

CHILL OUT:
L - Listen to God

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in Lord with all you heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight.”

With all of the world constantly screaming at us, listening to any one voice is a challenge. Advertisements visually assault us, televisions blare from their perches, our phones ring, vibrate, and chirp. The chaos drowns the bird’s song, the child’s laughter, the buzz of the bee. And the still small voice of the Master goes unheard.

Listening. Before we listen to anyone or any thing else, we must listen to God. I’m not talking about an audible voice, but rather the affirmation through Bible study, the prompting in your spirit, the words from a friend. He still speaks. God is in the business of communicating with His children. But like our own children we are often distracted, not paying attention.

What might He say if we turned the world off and tuned in to Him?

For review, who is the primary author of Proverbs? Whose son was he? What other books did he write? What was his major life accomplishment (Hint: his father wanted to do it but wasn’t allowed by God because he was a ‘man of war.’ He did store up provisions and supplies for the project.)

Read all of Proverbs 2. What is the focus of this chapter? Verses 3-5 are the key verses to this passage. What is the imperative?

Define trust. Is it active or passive? How do you know? Can you give an example?

The heart is a key throughout the Bible; it occurs 716 times. In Deut. 6:5 Moses admonished the people to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might.” In Matt. 22:37 Jesus quoted the verse and added ‘mind’. These are four different aspects of man. Review them below:

Heart
Soul
Strength
Mind

In our passage, we are to love the Lord with all our heart. How? CS Lewis says that obedience is the complete submission of our will to God. What would complete submission look like?

What does it mean to lean on your own understanding? What is the danger? What does trusting God require? How do you know that God is trustworthy? Can you list some examples from your own life that point to His faithful provision and love?

What is the second admonishment? What does it mean? Why is it difficult? What is the danger?

Last year we did an M&M from I Corinthians 1. In this passage Paul writes about the wisdom of the world is foolishness to God and visa versa.

In order to listen to someone we have to do several things:

Turn down/off other distractions

Be quiet

Wait patiently

Pay attention

Don't predetermine

What do you need to turn off our tune out so that you have hear His voice?
How can you practice being quiet and just listening?

How can you practice patience and lean in when He is silent?

What are some ways your can determine to pay attention when He is 'speaking?'

What ideas, expectations, desires can you sacrifice so as not to miss what He is 'saying?'

These two admonishments are followed by a wonderful promise. What is it?

Not all roads lead to God or to heaven. Check out John 14.26. The only way to God is through His Son, Jesus. The Gospel message is an exclusive one. Here Solomon states that He, God, will make our path straight when we trust and acknowledge God.

God is always in the business of doing two things: growing us and glorifying Himself. Those are not always easy or pain-free processes. Often our growth and His glory require pain. (See "The Problem of Pain" by C S Lewis for further discussion on this topic).

The path that God marks out for each of us will take us straight to Him if we follow Him. Its directness to the Father is only apparent on the other side of this life.