

Eternity

Destiny

Understanding

Covenant

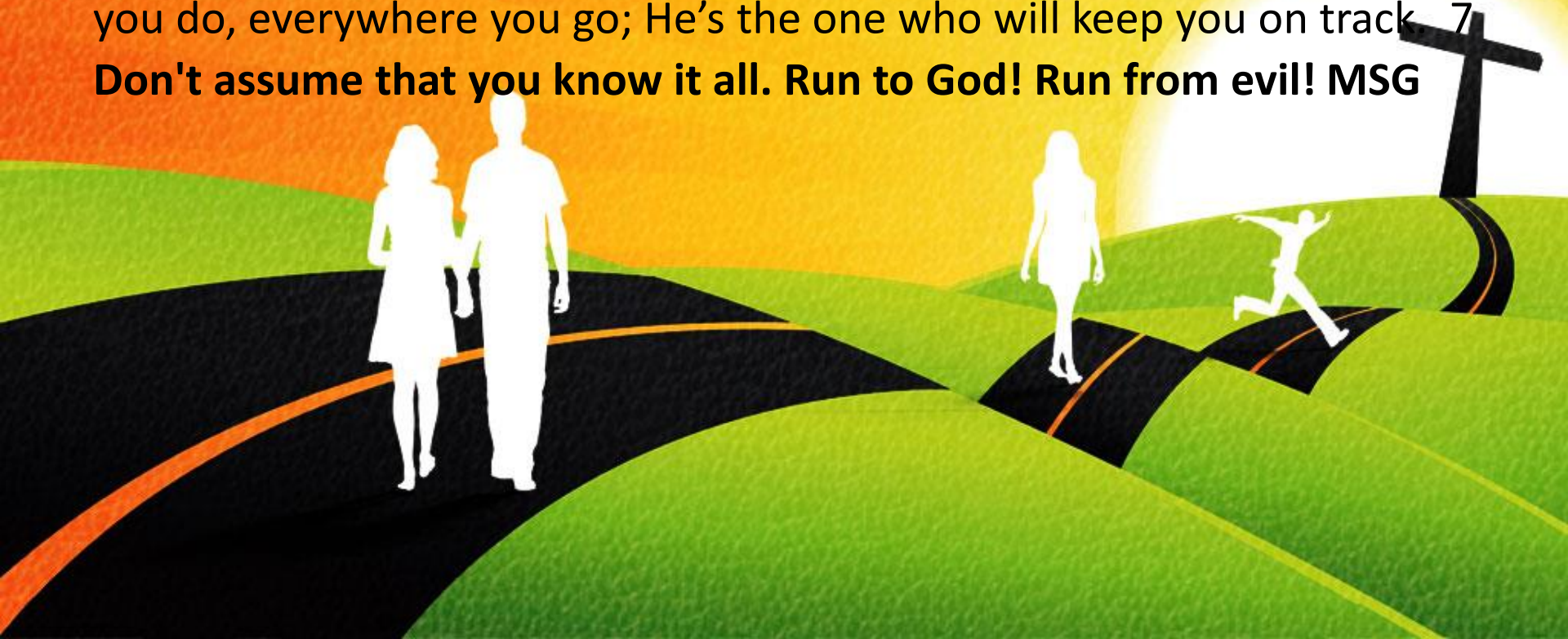
Application

Teach

Engage

Understanding

- Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. 7 **Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.** NLT
- Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. 6 Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. 7 **Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!** MSG



Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary - Understanding, noun

•The faculty of the human mind by which it apprehends the real state of things presented to it, or by which it receives or comprehends the ideas which others express and intend to communicate.

The *understanding* is called also the intellectual faculty. It is the faculty by means of which we obtain a great part of our knowledge.

○**Luke 24:44-46**

○**Ephesians 1:18**

- By *understanding* I mean that faculty whereby we are enabled to apprehend the objects of knowledge, generals or particulars, absent or present, and to judge of their truth or falsehood, good or evil.
- There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him *understanding*
 - Job 32:8** But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives understanding. NCV
- **Understanding is: God-given perception of the nature and meaning of things, resulting in sound judgment and decision-making**

Proverbs 3:5 - [Trust in the Lord with all thine heart]

This is a most important precept:

1. God is the Fountain of all good.
2. He has made his intelligent creatures dependent upon himself.
3. He requires them to be conscious of that dependence.
4. He has promised to communicate what they need.
5. He commands them to believe his promise, and look for its fulfilment.
6. And to do this without doubt, fear, or distrust; "with their whole heart."

