

**January 31, 2021**  
**Willerup United Methodist Church**  
**Sermon Notes**  
**Pastor Marvin Singh**  
**A New Year**



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from Noun Project

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. (NIV)

(another translation: “he shall direct your paths” (NKJV))

A New Year - 2021

What shall we do?

1. Trust in the Lord
2. With all your heart
3. And lean not on your own understanding
4. In all your ways acknowledge Him
5. He shall direct your paths.

We have already ushered in the year 2021. We cannot see far. In 2020 till March 15, we had on-site worship, growth groups, Awana, Sunday schools, and all the other activities. Then we were asked to close the church building, and yet God gave us the privilege to record services and upload them on Facebook and YouTube. Then we started services again from June 21, 2020 with restrictions, sanitizing, social distancing and masks. We had different reactions, some angry, some mild, strong judgments, and whatnot. Pastors who

nurtured and preached the Word for years became targets as people said that they were not following the Lord anymore. I know a couple of pastors died, some left the pulpit. But we continued to worship. It never stopped.

So, what is certain about 2021? We cannot see far without God's wisdom and understandings. The paths are so confusing and complex. We do not know when we will need to climb the hills, or go through the valleys.

## **1. God can guide us in our everyday living.**

Every decision, every action, every development of our lives, God will direct our paths. Let us see the dictionary meaning.

The word direct means “moving toward a place or object, without changing direction and without stopping, for example, in a trip.

Verb. To manage or guide by advice, helpful information, instructions etc.,

to regulate the course, to control”

Hebrew words for road or path included words that refer to a highway, a way, a narrow path, a broad path, a trodden path, a customary path or just a road.

The word in Proverbs 3:6 is for a customary or day-to-day path. He shall direct your path. He will cut the road straight and keep it useful. The signs will be written as you travel, follow the marks and signs.

## **2. God goes with us.**

Psalm 48:14 – “For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end (death).”

Psalm 32:8 – “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.”

Isaiah 58:11 – “The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

John 16:13 – “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

### **3. God will guide us, but there are three conditions.**

#### **A. Acknowledge him.**

In all your ways acknowledge him. In all the steps of your journey see that you acknowledge God as your guide. There are times when we as people are conversing with each other, and are preoccupied and do not acknowledge who is present. Who is saying hello to us. We miss even their greetings. Sometime people touch our shoulders and even then we do not acknowledge. It happens many times to us, and we do not realize it. Yes many times God is speaking to us and we do not acknowledge his presence and miss our direction. It is basic to our relationship that we understand his gestures, signs, and marks by acknowledging them. We must pay attention to Him. We should have a sensitivity of our faith that is alive and expectant, and not just in special moments of devotion and prayer.

#### **B. Trust Him** – with all your heart.

We definitely trust him in the hours of special need where there is no one else to trust. When we feel insecure.

How is our trust level when we are unaware of needs?

We can trust him when we love him with all our mind and wholeheartedly. The double-minded person is unstable because he does not acknowledge God in all his ways.

James 1:7-8

That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Proverbs 2:1, 5-6, 9-11

My son, if you accept my commands and store up my commands within you . . .

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding . . .

Then you will understand what is right and just and fair - every good path.

For wisdom enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

### **C. Do not depend on yourself.**

“Lean not on your own understanding.”

“Do not rely on your own insights.” (RSV)

“Don't trust yourself.” (The Living Bible)

If we depend on our self, we will be disappointed.

The word of God says:

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Proverbs 3:7 – “Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil.”