



Acknowledge Him in All thy Ways

“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

One day I was reading these passages, and I wanted to read them with fresh eyes, and as I did, I saw something that I have missed for a while. I started meditating on it and I have seen the value in how this is working in my life. By no means am I saying that I have done this perfectly, but I have started, and it is blessing me.

Every believer should have a desire to be led by the Lord. It is to our benefit if we let the Lord lead us. We will be victorious and will avoid many potential errors, traps, and mistakes many have made and fall into. I personally desire above all to be led by Him and I try to live my life trying reflecting that. God's ability to lead us is greater than our ability to follow Him the same way His grace is greater than our sin and His love greater than our failures. If we want to be led by Him, He will. If you want to hear God, you will, and you do. If you do not want to miss God, you won't. He will see to it that you do not. Relax! Rest! Chill! You are in good hands. He put those desires in your heart and He will meet them.

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

—Jeremiah 10:23

We weren't created to be self-dependent. We were created to be dependent upon God and to be led by Him. As we walk, we need to have the Lord as the one directing our steps. This same point

is repeated in Proverbs 20:24 “Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?”

I have learned that we will experience victory and success to the degree we get help from the Lord. Some people get more help from the Lord and the Holy Spirit than others not because it is the Holy Spirit who chooses who He responds to more than the other, but He responds to us based on how much we acknowledge Him and bring Him in our lives. If we want our steps to be directed by the Lord, there are things we must do. It does not happen automatically.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

—John 14:26

The Holy Spirit is called the comforter. This word “*comforter*” comes from the Greek word “Parakletos” which is from two Greek words (Para which means “besides”) and another word “Kaleo” which means “call.” This means “called to one’s side, especially called to one’s aid”—Thayer’s Dictionary. The Amplified Version says defines comforter as “*Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby.*”

The point I want to make is that the Holy Spirit helps some people more than others because we allow Him to and ask for His help as the helper. You determine to what degree you get help from the Lord—more or less. This underscores a greater need of acknowledging Him.

Acknowledging the Lord could be as simple as getting His nod, asking for His input or direction before we make decisions and yielding to Him in all our ways.

“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

- a) The word “Acknowledge” means to know, recognize the Lord. One version says, “give ear to him” (Bible in Basic English), “let him lead you” (CEV), “Remember the LORD” (Good News Bible) and “Listen for GOD’s voice” (Message).

- b) We need to know, recognize, give ear to Him, let Him lead us, remember Him, and listen for His voice in all our course of life. We need to learn to inquire of Him. This is true acknowledging of the Lord. Anything else is doing our own thing.

Acknowledging the Lord is **hearing God and following Him**. If we have not heard the Lord and are not following Him, we are not acknowledging Him.

David was known for inquiring of the Lord in his ways and the results he got each time he inquired of the Lord speak for themselves.

“Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors. 2 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah. 3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? 4 Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.”

—1 Samuel 23:1-4

- a) Here we see David cultivating a habit of inquiring of the Lord which is simply acknowledging Him. David went to the Lord for input and direction. He wanted to be led by the Lord and it reaped benefits. When we inquire of the Lord, when we acknowledge Him, when we let Him lead us and give ear to Him, recognize Him and get to know Him, He will answer us, but we must bring Him in for us to get the help we need from Him.
- i) After God told him to go and fight the Philistines, he went and spoke to his men and because they were afraid, they tried to talk him out of the leading of the Lord. This is a common thing that many people do. Some people will try to talk you out of what God has called you to do, but you need to stick with it and change not. Fear is one reason people try to talk us out of what God is leading or speaking to us to do.
 - ii) David went back and inquired of the Lord yet again. He did not just go with the advice of his men. He inquired of the Lord yet again. Of course, this was not necessary because God had spoken to him and told him to go. God was not going to change his instructions.

- iii) Many of us do the same thing in some instances. We know what the Lord is telling us to do, but we try to talk ourselves out of it and go and seek or try to hear again from Him hoping for a different answer. Well, God did not change His direction to David.
- iv) If we choose to ask the Lord and acknowledge Him, we need to follow His guidance.
- b) Some people get more help than others because they bring God in, let Him lead them, listen for His voice, acknowledge Him and remember Him before their decision making.
- c) We will experience victory and success to the degree that we let the Lord lead us by acknowledging and inquiring of Him in our decision-making process.

But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. 18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 19 And David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand. 20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim. 21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. 22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. 24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. 25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

—2 Samuel 5:17-22

- a) Here is another time where David went and inquired of the Lord. He acknowledged the Lord and He spoke to him and gave him victory over the Philistines. Shortly after that, the enemy rose again. Guess what David did? He went and inquired of the Lord as before, but this time God gave him a totally different strategy from the one He had given him earlier on how to deal with the Philistines.

- i) The temptation here for David and all of us is to try to apply what worked yesterday for today's much needed victory without taking it before the Lord, acknowledging Him, inquiring of Him, listening for His voice, letting Him lead, and remembering Him.
- b) When David went before the Lord, he got fresh direction/leading from the Lord. His acknowledging of Him saved his bacon. He received fresh direction from the Lord because He remembered Him, let Him lead him, listened for His voice, recognized Him, and gave ear to Him. Inquiring of the Lord caused David to win and it will do the same for all of us. Lord, help me live this out more consistently.

1 Samuel 30:7-8 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

- a) Again, David inquired of the Lord and he received tremendous results. This will be true for us. When we acknowledge the Lord, listen for his voice, recognize Him, remember Him, and let Him lead. Because He did this, he was able to not only defeat the enemy, he recovered all—not some, but ALL, and got addition through spoils (1 Samuel 30:19-20).

