

RADICAL TRUST IN A FAITHFUL GOD

wholehearted



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
October 19, 2025

WHOLE HEART

Pastor Jeremy Moore | Turlock
Pastor Brian Benton | Patterson

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Proverbs 3:5-7 (NLT)

Proverbs 3:5b ...do not depend on your own understanding.

1. My understanding is LIMITED.

- Emotions
- Experiences
- Culture
- Selfishness

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

2. God's WISDOM is GREATER.

*By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place...
Proverbs 3:19(NIV)*

3. RENEW my understanding.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. Hebrews 3:1 (NIV)

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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CONNECT:

Talk about a time in your life where you believed to have been absolutely right about something — only to discover you were dead wrong?

ENGAGE:

What portion of the weekend's message connected the most deeply with you regarding "do NOT depend on your own understanding"?

GROW:

- What are some ways people commonly "lean on their own understanding" in today's world?
- Why do you think it's so hard for us to stop depending on ourselves and fully rely on God's direction?
- How has depending on your own understanding led to stress, confusion, or disappointment in your life?
- Abraham and Sarah tried to "help God out" with His promise. What modern situations tempt us to do the same?
- Which of the five ways our understanding fails (emotions, experience, culture, selfishness, limitations) do you personally struggle with most? Why?
- God's instructions to Joshua at Jericho didn't make sense, yet they worked perfectly. When has God asked you to do something that seemed illogical at the time but later made sense?
- What does it look like in real life to measure decisions by "Does this align with God's Word?" rather than "Does this make sense to me?"

CHALLENGE:

Choose one area this week where you've been relying on yourself more than God... and change your lean.

- If you've been leaning on your finances for security, start leaning on God's provision.
- If you've been leaning on your career plan for identity, start leaning on God's calling.
- If you've been leaning on your relationships for fulfillment, start leaning on God's presence.
- If you've been leaning on your emotions for direction, start leaning on God's truth.
- If you've been leaning on your past experience for wisdom, start leaning on the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Isaiah 55:8 (NLT) "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."

Stop leaning on what you know — and start living from what God has shown. You won't just see differently — you'll live differently.