

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

Guide Me

Life can be complicated. We dream dreams. We make plans. We play by the rules. We pay our dues. We work hard. We believe the best. But then, the unexpected happens. Life is interrupted and we are left to make adjustments.

On September 11, 2001, most of us remember where we were, what we were doing, who we were with and how we heard about the unfolding devastation. Our world changed in a day. We lost control. Within moments, we moved into a season of uncertainty, much like the dramatic stories of the Old Testament when armies plundered a city and left devastation in their wake.

Another common event in the Old Testament was famine—a loss of resource and productivity. Fast-forward to this year and we see that unemployment and economic downturn have created our “famine”. Lifetime careers and benefits have been lost through mergers and the collapse of businesses. College graduates are without jobs. The unemployed are left without confidence or assurance as they look to the future. And the harshest of realities? Dreams have been interrupted and must now be adjusted.

In days of uncertainty, how do you most often respond? Do you seek security, reach for hope, or do nothing?

I want to introduce an “App” to you to help amid life’s interruptions, uncertainties and struggles. This “App” provides the promise of hope when dreams are dashed and the difficulties of life leave you paralyzed. Let’s explore the multifaceted application of the App, *Guide Me*. I was first introduced to it years ago, but I still use it everyday:

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

>>>Guidance Begins With Reliance “Trust in the LORD with all your heart...” —Proverbs 3:5a ESV

In order to benefit from a directional device, you need to believe its accuracy and trustworthiness... true North!

Here is the unwritten message:
“all your heart” = Full Dependence. Why? God can be

trusted! He is the True North of life. Yet, if you do not know God, you will not trust God.

In all life’s experiences, the greatest pursuit is the pursuit of God. Every experience in life is an opportunity to learn about God.

READ Jeremiah 9:23-24.

The Bible is a book that provides evidence and reasons to trust God in all of life’s circumstances.

And those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you (Psalm 9:10 ESV).

The names of God reveal the nature of God. The more you pursue the knowledge of God the greater will be your confidence and peace in life.

God is more than your “Co-Pilot”; He is your “Air Traffic Controller”. He sees. He knows. He cares about you. Your security in life has everything to do with who and what you rely or depend upon. Your life source is your life strength.

So great is God’s love and care for you that through Jesus Christ you have reason to believe. “Christianity is basing my whole life on the trustworthiness of the claims of Jesus Christ.”

God can be trusted! He can be trusted to forgive and cleanse, to save and secure, to lead and guide.

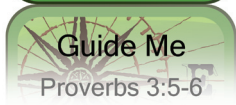
>>>Guidance Requires Repentance “...do not lean on your own understanding...” —Proverbs 3:5b ESV

Repent is a word often missing from the vocabulary of many today.

According to Bullinger’s Dictionary, *metanoeo* [repentance] means “...to perceive afterwards, hence, to change one’s mind and purpose. This change is always for the better, and denotes a change of moral thought and reflection; not merely to repent of, nor to forsake sin, but to change one’s mind and apprehensions regarding it. *Metanoeo* denotes to reform, to have a genuine change of heart and life from worse to better.”

There is a part of life that must be released. You have to let it go and turn from the comfortable and habitual embrace of your understanding to totally trusting God.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death (Proverb 14:12 ESV).



Guide Me

Apps Series, Part Three
David H. McKinley, Pastor
warrenbaptist.org
Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

+ Trust in the LORD with all your heart... In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

D Do not learn on your own understanding.



WARREN
a way of life!

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Guide Me >>> CONTINUED

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

In Proverbs 3:5, the word, *lean*, is a term that can only be associated with *trust*. However, not all things that you lean on can be trusted to stand. Who are you leaning on today?

READ Proverbs 3:7-8.

God often allows and uses struggles and insecurities to remind you of your total dependence upon Him.

Is God against all human reason and understanding? No. He is, however, against self-centered delusions. Why? Your understanding limited. Don't help yourself; let God help!

"To be a disciple means I resign from the right to own myself, I surrender my personal sovereignty to Jesus Christ. From then on, He is the Commander and I am under His orders." —W. Glyn Evans

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:6 ESV).

>>Guidance Rotates Your Reference

What do you think of when you hear the word, *reference*? As a student, I remember going to the library and using books I could couldn't check out—big *reference* books. A *reference* is defined in this way: "...the use of a source of information in order to ascertain something."

The *Guide Me* "App" requires that you gain a new point of reference in life—"In all your ways acknowledge Him..."

Acknowledge God. He should become the point of reference in your schedule, your struggles, your strategy, *and* your security. This acknowledgement is seeing God in the details of life. I love the introduction to Proverbs written by Eugene Peters in *The Message*:

"Many people think that what's written in the Bible has mostly to do with getting people into heaven—getting right with God, saving their eternal souls. It does have to do with that, of course, but not *mostly*. It is equally concerned with living on this earth—living well, living in robust sanity. In our Scriptures, heaven is not the primary concern, to which earth is a tag-

along afterthought. 'On earth as it is in the heaven' is Jesus' prayer. 'Wisdom' is the biblical term for this on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven everyday living. Wisdom is the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves... Threaded through all these items is the insistence that the way we think of and respond to God is the most practical thing we do. In matters of everyday practicality, nothing, absolutely nothing, takes precedence over God."

How do you walk with God? One step at a time!

>>Guidance Includes Reassurance "...and he will make straight your paths." —Proverbs 3:6b ESV

You are not alone in life. God is working on your behalf and you can trust Him. This is both a principle *and* a promise. Divine guidance is the outcome of faith.

Throughout Scripture, you find that God has led, God will lead and God is leading.

You may be thinking, "Well, it sure seems like all the doors are closed. I don't think God is leading." No. Closed doors are often part of God's leading. We don't like them, but God consistently uses them. While we wait and wonder, God works.

Comedian Jonathan Winters used to say, "If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to meet it."

Swim toward God and He will make a way for you.

Reflect on these words by hymn writer, William Williams:

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

Lord, I trust Thy mighty power,
Wondrous are Thy works of old;
Thou deliver'st Thine from thralldom,
Who for naught themselves had sold:
Thou didst conquer, Thou didst conquer,
Sin, and Satan and the grave; Sin, and Satan and the grave.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

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