

Proverbs - Wisdom That Works

**Serenity - the peace that surpasses understanding
(Proverbs 3:1-6)**

Introduction:

1. What does the word "worry" mean to you?
2. When does concern turn to worry?
3. When does worry produce fear?

Philippians 1:28 - and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:4 - "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

4. How shall we overcome worry with peace?

I. A closer look at Proverbs 3:5-6

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 shall direct your paths.

A. Four verbs are found here with all of them being imperatives (commands):

trust, lean, acknowledge, and direct.

1. Our part - trust, do not lean, acknowledge.

2. God's part - direct.

B. The same term "your" is used four times -

your heart,
your understanding,
your ways,
and your paths.

C. Structure...

1. Main idea - To trust in my Lord without reservation (with all my heart), so that He makes my paths straight.

2. How do I do this?

a. Negative - Don't depend on your own understanding.

b. Positive - acknowledge Him in all your ways.

D. Key words...

1. Trust - literally to prostrate oneself, casting all hopes for the present and future upon another.

Proverbs 11:28 - He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.

Proverbs 23:4-5 - Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.

Proverbs 3:21-23 - My son, let them not depart from your eyes - keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. (Note: the words "walk safely" comes from a word with the same root as the word "trust").

2. Lord - covenant description of God.

3. Heart - inner being;

the seat of our emotions (desires), intellect, and will;
the totality of our being.

4. Understanding - human understanding.

5. Lean - looking for assistance or support from another (source). Note:

- a. Man says: "Why trust when you can worry?"
- b. God says: "Why worry when you can trust?"

6. Acknowledge – recognize.

7. Direct - make smooth, straight, or right
(verbs stem suggests intensity).

II. Application

A. Total trust leads to total dependence
which leads to total assurance.

B. Examine the New Testament parallel...

Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men.

The Lord *is* at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.