours.*
  - There’s a lot going for this – to put God’s character and ways above ourselves is to submit to him, in one way
  - T8 example
  - But does it leave you a little dissatisfied? It lends itself to an understanding of the Christian life where God has given us the world, left us his instructions, and now leaves us to “get on with it”. This can’t be the complete picture, as we’re called to ongoing relationship with God. Passages like John 15 – remaining in the vine, connected to Christ – speak of a more relational life.
  - Ironically, it also risks leaving us quite self-centred. We take on board God’s wisdom, but then we get on with orienting our sphere of influence around how we think they should be ordered in God’s economy.
  
- So what if the “trusting in the Lord” was a more interactive thing? Jesus spoke some words that challenge us to this day, because we know they’re true, but struggle to believe them wholeheartedly. Mark 11:22-26

*‘Have faith in God,’ Jesus answered. ‘Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea,” and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.’*

- This is a different kind of trust – our understanding says that mountains don’t move; Jesus says that if we *trust* by asking in His name, they will.
- However, we have to do business with the fact that there are some mountains that people have asked God earnestly about and which haven’t moved. Perhaps there’s some clues in the Proverbs passage about what’s going on there – why not take a look and see what you think!
  
- I want to finish with a story from a chap called Bob Goff: he’s a follower of Christ, and a really challenging guy to read, because he gets on and does a bunch of things that most of the rest of us would just talk about doing. But this story is about something he did with his kids.  
*[tell story – Love Does p.67 “The Interviews”]*
- See how his kids put their trust in his resources, his abilities, but also relationship with him to know if this was a good idea, and how it might work.

## For Discussion

1. Can you think of a story of when you did something God's way instead of the world's? What happened?
2. How can we remain God-centred, when most of our daily choices relate to how we live and act?
3. What about things we've asked for in Jesus's name which haven't happened? Is there anything in Prov 3 or elsewhere that helps us understand?
4. In the light of your discussion today, how can we make Proverbs 3:5-6 our daily reality?