

I. Reliance Upon the Lord

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart."

1. The Nature of faith - trust, or reliance,
"to lean on", (Ps. 56:3)

A. Belief that God is able to help, save, and guide us.
B. Belief that God is willing to do so.
C. This kind of faith is not merely a speculative
philosophy but an operative principle.

2. The Object of faith, "in the Lord" ---

A. All-wise, all-loving, all-mighty, all-holy
B. You must begin by taking Christ Himself,
The one comprehensive revelation of God and
expression of His will is Jesus Christ.
To respond in faith to Christ is the first step
in religion.

3. The highest degree of faith, "with all thine heart"

A. God always requires the undivided heart.
B. Ps. 38:9, "Lord, all my desire is before thee"
C. "Thou shalt love the Lord with all thy heart and
with all thy soul." (Deut. 6:5; Mt. 22:37)

II. The Limitation of Human Understanding

1. Much that is beyond reason does not contradict reason.
2. We accept much that we cannot understand or explain.
3. Often faith points the way to higher circles of truth.
4. There is a legitimate using of the understanding that
is not a sinful "leaning to it."

A. While we use our God-given mind and reason, we are
to depend not on our own intelligence but upon God
for success, and trust in God's promises & care.

B. This is just as we depend on God for strength to
resist temptation, but at the same time use our
common sense and do all we can to avoid it.

C. Our human reason and understanding is very useful
but it should not be leaned upon or relied upon
as a substitute for faith in God. "Thus saith the
Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom....
but let him that glorieth glory in this,
that he understandeth and knoweth me." Jer. 9:23-24.

D. Danger in following our own wishes:

"Yas'm; He wanted a bumble bee!"

"one step than meet — then go forward boldly,
one step is far enough for faith to see;
Take that, and thy next duty shall be told thee,
For step by step thy Lord is leading thee."

"Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be;
Lead me by Thine own hand,
and choose the path for me.
I dare not choose my lot;
I would not if I might;
choose thou for me, my God,
so shall I walk aright."

III. Recipe for Divine Direction - "in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

1. The Essential Condition - "acknowledge Him"

A. What it means to acknowledge God.

Our danger today is not a philosophical atheism which denies that there is a God, but a practical ungodliness which crowds God back to a remote distance from human affairs.

When the early Spanish mariners and explorers discovered a new land they immediately hoisted the flag of Ferdinand and Isabella from the highest masthead, acknowledging the sovereign that sent them.
B. God loves to be consulted.

Form a habit of going to him in the first place, before self-will, self-pleasing, self-wisdom, human friends, convenience, ^{or} expediency can influence.
C. Live by taking only one step at the time, with every step under divine direction.

D. In what ways we can acknowledge him:

- (1). Your secret ways
- (2). Your ways of business
- (3). Your ways of pleasure
- (4). Your ways of social life
- (5). Your ways of sorrow and disappointment
- (6). Your ways of joy and blessing

2. The Certain Promise - "He shall direct thy paths"

A. There is a divine guidance to be had for our journey through life.

We can have the confident assurance that:

"My bark is wafted to the strand

By breath Divine:

✓ And on the helm there rests a hand-

Other than mine." (Dean Alford)

B. God does not direct us by false impressions, wild dreams, fancied voices, and inward imagination. Neither are we to make a lottery of the Bible by opening it at random, and taking the first verse that meets our eye and putting our meaning upon it. We should apply ourselves to serious and careful study of the Bible, and give our hearts to earnest prayer, and obey the leadership of the Holy Spirit

C. His Direction will

- (1). Remove obstacles
- (2). Prevent or overrule mistakes
- (3). Preserve from ruin
- (4). Secure peace and contentment
- (5). Guarantee final triumph

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