

## JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL

**INTRO:** Turn your Bibles or turn them on to Proverbs chapter 3. And I'll give you a minute to find your place.

The hardest thing most of us will ever do is give up control. We love control, don't we? If you don't believe it, ask any man, anywhere, any time, for the TV remote, and see what kind of response you get. CONTROL, it's the most gratifying and comfortable experience the world has to offer. Control is the reason we struggle to climb the ladder of success. It's not the money. Money is nice. But most people who have money say that it's the POWER that drives them to keep pushing. It's that privilege of having control.

We enter the arena of life, and everyone is telling us what to do. Parents, teachers, employers, bankers, and the like, all telling us what we can and cannot do. So, we struggle and claw our way to the top, and all for the hope that we can call our own shots, and tell others what to do. CONTROL...we love it.

But inevitably, something comes along that reminds us that we were never really in control. Sometimes it happens in a split second, often it's over a period of time, but inescapably, at some point, life becomes completely OUT OF CONTROL. In that moment, at that place, what are we to do?

Today, I want to preach for just a few minutes on the thought, "Jesus Take The Wheel".

Let's read our text together. **Proverbs 3: 5-6** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

Proverbs is an awesome book to ponder. But for some people that's as far as it goes. But the book of Proverbs was meant for much more than that. PROVERBS IS A BOOK THAT IS CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GODLY CHARACTER. It was written by King Solomon, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we're looking at just 2 verses. The context of these verses in chapter 3 are found in vv 1-12. In these verses we see God speaking and giving us instructions on how to conduct ourselves and live our lives. He gives a word of DOs and DONTs, followed by the corresponding result of our actions.

I won't read all the verses but notice the first 4 and two examples of what I'm speaking of.

**Proverbs 3: 1-4** *"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days, fullness of life, and peace they will add to you.*

*3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man."*

And that's true with all 12 verses of this passage, and most of Proverbs. It can seem like this book is all over the map as far as it contents if you're not careful in its understanding. BUT it's not. Remember the intent of this book is to DEVELOP GODLY CHARACTER. It stays with that theme throughout. And that's what we're dealing with today.

In life, the most OUT OF CHARACTER thing a Christian can do, is try to take matters into his own hands. It's imperative that Christians live their lives totally surrendered to the care and call of God. And that becomes very obvious when we're faced with a crisis such as we are now. In times like these, our safest move is to cry out to Jesus, to take the wheel!

But with something so far out of the norm for our nature, how can we give God full control of our lives and circumstances? Notice...

**I) WE MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S CARE:** v 5 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;"*

When we are truly confident in God's care...

**A) We Will Act In Faith:** v 5a *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..."* The word "Trust" is the Hebrew word, *baw-takh*, and it means to, "trust, have confidence in, to feel safe with, to put all of your weight in".

**ILLUS:** Think of it like this, you came into the living room this morning to watch the Live Stream. Now, I know that some of you are still in bed, but I don't want to think about that. So, for this illustration we will say you are in the living room. And you came in and flopped down on the couch or in your favorite recliner. Yes, I said flopped! And when you flopped, you did so with complete TRUST that your recliner, chair, or sofa would hold you. That it would fully support your weight. You didn't give it a second thought. Because you trusted it. You didn't take your hand first and press around on the cushions to see if it would hold you, neither did you make you kid sit on it first to see if it would hold them. No, no, no, you outran your little munchkin to the living room because you didn't want them to get your favorite seat and you plopped down before anyone else could get there! Yeah baby! You trusted it. You put all your weight in it fully expecting it to hold you up. BUT WHY? I'll tell you why, because in all the years you've been sitting on your chair, and on your sofa, you have never had either one let you down. You have history with your furniture, a relationship. You feed it cheetos, and doritos, and an occasional quarter or remote, and it supports you!

And if you trust in God, you put all your weight on Him. That is why God says in our text, *"with all your heart"*. You either give Him ALL your trust or NONE at all. Half hearted trust is wholehearted doubt. Did you ever ask yourself why you don't give God your complete trust? Has He ever given you a reason not to trust Him? YOU CAN TRUST GOD!