2 Samuel 2:1-2 And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron. 2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

- a) Still on track, David inquired of the Lord if he should go up and live into the cities of Judah and God said to him “Go up.” David did not stop there. He asked the Lord where specifically and God replied Hebron. David could have lived in a hell of a city, but because he had the Lord, he not only received the general will of God which was to “go,” but also got the specific will which was Hebron. Shortly after David inquired of the Lord where to live specifically and the Lord said “Hebron.” David became king over the house of Judah while in Hebron and ruled for 7.5 years (2 Samuel 2:11). Would this have happened if he did not get a specific place was in another city? I do not think so. Possibly it could have taken longer.

“Notice that this was during the most difficult time of David's life. He did not just do what he felt was good, but he went and asked the Lord. David was still God-dependent even during

a time of stress, crisis, danger, and turmoil. We should learn the same lesson: not to act out of distress or pressure but go and hear from the Lord first before we take any steps forward. We need to develop a habit of inquiring of the Lord in our decision-making. David is a good example of this characteristic. Although he did not do it all of the time, there are times where he continually sought the Lord before making any major decision. For more examples of this, read 1 Samuel 23:2-4 and 1 Samuel 30:8.”—*King David and Other Kings, Life lessons for Today* (Rich Kanyali)

2 Samuel 6:1-4 Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims. 3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. 4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

- a) Shortly after David had experienced success by inquiring of the Lord, he made a mistake that cost a man's life.
- b) David went to bring the ark of the Lord back to Jerusalem from the Philistines. This was a good thing, but David did not acknowledge or inquire the Lord as he had done in the past. At least it is not mentioned of which I believe if he did, the Lord would have mentioned it.
 - i) He did not give ear to the Lord in this initiative, he did not listen for His voice and he did not remember the Lord, nor did he recognize Him. He went and took the ark and placed it on a new cart because it was on an old cart which the Philistines had put it on. It was not the Lord who told David to make a new cart nor transport it on a cart. Again, this was not the leading of the Lord, but an idea of the Philistines that David followed blindly.
- c) **David was seeking the Lord in times of trouble but took for granted seeking the Lord in the area of serving Him.** We need to acknowledge and inquire of the Lord in all our ways—this includes times of trouble and serving Him.
- d) 1 Chronicles 15:14-17 *So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. 15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word*

of the LORD. 16 And David spoke to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy. 17 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;

- i) The children of the Levites were the ones to carry the ark upon their shoulders with the staves thereon. It was not to be on the cart, or carried any other way by other people.

Proverbs 3:5-6 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.

- a) We are to trust in the Lord with **all** our hearts (Spirit and Soul). Trusting the Lord is the opposite of leaning on our own understanding. In other words, we cannot do both. It's one or the other. If we are not trusting the Lord, we are leaning on our understanding.
- b) It goes on to say that in **ALL** thy ways acknowledge Him. Are you acknowledging the Lord in **all** your ways? This is saying in **ALL** our ways, not some ways. It is not speaking of a few areas, especially the hard ones or ways we can't handle. We need a habit of trusting and depending on the Lord in everything we do.
- c) One reason our paths aren't directed is that we have not acknowledged Him. Our ways and paths are directed by the Lord to the degree we recognize Him. If we aren't getting direction or if our steps don't seem to be directed, one thing could be that we have not acknowledged Him in all our ways.
- d) This is not meant to condemn anyone but to encourage us to pursue His acknowledging Him, remembering Him (not an afterthought), listening for His voice, giving ear to Him and letting Him lead in whatever we do. No one is going to do this perfectly, but we will experience success in our endeavors to the degree that we do.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

- a) We were not created to operate independently of Him the same way our bodies can't be independent of Oxygen or cars independent of gasoline. We begin to lose ground and eventually die if we eliminate, ignore, the Lord in all our ways.
- b) Letting the Lord know about your plans or getting Him up to speed with what you are doing is *not* acknowledging Him.
- c) Running to the Lord as our last resort after everything has failed is *not* acknowledging the Lord. It is simply acknowledging our failure. God wants to be involved in every area of our lives to direct our path if we let Him.
- d) Many of us want to acknowledge the Lord in the major things but that doesn't happen because we are not acknowledging Him in the smaller matters. We need to start with the small and we will do the same in the bigger ones. We need to be faithful in least, first.

Proverbs 16:9 *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

- a) Man has a part to play in the Lord directing his steps. He must devise or plan his way. Man does the planning, not the Lord but as he does, the Lord directs His path. I believe this is another way of acknowledging the Lord. As we plan, we plan with His leading. Again, there is nothing that we are called to do alone.

Psalm 32:8 *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

- a) Directing our path and steps is done by the Lord through teaching and instructing us. You can't instruct and teach a person who never comes to class. If we want to be guided, taught, and instructed in a way to go we must acknowledge Him. Acknowledging Him is like showing up for class.
- b) Isaiah 30:21 *And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*
- c) Isaiah 48:17 *Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.*

- d) Isaiah 49:10 *They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.*
- i) God is in the business of leading and guiding us. A guide must be followed if we are to benefit from His guidance. If we do not acknowledge him and act as if he is not present or does not know what he is doing, we will not benefit from his guidance.
- e) James 1:5 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*
- i) Acknowledging the Lord involves asking Him for wisdom in areas we are lacking in. If we do not ask, we aren't acknowledging the Lord and we miss out on what we could have received.
 - ii) If we are not asking the Lord, we are not acknowledging Him because He knows better than us, by far.