

# SOME THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW - 1

**"Life Coach!"**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**January 22, 2012**

**PLANT THE SEED:** Video - Jesus vs. The Devil

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Mother Superior the religious leader in "The Sound of Music", asked her young Nun - Maria von Trapp, "What is the most important lesson you have learned here?" Maria von Trapp answered, **"To find the will of God and to do it!"** Like Maria, every Christian needs to earnestly seek and pursue the will of God early in their Christian walk with Jesus their Savior.

Brother Lawrence once said: - **"I have no will, but that of God."** Most Christians wish that they could say and live those words. But in order to do that there are two pitfalls to avoid:

- 1. Tendency to oppose God's will**
- 2. Knowing God's will**

The latter produces the question that, as a Pastor, I am asked more than any other question that's possible to be imagined: **"How can I know God's will?"** I am convinced that you have been faced with this question as I have been. The Bible is a fountain of abundant direction in knowing God's will for your life.

**"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will." ---Romans 12:1-2**

Knowing God's will for your life is a process, it won't just happen overnight. But, how do I find the will of God for my life, you may ask? There Must Be A Preparation First. Here are several things that must take place before you can hope to accurately discern God's will for your life.

- You must realize that you can know God's will
- It's important to seek the will of God for your life
- You must first be convinced that God wants you to know His will
- God will make His will known to you.

Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."--  
-James 4:15

I read an advertisement on the internet this week:

In just 30 minutes each week, we can show YOU how to achieve YOUR goals. YOU matter - success is living a happy, healthy, full life. Private telephone and e-mail coaching combine with assessment profiles to ensure YOU get where YOU want to be...

([http://helpyougrowcoaching.com/index.htm?source=life+coach&gclid=CMCB1LTL44sCFQZKYQodRiz\\_SA](http://helpyougrowcoaching.com/index.htm?source=life+coach&gclid=CMCB1LTL44sCFQZKYQodRiz_SA))

There are more and more people who are using the services of what is called a "Life Coach." With roots in executive coaching, which itself drew on techniques developed in management consulting and leadership training, life coaching also draws from a wide variety of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, career counseling, mentoring, and numerous other types of counseling. The coach applies mentoring, values assessment, behavior modification, behavior modeling, goal-setting, and other techniques in assisting clients. Coaches are to be distinguished from counselors, whether counselors in psychotherapy or other careers.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life\\_coaching](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_coaching))

People like Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankee's uses the services of a life coach to help him make good decisions and to help reach personal goals.

People are looking for answers in life; they are looking for the motivation to carry on with life. I believe that many people want to live what they consider a successful life. People are looking to books. Life coaches, various religions, among other things for the answers.

Today I want to begin a five part mini-series entitled "Some Things We Need To know." As Christians, there are many things we need to know about our life in Christ. I want to focus in on five things that were shared with me a long time ago as I started out wanting to become a minister. The next five weeks will deal with scriptures that are "life scriptures". These are passages that can have a profound effect on our lives if we will memorize them and follow them. The first of these is:

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. ---  
Proverbs 3:5-6

The first of the 5 things we need to know is that we have a life coach. As we look at these five things we need to know, I want to challenge you to take the time to memorize the main text each week. These passages will be a blessing to you when you struggle through some of the challenges that life has to offer to you. Christians do not have to search all over the place looking for guidance; we have the guidance we need to succeed in life from our God.

Today as we look at Proverbs 3:5-6, we will see that God makes a promise, but that promise has three conditions for us to maintain. We must:

### **I. GIVE OUR COACH A 100% COMMITMENT.**

If want to enjoy the benefits of having the ultimate life-coach, we have to be 100% committed to Him. Look with me at what part of verse five tells us.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart... ---Proverbs 3:5

Meaning of trust:

1.) Webster: Basic dependence on someone or something, Belief that something will happen or someone will act is a prescribed way

## 2.) Bible: Trust is found in our unswerving belief that the God of Heaven will indeed work on our behalf to bring His perfect will for our lives into being

This part of the text is part of the commitment we are called to make if we are going to enjoy the benefits of having the ultimate life coach. What does it mean to trust? It means that we put our full confidence in something. To trust means that we are willing to set our hope and confidence in God. In Proverbs 3:5, we are told our trust is to be put in the Lord. Why do we have such a hard time with the issue of trust? WE struggle with trust because we have been lied to, deceived, and used so many times; it is hard for us to trust.

Trust Him when the way is hard and perilous. Life can be tough.

**ILLUSTRATION:** How you can tell when it's going to be a rotten day:

- You wake up face down on the pavement.
- You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
- You see a "60 Minutes" news team waiting in your office.
- Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
- You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city.
- Your twin sister forgot your birthday.
- Your car horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway.
- Your boss tells you not to bother to take off your coat.
- The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard.
- You wake up and your braces are locked together.
- You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business.
- Your income tax check bounces.
- You put both contact lenses in the same eye. - Source Unknown.

When it comes to the issue of trust, what does the writer of Proverbs tell us concerning how MUCH we are supposed to trust in the Lord? We are called to trust Him with ALL OF OUR HEART! We cannot have a 75% commitment to trusting God and then expect to fully receive the guidance we all want for our lives. When we partially trust God what happens? He will guide us in a certain direction and because we are not 100% committed to trusting Him; we deviate from His

perfect plan and will for our lives. When we do not give God a 100% commitment to trust Him we are hurting ourselves. If we decide not to trust the Lord with all of our hearts, then who are we going to trust? Let me ask you this, "Who is better to trust than the Lord"? Who knows you better than God, who better to know what is best for you than God? We cannot be afraid to approach God.

**Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God, trust also in me. ---John 14:1**

**ILLUSTRATION:** Building trust with Kobe

It took me a long time to fully trust God's direction in my life. There are times I still struggle with it. When I was called to leave the comfort of an established church and begin this ministry -- it was hard to fully trust God. When we decide to fully trust God, the blessings will be well worth the trust we give to Him.

**Trust the Lord with ALL your heart!**

The second thing we must do is:

## **II. TRUST THE COACH'S PLAY CALLING.**

If we are going to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts, what are we going trust him to do? Let's look at some more of verse five.

**And lean not on your own understanding. ---Proverbs 3:5**

We HAVE to trust the path laid out for us. When God calls a play for us, we have to trust Him enough to follow it. The tendency is to follow divine guidance only when it agrees with human logic or with what our flesh wants to do.

**But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ---1 Corinthians 2:14**

We are talking about obedience to God. Obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is necessary. Is Jesus really your Lord? Or do you want Him primarily as a Savior, with no responsibilities attached? To know the will of God is dependent upon how you will answer this question: **"Are you determined to do what God says no matter**

what?" If so, then Romans 12:1-2 must become a reality in your life.

Until you are completely yielded and obedient to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, you will most likely fear God's will for your life. But when you do make Jesus Lord and Savior of your life, you will find that what you have feared before is now 'Good and Acceptable.'

Jesus said: "...If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me." ---Luke 9:23

If you don't follow Jesus wholeheartedly, you'll be too far away to know what God wants you to do. It is very important to realize too that God, will always measure the sincerity of your heart. If we are going to receive the guidance and direction we desire to have to live life, we need to quit leaning on our own understanding, we have to quit finding support in our own understanding. Trust means that we lean on God. We have to know that His ways are the BEST ways for us. At best man's understanding of life is unsound, indecisive, and uncertain. The phrase "lean on your own understanding" is a metaphor meaning to have confidence in something.

**ILLUSTRATION:** A man was out jogging one day and as he passed a cliff, he got too close and fell. Grabbing hold of a branch he was stranded. No way up and certainly no way down. He began to scream, "Help, help, is there anyone up there who can hear me." He yelled for hours and was about to give up when he heard a voice. "Can you hear me?" "Yes, Yes, I can hear you I'm down here." "I can see you, are you alright?" "Yes, but...who are you and where are you?" "I am the Lord, I am everywhere." "The Lord? You mean God?" "That's me." "God, help me, I promise that if you get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person and serve you for the rest of my life." "Easy on the promises. First let's get you down, then we can discuss those." "I'll do anything, Lord, just tell me what to do, okay?" "Okay, let go of the branch." "What?" "I said, let go of the branch. Just trust me, let go." PAUSE "Help, Help, is there anybody else up there?"

When we allow our pride or our own understanding to get in the way of God's path for our life, we will struggle. We need to trust that when God calls a pitch for us, that it is the right pitch! The third thing we must do is...We must:

### III. REMEMBER WHO HELPS YOU WIN.

When we experience success in life, it is easy to forget why we were successful or it is easy to forget who helped us to be successful. Let's look at verse 6:

**In all your ways acknowledge Him... ---Proverbs 3:6**

What does it mean to acknowledge Him in all our ways? It simply means that we are to consult His will, seek His direction, and recognize His sovereignty over our lives. We are called to do this in EVERY area of our lives. Some people will say your faith is a private thing. In some ways it may be, BUT, God has NEVER told us, implied, or wanted us to separate our faith from ANY part of our lives. When we have a relationship with God through Jesus, we soon realize that God demands sovereignty over EVERY area of our lives. WE cannot be religious at church and then leave this place only to live our lives leaning on our own understanding Monday thru Saturday!

Part of the reason this passage is worded the way it is, is so that we do not get into the situation of acknowledging God only in formal worship or during crises in life. Every aspect of our lives MUST be focused on God and His will for our lives. As we are living our lives, we cannot forget why we are where we are. WE cannot forget to acknowledge God in EVERYTHING we do. This acknowledgment is not theoretical in nature; it is the way we are called to live the life for Jesus! Now, guess what kind of blessing we receive as we are striving to follow what God has asked us to do!

Then we know:

### IV. THE COACH WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!

Once in a while, a coach will make a wrong call or would make a bad judgment call that would let the team down. The great thing about God is that He will never let us down! Look at the rest of verse 6 with me:

He will make your paths straight. ---Proverbs 3:6

The basic meaning of this is that when we trust in the Lord with all of our hearts, and do not lean on our own understanding and in all of our ways acknowledge Him, He will remove the obstacles which will impede our progress. Our walk with Him will be full of joy and blessings. It does not mean we will never struggle or that we will never face adversity, but it means that God will fight the battle for us. The battle belongs to the Lord!

### **CONCLUSION:**

How would like to have the ultimate life-coach? Think about a life-coach who can give you the BEST counsel in EVERY area of your life, a life-coach who will never lead you astray! Guess what, when you belong to Christ, you have one! You do not have to wander in the desert, as we will see next week, all you have to do is ask!

**ILLUSTRATION:** I heard about a lady who went to her pastor and asked him if he thought that God would want to be involved in the little things in her life. The pastor replied, do you really think that God thinks that anything you go through is big to Him?

Here is what God want us to do. He wants us to sign a blank contract and then let Him fill in the blanks. No one would sign a blank contract, we might not always understand the contract but we act like we do and at least read it. But God says you trust in me and give me your life then I will fill in the blanks.

Who is your life-coach? If is not the creator of heaven and earth, let me introduce you to my life-coach Jesus!