1 Peter 5:7 *"cast all your cares on him because he cares for you."*

Secondly, when we are truly confident in God's care...

**B) We Will Avoid Foolishness:** v 5b *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."* Let's look at the comparison. First, we're commanded to TRUST in the Lord. Trust, put our whole weight in. Then we're told to LEAN not on our own understanding. Trust God, LEAN not on ourselves. You can put your WHOLE weight in God, but you better not even LEAN on your own understanding. There's a big difference in putting one's WHOLE WEIGHT in something and LEANING on something. There's really no comparison to the amount of strength it takes to hold someone up who's leaning against you, and picking that same person up and holding them in your arms. Yet, that's what we see her in this comparison. You can put all your weight in God, and His knowledge of what you're going through right now, but you can't even lean on your own understanding. YOU BETTER LISTEN TO THIS VERSE!

Now notice the word for translated "understanding" it's *bee-naw'*, and it means, understanding, discernment, NOW LISTEN TO ME, it also means, object, or personified.

Okay, what does that mean? Think about it. A PERSONIFIED OBJECT, that isn't God is what? AN IDOL! And when we trust our OWN understanding, and NOT GOD, we take Him off the throne of our hearts, and place our OWN PERSONIFIED OBJECT in His rightful place. NO, NO, NO, THAT'S JUST FOOLISHNESS! We want to avoid that.

## I) WE MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S CARE: v 5

### A) We Will Act In Faith: v 5a

**B) We Will Avoid Foolishness: v 5b CONTINUED** Think of what we've read about in the Bible. When a little boy named David was getting ready to go up and fight someone who was 9'9" tall. (Goliath could dunk a basketball and never even jump) King Saul brings his own armor and puts it on David. David was a boy and Saul was a full-grown man. David says, "Look King, I can't even walk in this". Then he said I don't need your armor. I trust in the God who killed the lion and the bear to protect me, far more than I do your fancy armor. So David went out and chose five smooth stones and he took his sling to go face the giant, Goliath. And he struck him in the forehead and killed him. Now that was not because of David's understanding of how a sling works. It happened because David trusted God.

## II) WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO GOD'S CONTROL: v 6

*"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* This is more than reading your Bible and praying. Although, that is a good place to start...

Notice...

**A) The Authority: v 6a** *"In all your ways acknowledge Him..."* The Hebrew word for "acknowledge" means to SEE Him. Meaning, in everything, we need to look to Him for His guidance. Whether we're praying or playing, acknowledge Him. ALWAYS keep God in mind and in sight. Always, means in your marriage and your family. Always, means in recreation or vocation. Always, means see Him in your finances. Always, means from the time you get out of bed, the whole day long, you look to God. What would He want you to do? How would He handle your situation? It means, seeing God as He is, recognizing His AUTHORITY in all things.

**ILLUS:** I heard about a lady who went to her pastor and said to him that she didn't think God cared to be involved in all the LITTLE things in our lives. The pastor replied, do you really think that anything in your life is BIG to God?

*"In ALL our ways...we should look to Him!"*

**Psalms 32:8-10** *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse [or] like the mule, [Which] have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him."*

**B) The Adventure: v 6b** *"...and He shall direct your paths."* **JESUS WILL TAKE THE WHEEL!** God will lead you where He wants you to go! Can you imagine? What an adventure when God does the driving. LISTEN, HE KNOWS THE WAY OUT OF OUR CURRENT CRISIS! HE SEES ALL. HE KNOWS ALL. WE NEED TO LOOK TO HIM FOR OUR SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH THIS DANGEROUS LIFE!

**CONCLUSION:** In this uncertain time we're in, can you see the wisdom in trusting fully in God? He sees more, knows more, is more able to traverse this present trial than we are. Don't you think you should let Him lead you on? ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN? Are you saved, going to Heaven when you die? You may think so, or hope so, but wouldn't like to KNOW so. Paul said in **2 Timothy 1:12** *"...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."*

Now, let's get it settled with you too. Right where you are, surrender your life to God!