

## The Right Path:

### Think About God In All Your Ways

*Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths. Proverbs 3:6*

**Intro.** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told us to enter the narrow gate, for the gate is wide, and the highway is broad that leads to destruction, and many are traveling that way. "How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life." (Matt. 7:4). He said, "and few there be that find it." When considering Proverbs 3:6, we must prayerfully keep to the right path at every point. Let us consider these other verses that contain the same three words we see at the end of Proverbs 3:6.

**I. Those who follow the right path fear the LORD.** (Prov. 14:2 NLT)

"**In all your ways acknowledge Him**" (Prov. 3:6) means, "**Do God's will in every area of life. Seek to honor Him in everything.**" Note [verse 7](#), "**Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil**" (NKJV). **Pride** and **disobedience** in any area of life can get us on dangerous detours, so we must stay humble before Him. "**When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them**" ([11:2-3](#), NKJV).

The assurance is, "**and He shall direct your paths.**" Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said: "**Not always in easy or pleasant**

**paths, but always in right paths. Not always in those I would have chosen, but always in paths which lead to success.... The paths that He directs lead always through mist and mystery, through battle and through bruising, to the fulfillment of the meaning of life. "**

Some people live only for entertainment and try to escape the burdens of life. Others live for enjoyment and try to make the most of life. God's dedicated people live for enrichment and discover fulfillment in life as they do the will of God from the heart.

Which one are you?

**II. He will guide you on the right paths.** (Prov. 3:6)

The first condition for receiving God's guidance is that we **learn God's truth** ([vv. 1-4](#)). The will of God is revealed in the Word of God ([Col. 1:9-10](#)), and the only way to know His will is to study His Word and obey it. By receiving the Word within our hearts, we experience growth in godly character so that mercy and truth ("**love and faithfulness,**" NIV) become beautiful ornaments in our lives ([Prov. 3:3; 1:9](#)). It isn't enough for believers to carry the Bible in their hands; they must let the Holy Spirit write it on their hearts ([3:3; 7:3; 2 Cor. 3:1-3](#)). Obedience to the Word can add years to your life and life to your years.

Second, we must **obey God's will** ([vv. 5-8](#)). "**He shall direct your paths**" ([v. 6](#), NKJV) is the promise, but the fulfillment of that promise is predicated on our obedience to the Lord. We must trust Him with all our heart and obey Him in all our ways. That means total commitment to Him ([Rom. 12:1-2](#)).

**III. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.** (Prov. 4:11 NKJV)

**Trusting God's providence (vv. 10-19).** When you receive God's truth into your heart, God renews your mind (**Rom. 12:2**) and enables you to think wisely. This helps you make right decisions and experience the guidance of God day by day. God in His loving providence directs us and prepares the path for us. Augustine said, "Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence." But King David said it better long before Augustine: "**You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore**" (**Ps. 16:11**, NKJV).

If you are willing to do God's will, you will have God's guidance (**John 7:17**), but if you treat God's will like a buffet lunch, choosing only what pleases you, He will never direct you. The will of God isn't for the curious; it's for the serious. As we look back on nearly forty years of marriage and ministry, my wife and I can testify to God's providential leading in our lives in ways that we never suspected He would use.

**IV. Whoever abandons the right path will be severely disciplined; whoever hates correction will die.** (Prov. 15:10 NLT)

The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness [**Prov. 15:9**].

We know what God thinks of the sacrifice of the wicked and of the thoughts of the wicked; we see in **Prov. 15:9-10** that the way of the wicked is also an abomination to the Lord.

But He loves the person *who follows after righteousness*. Remember that it is Christ who has been made unto us righteousness (see **1Cor. 1:30**).

Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die [**Prov. 15:10**].

A man hates to be told that he is wrong. That the way he is travelling is the wrong way! There are some people who will not accept any kind of advice or admonition that would point them in the right way.

**V. By forsaking the right path they have gone astray** (**2 Pet. 2:15** The NET Bible)

"**They have abandoned the right road**" is the way the Phillips translation expresses it. The apostates know the right road, the straight path that God has established, but they deliberately abandon God's way for their own. No wonder Peter called them "natural brute beasts" (**2 Peter 2:12**) and compared them to animals (**2 Peter 2:22**). "**Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule!**" warned the psalmist (**Ps. 32:9**). The horse likes to rush ahead and the mule likes to lag behind; both can get you off the right path. Believers are sheep, and sheep need to stay close to the shepherd or they will stray.

