

# Inner Honesty is Virtually Impossible

Proverbs 3:5-8

*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 straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eye fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.*

**EQ:** *How do we truly trust in the Lord with all our heart when so often we are not honest with ourselves?*

## “IF/THEN” FORMULA?

Return to **Condition #1:** *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*

*Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*

Notice that biblically the heart does not merely equal emotions, but rather the very center of our being- the decision making, and constant part of us that doesn't change.

Trusting The Lord Jesus is defined as follows: **Wholly, 100%. relying upon Jesus' promises and actions.**

**The Great 17<sup>th</sup> century Pastor Matthew Henry said:**

*We must believe that he is able to do what he will, wise to do what is best and good, according to his promise, to do what is best for us, if we love him, and serve him. We must, with an entire submission and satisfaction, depend upon him to perform all things for us.*



The primary way that the Lord wants to speak to you as an individual today is through the Bible, through other Christians, and through Prayer.

Biblical trust is risking everything, depending totally on Jesus, being totally out of personal control.

To biblically trust the Lord with all you heart means that you:

- Acknowledge that Jesus' mind and wisdom is more accurate and reliable than your own mind & wisdom.
- It means putting into action the things Jesus tells us to do even when we don't emotionally feel like it.
- It means to take risks and follow Jesus even when we don't know the outcome.
- It means to choose to love and forgive even when others don't repent and return love.
- It means to walk in confidence that death is not the end but the doorway to eternal life.



**Condition #2: Do NOT trust YOURSELF “do not rely on your own understanding.”**

The worlds ideas of wisdom and insight change like the weather.

The Bible strongly says that we should put no trust in the flesh, not even our own.

Relying our own understanding or the wisdom of this World is a great path to failure. We need to allow our minds to be SHAPED by God's Word.

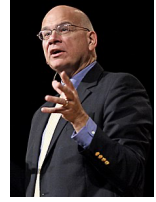
**The Late Pastor Timothy J. Keller puts it well when he writes these words:**

*The great paradox of the book of Proverbs is wise people are extremely aware of their foolishness; fools think they're wise. To put it a little more starkly, if you don't think you're a fool, you're a fool . . .*

*You have to be absolutely, accurately, intimately aware of all of your limitations, all of your weaknesses, all of your flaws, all of your besetting sins, all your areas of foolishness.*

*If you don't, you're going to make stupid choices all the time.*

*Timothy J. Keller, (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).*



This is not to say that reason is always worthless. We need to apply our reasoning to understand Jesus' ways.

**Condition #3: *In all your ways acknowledge him,***

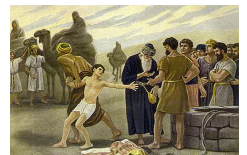
The third condition is really about applying the first two to every step we take along the journey we call life. The Christian life is a series of minuscule decisions that taken together lead us towards or further from the destination Jesus has for us.

IF I had followed my heart and emotions I would have married that other woman who, in all likelihood:

- Would never have shared Jesus with me.
- Would never have worshipped with me.
- Would never have supported my call into ministry.
- As a result I would have spent the next 51 years without preaching the Gospel, teaching His Word, or having the privilege of leading people to him as Lord and Savior.

By the way we still have contact with my first girlfriend since her half brother and sister are my niece and nephew.

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20)*



Maybe you feel that you've already blown it. Guess what: Jesus will re-straighten your path.

However, Jesus Christ, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, is smart enough.

If you are willing to not lean on your own understanding, but to know him in all things-he will guide your life, your future and your eternity.

If you want this truth in your life and future raise your hand and repeat with me these words:

***Jesus, I surrender to you and your direction.  
I ask you to guide my thoughts, actions, decisions and behavior.  
I proclaim you and you alone as my Lord and Savior!***

