

Acknowledgment

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. – Proverbs 3:5-6

If I had such a thing as a “life verse,” our text would be toward the top of that list. I have a challenging time with trust, and I always have. I like to lean unto my own understanding – have it figured out, know what’s what, etc. But decades of walking with the Lord have taught me that trusting Him is always better. He has ways and means that are beyond my comprehension, and He does all things well. But learning to trust Him involves continuously acknowledging Him – to recognize His right and His authority in each and every aspect of life. This sounds so easy to do, but if we stop for a moment to meditate on our day-to-day, it is likely we might find ourselves somewhat wanting in this duty, and therefore with great opportunity to improve our faith.

Do we acknowledge Him in our vocation? Is it clear to me and everyone about me that Jesus is with me at the office or on the job? Do I acknowledge Him in my work, performing each duty as unto Him and not unto men? If I am retired, is He in my errands, my coffee, and my resting? Is my day filled with vocal and genuine recognition that it is His will, not mine, that I wish to execute?

Do we acknowledge Him in our speech? Do others see and clearly understand that my vernacular is that of a child of the King and an ambassador from the Heavenly City rather than that of the indigenous and carnal worldling? Does my choice of words, and even the exercise or restraint of the vocalization of my thoughts, acknowledge His regality and bear His imprimatur? If so, what ushers forth from my lips will be sure to edify those who hear me rather than bring them down. When we acknowledge Him in our speech, His Spirit uses our voice to minister grace to everyone with whom we speak.

Do we acknowledge Him in our thoughts? Are the chambers of my imagery a welcoming abode to the Author and Finisher of my faith? Am I acknowledging Him by thinking on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report? Or do I like to be something in my head that contradicts who I say I am and who I know I ought to be? Have I cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and has every thought been brought into captivity and obedience to Christ?

Do we acknowledge Him in our schedules? Are my plans revokable to His call? If the Master has need of me, am I at the ready to respond, or am I annoyed that He is requesting my service at this particular juncture? Acknowledgment of Him in the week means that my days are not mine to live, but His to live through me. Am I comfortable that this is occurring with regularity?

May God help us to acknowledge Him today. He has promised that if we do so, He will direct our paths, and He will bring to pass in our lives great and mighty things which we know not. -- D. Murcek