

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. In the first series God promises that all Christians may have 5 assurances. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: A DISCIPLE IS SURE OF GOD'S GUIDANCE.

POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The new Bible that verse we will meditate and memorise is Proverbs 3:5-6. We will ask one another questions in order to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Please read Proverbs 3:5-6.

(S) Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

(Question). This Bible verse begins with the words "Trust in the Lord". What does it mean to trust in the Lord?

(T) In the Bible we read about people who trust in things and in people. Some people trust in their fortified cities, their chariots, horses and bows. Other people trust in their wealth, corruption and extortion. Some people trust in their religion and their religious teachers. Some people trust in princes, neighbours, friends and brothers. And others simply trust in themselves, in their beauty, their deceptive words and their wickedness.

To trust means to make these things and these people your firm foundation and to feel sure that they can be depended on. To trust means to entrust yourself to these things and these people to take care of your needs. To trust means to depend on these things and these people to save you, help you and to make you successful and prosperous.

The Bible warns against trusting in man. Jeremiah 17:5-6 says: This is what the Lord says, "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no-one lives." And the Bible encourages us to trust in God. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit".

While faith is often doing something, trust is more waiting and depending. The Bible verse we are meditating says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart". To trust in the Lord means to make the Lord the firm foundation of your life or to entrust your whole life to his care. To trust in the Lord is to depend on the Lord to save you, to build you up and to guide you.

(Question). Why is it important to trust God with all your heart and not lean on your own understanding?

(S) God does not like half-heartedness. Jesus says, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16). It is not possible to build a building on half a foundation. Likewise, it is not possible to make the Lord only half of my foundation. God wants me to trust him with my whole inner being and in all areas of my life. The Bible verse continues, "and lean not on your own understanding." The word to lean is also used of leaning on a staff or on somebody's arm. When you lean on something, then you look for support from that source.

When I lean on my own understanding, then I depend on my own ability to discern right and wrong. Then I do not want to listen to good advice. Then I am too proud to admit that I am wrong. And then I am too stubborn to change.

(Question). Verse 6 says, "In all your ways acknowledge him." How can you practically acknowledge the Lord in all your ways?

(T) To acknowledge the Lord means, to reckon with him in every endeavour and to acknowledge that I need him in every aspect of my life. I acknowledge the Lord in all my ways, when I am never ashamed of being a Christian and when I am always doing things in the Christian way.

(S) First. I acknowledge the Lord *by discovering from the Bible what God says about any issue*. By following the Bible I show that I depend on God and his teaching for every situation of my life. The Bible contains God's will for my life and lots of practical wisdom about the most important areas of life. For example. If I want to acknowledge God in marriage, then I study what the Bible says about marriage. For example, in 1 Corinthians 7:39 God says that I am free to marry anyone I wish, but that person must belong to the Lord. The person must be a believer in Christ. Another example is in Amos 3:3. God says that before I marry, my marriage partner and I must have the same life-goals. In the same way, I must discover what God says in the Bible about money, about raising children, about how to divide my time between work and family, about the Church and about loving people. The Bible speaks about all these things and about many more very interesting topics. Therefore, I read the Bible and study the Bible together with others. The Bible is a very important source for me to acknowledge God in my life!

(T) Second. I acknowledge the Lord *by praying before I do something*. By praying I show that I depend on God and his resources for every situation in my life. The Bible warns against an independent life-style. The Psalmist says,

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat - for he grants sleep to those he loves” (Psalm 127:1-2). Jesus showed his dependence on his heavenly Father by praying. For example. Before Jesus ate food, he prayed and thanked God. Before Jesus made an important decision, like choosing his team of disciples, he prayed. Before an important meeting with the king, the governor Nehemiah prayed, “Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man” (Nehemiah 1:11). And the king not only granted his request, but also even helped him to accomplish his purpose.

Before the disciples went out to preach the gospel, they prayed and said, “Lord,enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.” Then they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly (Acts 4:29-31)! I acknowledge God in all my ways when I pray before I do anything. Therefore, I pray before I make a decision or a plan. I pray before I meet a person. I pray before I speak. I pray before I act. I am learning to pray in every situation. That is the practical way for me to acknowledge God in my life!

(S) Third. I acknowledge the Lord *by seeking to please him and glorify him in everything I do*. The Bible says, “Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). An important question in life is “For whom am I living?” Most people in the world live for themselves. They seek their own wealth, power or pleasure. But Christians should acknowledge the Lord. Christians should live to please and glorify God.

(Question). The Bible verse we are meditating says, “He will make your paths straight”. Do you know examples of how the Lord straightens paths?

(T) When the Lord makes a path straight, he takes away the mountains and other obstacles and makes the path smooth and easy to travel. Or he takes away the bends and long detours and makes the path go straight to the destination. For example, when a Christian acknowledges the Lord, the Lord causes his plans to succeed. I have experienced that when I do not acknowledge the Lord in my planning and decision-making, then I run into all kinds of problems. The Bible says, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed” (Proverbs 16:3). Another example. Sometimes the Lord changes the bad attitudes of people. I have experienced the hurt of people telling lies about me. Then I started to pray for them and help them where I can. After some time they stopped their lies. The Bible says, “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7).

Let me summarise. When we acknowledge the Lord in all our ways, the Lord will remove obstacles from our way and guide us straight to our destination.

(S) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is “Assurance of God’s guidance”. Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Proverbs 3:5-6. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

(T) Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

(T+S) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

(T) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

(T+S) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

(S) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

(T+S) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him.

(T) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him.

(T+S) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him; and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6.

(S) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him; and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6.

(T) Why is it important to memorise Bible verses without one mistake?

(S) Because it is very hard to unlearn mistakes that you have memorised. Moreover, it is much easier to memorise and review, to recall and use Bible verses when you have memorised them without one mistake.

(T) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 4 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

Series “Christian assurances”, verses 1-4.

(S) Assurance of salvation. 1 John 5:11-13. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13.

(T) Assurance of answered prayer. John 16:24. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24.

(S) Assurance of victory. 1 Corinthians 10:13. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

(T) Assurance of forgiveness. 1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

(S) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on www etc.

Third. Listen on short wave radio every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.