[Lean not unto thine own understanding] - do not prop thyself. It is on GOD, not on yourself, that you are commanded to depend. He who trusts in his own heart is a fool.

Proverbs 3:6 - In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

- Begin, continue, and end every work, purpose, and device, with God.
- Earnestly pray for his direction at the commencement; look for his continual support in the progress; and so begin and continue that all may terminate in his glory: and then it will certainly be to thy good;
- for we never honor God, without serving ourselves.
- Self-sufficiency and self-dependence have been the ruin of mankind ever since the fall of Adam. The grand sin of the human race is their continual endeavor to live independently of God, i.e., to be without God in the world.
- True religion consists in considering God the fountain of all good and expecting all good from him.

(from Adam Clarke's Commentary)

1. Understanding belongs to God

- **Isaiah 40:10** Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? NLT
- vs. 18 To whom can you compare God? What image can you find to resemble him?
- vs. 21 Haven't you heard? Don't you understand? Are you deaf to the words of God— the words he gave before the world began? Are you so ignorant?
- vs. 25 "To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One.
- vs. 28 Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. **No one can measure the depths of his understanding.**
- **Job 12:13**
- **Psalms 136:5**
- **Jeremiah 51:15**
- **Psalms 147:5**

2. Understanding is a gift from God

- **Proverbs 2:6** For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. NLT
- **1 Kings 4:29** God gave Solomon very great wisdom and understanding, and knowledge as vast as the sands of the seashore. NLT
- **Job 38:36** Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? ESV
- **Daniel 1:17**
- **Daniel 2:30**
- **Daniel 9:21-23**
 - He has perfect understanding of what is best. He has perfect knowledge of what works and what will have poor results.
 - He is so far superior to everyone else combined that no one has anything, even some small discovery, which they can teach God.
 - Do you think that the educated community's method, idea, theory, instruction, etc. is better than what God says? **Could it be subconsciously the church has fallen into this trap.**

3. Understanding truth about God

Isaiah 43:10-11 "But you are my witnesses, O Israel!" says the Lord. "You are my servant. You have been chosen to know me, believe in me, **and understand that I alone am God**. There is no other God—there never has been, and there never will be. 11 I, yes, I am the Lord, and there is no other Savior. NLT

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the Lord says: "Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. 24 But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they **truly know me and understand that I am the Lord** who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken! NLT

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and **he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God**. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.

Romans 1:18-23

vs.19b – 20 Yes, God has shown himself to them. 20 There are things about him that people cannot see — his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to **understand** by what God has made. So people have no excuse for the bad things they do.

Proverbs 2:1-6 My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. 2 Tune your ears to wisdom and concentrate on **understanding**. 3 Cry out for insight and ask for **understanding**. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will **understand** what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and **understanding**.

NLT

4. Human understanding is limited

- **Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ESV
- **Ecclesiastes 11:5** Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things. NLT
- **Job 36:26** "Look, God is greater than we can understand. His years cannot be counted. NLT
- vs. 29 Who can understand the spreading of the clouds and the thunder that rolls forth from heaven? NLT
- **Job 42:1-3** Then Job answered the Lord: 2 "I know that you can do all things and that no plan of yours can be ruined. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that made my purpose unclear by saying things that are not true?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand; NCV
- **Isaiah 55:8-9** "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work."
 - **God's Decree.** 9 "For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. THE MESSAGE

5. Gaining understanding

- Through Faith – **Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.
NLT
- Through God's Spirit – **1 Corinthians 2:11-13** For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God
- Through God's Word - **Psalms 119:130** The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand. NLT

➤ **Through wise teaching - Psalm 49:1** Listen to this, all you people! Pay attention, everyone in the world! 2 High and low, rich and poor—listen! 3 For my words are wise, and my thoughts are filled with insight. 4 I listen carefully to many proverbs and solve riddles with inspiration from a harp. 5 Why should I fear when trouble comes, when enemies surround me? 6 They trust in their wealth and boast of great riches. 7 Yet they cannot redeem themselves from death by paying a ransom to God. 8 Redemption does not come so easily, for no one can ever pay enough 9 to live forever and never see the grave. 10 Those who are wise must finally die, just like the foolish and senseless, leaving all their wealth behind. 11 The grave is their eternal home, where they will stay forever. They may name their estates after themselves, 12 but their fame will not last. They will die, just like animals. 13 This is the fate of fools, though they are remembered as being wise. 14 Like sheep, they are led to the grave, where death will be their shepherd. In the morning the godly will rule over them. Their bodies will rot in the grave, far from their grand estates. **15 But as for me, God will redeem my life. He will snatch me from the power of the grave. NLT**