**VI. A sensible person stays on the right path.** (**Prov 15:21** NLT)

**Illustration:** US president Abraham Lincoln once said that the secret of his success was the fact that, although not a particularly fast walker, he kept on walking. William Carey, the pioneer missionary, similarly said that the one thing he was good at was plodding. Ill-discipline and a delight in folly can render a man unfit for any noble purpose. A resolute

determination to forget '**what is behind**' and strain '**towards what is ahead**', pressing on '**towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenwards in Christ Jesus**', transforms the situation, however much we may lack in other ways (see [Phil. 3:14-15](#)). Part of what is involved in getting to heaven is not being sidetracked by things that are vain.

**VII. Those who put others on the right path of life will glow like the stars forever.** (Dan. 12:3 *The Message*)

But who precisely *are* the 'wise' of [verse 3](#)? Who *are* those 'that turn many to righteousness'?

To understand this we must cast back our minds to [Daniel 11:33](#). There we read that in the darkest days of Antiochus Epiphanes' persecution there were those who circulated among the people, instructing them in God's truth. They not only continued to believe, but they also did everything in their power to spread the truth—although hounded, imprisoned, tortured and murdered.

During the unspeakable persecutions of the final apostasy there will be similar 'wise' people who 'turn many to righteousness'. Come what may, they will continue to believe, and will continue also with the work of God. When all hell is let loose, they will not give up. Will it be worth it? They, and all others who did similar exploits in previous days, will not lose their eternal reward. WHY? Because they instructed many in the right path – Righteousness.

**VIII. If another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.** (Gal. 6:1 NLT)

Who is the "man" mentioned in this verse? It is a generic term and refers to any man or woman who is a Christian. The word fault, taken from the Greek *parapoma*, means "**a falling aside or mishap.**" It means "**to stumble.**" It may not refer to a great sin but to an awful blunder.

Now what is to be done to a person who is overtaken in a fault? Well, the "spiritual" folk, and many think they are spiritual, interpret this as meaning they are to beat him on the head with a baseball bat because he has done something wrong. There is a danger of not really wanting to restore him. We would much rather criticize and condemn him. If a Christian is overtaken in a fault, a spiritual Christian is to restore that one in the spirit of meekness. Meekness is one of the fruits of the Spirit. You cannot have God in your life if the fruit of the Spirit is not evident in your life.

**IX. Direct your children on the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.** (Prov. 22:6 NLT)

**Illustration:** There was a fine young couple, who belonged to rich families. They were brought up without a hint of God in their lives. But they had everything that money could buy. At a dance one night they announced their engagement, and then later they were married. Of course they made the society page of the newspaper. They had bought a very lovely southern home with those white columns out in front. They had searched everywhere for antiques, and they furnished that home beautifully. On their wedding trip they went to the Great Smokies in East Tennessee and North Carolina. Going up into the mountains, they went around a curve and were hit

and knocked off the highway down a precipice. The car caught fire, and they were both killed. The parents of the couple simply locked the door to their lovely home and left it unoccupied. For years many would go by that house and reflect on all the preparation they had put into that house; yet they had not lived in it for one hour. And they went into eternity totally unprepared. Oh, how important it is for us to be making preparation for eternity!

**X. Teach them to follow the right path.** (I Kings 8:36 NLT) NIV-- Teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land you gave your people for an inheritance.

**XI. Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.** (Prov. 23:19 NIV)

Those who cannot control their habits only create trouble for themselves ([19-21](#)).

**Be wise**; rest not in hearing, but see that thou growest wiser and better by it.

**Guide thine heart**; order the whole course of thine affections and actions.

**In the way**; in God's way, oft called the way

**XII. Keep on the right path, so the weak will not stumble but rather be strengthened.** (Heb. 12:12 NCV)

The quotation is taken from [Proverbs 4:26](#) and is applied to the responsibility which the church must take upon itself to care for its weaker, struggling members and help them along the way lest they become casualties. We ought to remember too, that if we can save others and keep them on the right path it will "hide a multitude of sins."

**XIII. Teach me how to live, O LORD, Lead me along the right path.** (Psalm 27:11 NLT)

Perhaps the enemy had retreated and David was now concerned about their return. "Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle," He asked the Lord for guidance (see [Psalm 25:4-5](#)), for a level path without traps in it, and for victory over the liars who were slandering his good name. His statement in [Psalm 27:13](#) is incomplete: "*If I had not believed in the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living*"—then what? Where would I be? David believed that God's goodness followed him ([Psalm 23:6](#)) and also anticipated him ([21:3](#)), that if we follow the right way God stores up goodness to use when it was needed ([31:19](#)). God's goodness never ran out ([52:1](#)), for David could go into God's house (presence) and receive all he needed ([65:4](#)). The key

**XIV. Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow.** (Psalm 25:4 NLT)

Other people may lift up their hearts to idols ([Psalm 24:4](#)), which are only manufactured substitutes for God, but David lifted his heart up to the Lord, for He is the only true source of encouragement. In one of the darkest hours of his life, when David had lost everything, he "**encouraged himself in the Lord his God**" ([1 Sam. 30:6](#)). It has well been said, "**When the outlook is bleak, try the uplook.**" He affirmed his faith in the Lord and his desire to glorify His name. He didn't want to fail and bring disgrace to the name of the Lord. So, he waited on the Lord, worshiped, and confidently asked

for His help. He desperately needed wisdom to make the right decisions, avoid the traps, and reach the goal.

