

Study Guide: "In God We Trust"

Scripture Reference:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3:5-6

Introduction

With every election season, our nation is steeped in tension and ambiguity. We hear differing views, feel unseen biases, and watch microaggressions slip into everyday interactions. It can leave us feeling uncertain, questioning the stability of our nation and the people around us.

But Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us that true stability isn't found in human leaders or worldly systems. While it's our civic duty to participate, it's our spiritual duty to remember who ultimately governs all things. Solomon's wisdom teaches us that in times of instability, we have a steadfast foundation: we trust not in parties, candidates, or outcomes but in the eternal, unchanging God. As we explore this scripture, we're reminded to place our faith in Him, not in the temporary, for He alone is our source of strength and stability.

Point 1: Complete Commitment – "Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart"

Reflection:

In challenging seasons, it's easy to look for security in what we can see, feel, and control. We might trust in our own strength, the stability of our jobs, or even the political promises we hear. But true trust means placing our entire confidence in God—above all else. It's about knowing that even when life's circumstances are shaky, our trust is in a God who is constant and faithful.

God calls us to trust Him with everything within us, holding nothing back. Voting, for example, is our civic responsibility and allows us to voice our values. But beyond our vote, our deepest devotion and trust are in the One who holds the world. God's plans surpass human agendas, and His power remains steady, regardless of election results.

Illustration:

Imagine a firefighter leading someone to safety through a smoke-filled building. The person being rescued can't see much, but they place their complete trust in the firefighter to guide them out. Similarly, we must trust God to lead us, even when we can't see the way clearly.

Key Quote:

"Vote We Must, But It's In God That We Trust!"

Questions for Reflection:

1. Where do you find it difficult to trust God completely?
 2. How can you surrender these areas and place your confidence in Him?
 3. When facing a difficult decision, do you feel pulled between faith and fear?
-

Point 2: Consciously Cautious – "Lean Not on Your Own Understanding"**Reflection:**

In times of uncertainty, we often try to make sense of things by relying on our own understanding. But Solomon warns us that human wisdom is limited and prone to error. God's wisdom is infinite, and He sees beyond what we can comprehend. Leaning on God rather than our own limited knowledge frees us from the pressure to "figure it all out" and allows us to walk in faith.

When we presume we know best, we fall into the trap of over-relying on ourselves, often forgetting that God's understanding is far greater. Solomon is encouraging us here to abandon the illusion of our own intelligence. Trusting in our own knowledge is like digging a well in dry ground—it will always come up empty.

Illustration:

Imagine trying to put together a massive puzzle but only having a handful of pieces. Our understanding is like those few pieces, while God sees the full picture. We're encouraged to let go of what we think we know and allow God to work things out, trusting that He holds all the pieces.

Key Quote:

"You're smart, but you ain't God-smart; wise, but you ain't God-wise!"

Supporting Verse:

Jesus reminded us of this in John 13:7: "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Questions for Reflection:

1. When have you leaned on your own understanding, only to feel limited or let down?
2. How can you practice seeking God's wisdom in situations where you feel uncertain?

3. What practical steps can you take to abandon self-reliance and lean on God's understanding?
-

Point 3: Continual Confidence – "In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him"

Reflection:

This passage invites us to make God a part of every aspect of our lives. To "acknowledge Him in all our ways" is a call to ongoing, active recognition of God's presence in every decision, desire, and direction. It's not about turning to God only in times of need but making Him the center of every day, every challenge, every relationship.

Acknowledging God doesn't mean a quick prayer before a big decision. Instead, it's an intentional, daily practice of inviting Him into every detail. This approach keeps us humble, recognizing that all we have and do is dependent on His guidance. Acknowledging Him in this way turns our life's journey into a partnership where we trust His lead.

Illustration:

Think of your life as a GPS, set on God's direction. If we allow God to direct us, we stay on course. But if we take over, we risk veering off into areas that aren't meant for us. When we acknowledge God continually, we allow Him to recalibrate our direction whenever we stray.

Key Quote:

"Let God be the compass that directs your life, the GPS that guides every step."

Questions for Reflection:

1. Are there parts of your life where you don't often include God's guidance?
 2. How can you make acknowledging God a part of your daily habits, not just in times of crisis?
 3. What areas of your life would benefit from intentionally inviting God in?
-

Closing Challenge

As you reflect on these principles, consider where your trust truly lies. During this election week and beyond, remember: **Vote We Must, But It's In God That We Trust.** Political climates and candidates may shift, but our confidence remains rooted in God's unchanging power and wisdom. Let this passage remind you to hold steadfast to Him, no matter the outcomes.

Memory Verse:

"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." – Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer:

"Lord, in these times of uncertainty, help us place our trust in You completely. Guide us beyond our limited understanding and lead us as we acknowledge You in every part of our lives. Keep us grounded in Your love and wisdom. Amen."