**XV. Lead me in the right path, O LORD...Make your way plain for me to follow (Psalm 5:8 NLT)**

When he wrote "**But as for me,**" David contrasted himself with the wicked crowd that rebelled against the King. David had come to pray, and he had three requests—guidance, justice (v. 9-10) and God's blessing (v. 11-12)

*He prayed for guidance (vv. 7-8).* Because he wasn't a member of the tribe of Levi, David couldn't actually enter the tabernacle as could the priests, but he used that phrase to describe his approach to the Lord. David was in the wilderness, but he came to the Lord with the kind of awe that the priests and Levites displayed in the tabernacle. In the worship of our great God, there's no place for cuteness and flippancy. For believers to enter into the presence of God to worship and pray, it cost Jesus His life ([Heb. 10:19-20](#)), and to treat this privilege lightly is to cheapen that sacrifice. David knew he needed guidance from God, for he had to put the kingdom back together again (See [James 1:5](#).) and keep things on the right path.

**XVI. He leads me along the right paths for His names' sake (Psalm 23:3)**

The word "paths" in [verse 3](#) means "well-worn paths, ruts." When sheep start to explore an exciting new path, it will lead them into trouble. "Do not be carried about by varied and strange teachings" ([Heb. 13:9](#), NASB). God cares for us because He loves us and wants us to glorify Him ("for his name's sake"). The shepherd cares for the sheep because he

loves them and wants to maintain his own good reputation as a faithful shepherd.

**XVII. He led them by the right path...Let them give thanks to the LORD for His faithful love (Psalm 107:7-8)**

It was a long way from Babylon to Judah and the dangers were many, but the Lord brought His people safely home ([Ezra 1-2](#); [Isa. 41:14-20](#); [43:1-21](#)). In their need, they cried out to Him ([vv. 6, 13, 19, 28](#)) and He brought them out, led them through the wilderness, and brought them to their own land where they found cities to live in. During their journey, He provided food and drink for them (see [Luke 1:53](#); [Jer. 31:25](#)). Surely they would want to give thanks to Him for all that He did for them ([vv. 8, 15, 21, 31](#)).

**XVIII. Discretion will watch over you...rescuing you...from those who abandon the right paths. (Prov. 2:11-13)**

Here we meet "the evil man" and "the strange woman," two people who are dangerous because they want to lead God's children away from the path of life. The evil man is known for his perverse ("froward," KJV; crooked) words (see [vv. 12, 14](#); [6:14](#); [8:13](#); [10:31-32](#); and [16:28, 30](#)). He walks on the dark path of disobedience and enjoys doing that which is evil. He belongs to the crowd Solomon warns us about in [1:10-19](#). The person who walks in the way of wisdom would immediately detect his deceit and avoid him.



**XIX.** I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on **the right path**. (Gen. 24:48 NET Bible)

### **Faithful**

This most senior of Abraham's servants was in charge of all his affairs. Abraham had total confidence in him. Some think he was Eliezer, but the text does not say so. He was completely devoted to Abraham, calling him '**my master**' ([24:12](#), [14](#)). Christians are called to be servants of Christ. He is our Master and we swear allegiance to him. He is the only Way. He is the right path to God.

### **Thoughtful**

The servant did not give blind devotion. He raised legitimate questions ([24:5](#)). The Lord's servants are not called to follow the Lord with mindless enthusiasm. God gives us good reason for serving him and encourages us to be thoughtful in all our responses to his commands. To stay on the right path we need to be thoughtful concerning our responsibilities to God.

### **Godly**

Conscious of his difficult assignment, he prayed to the God of Abraham for good success and that his master would know God's '**kindness**' (or 'covenant love'—[24:12](#), [14](#)). **Abraham had ruled his household well** ([18:19](#)).

**This servant had a personal faith in God, knew of God's covenant love, gave thanks for answered prayer** ([24:26-27,52](#)) and **was not afraid to witness to his faith** ([24:42-44,48](#)). **He is an example to us all of a life lived with reference to God.**