



# HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





# How to Be Successful

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

**Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.**

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2022 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.



# How to Be Successful

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Proverbs 3:5-10

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1903

God has not engineered us for failure; rather He has programmed us for success. God has cultivated wonderful plans for our lives. But tragically, few people know the will of God, much less do the will of God for their lives.

As children of God, we have been given a wonderful promise of guidance. God has individual instructions for each of us on how to be successful. In order to know the will of God for our lives, we must first express a full dependence on the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-6 explains: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

It is difficult to trust in someone we don't know; we must know and love the Lord in order to trust and obey Him. We are to receive God's wisdom rather than lean on our own understanding. When we search for God's wisdom and get serious about knowing His will, He promises that we will find it. When we have complete confidence in God, and constantly comply with His will, we will receive His faithful direction.

God has promised to direct our paths, and He will do it through the Word of God.

Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." The Word of God reveals God's will concerning our salvation, the Holy Spirit, and sanctification.

God often directs us through prayer; He speaks to our hearts, directly as we pray to Him.

He also guides through wisdom and directs us by His providence; He is the one who closes and opens doors. After we receive faithful direction from God, a forceful dynamic takes place: the Lord clears the path for us. Where there were once obstacles, He makes a path straight through.

Adrian Rogers says, "When you worship, and your walk and your wealth are given over to Him, you'll know the will of God."

## LIFE APPLICATION

Are you serious about knowing God's will for your life and how to be successful in it? Express your full dependence on Him and receive His faithful direction. Begin by knowing and trusting Him; then obey Him.



# How to Be Successful

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 3:5-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1903

## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) God has programmed us for success.
  - i) God did not engineer us for failure.
  - ii) God wants us to be successful and victorious.
  - iii) God has a wonderful plan for our lives.
- b) The tragic thing is that few people know the will of God, much less do the will of God for their lives.
- c) Man is a clever creature, but he's lost his way in the darkness.
  - i) Man has accomplished many things.
    - (1) Man has discovered how to split the atom.
    - (2) We've gone into space and explored space.
    - (3) We've developed radio, television and the computer.
  - ii) We've gained so much information that we don't even know how to process it, much less know what to do with it.
    - (1) Daniel 12:4
  - iii) As we double our knowledge, it seems that we triple our trouble.
- d) If you are a child of God, God has given you a wonderful promise of guidance.
  - i) Proverbs 3:5-10
  - ii) Isaiah 58:11
  - iii) Psalm 32:8
  - iv) We have the Father above us, watching us and controlling all things.
  - v) We have the Savior beside us, guiding our footsteps.
  - vi) We have the Spirit inside us, controlling our thoughts and our inner life.
- e) God has an individual plan for you.
  - i) He deals with us as individuals.
    - (1) The very hairs of your head are numbered.
      - (a) Matthew 10:30
- f) Stephen Olford said that it is our duty and our joy to find, to follow and to finish the will of God for our lives.
- g) In Proverbs 3:5-10, we will find God's plan and instruction for us to invest in life and be successful God's way.

## 2) FULL DEPENDENCE (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- a) There must be complete confidence.
  - i) We must trust the Lord with all of our hearts.
    - (1) It is not a proposition or a formula that we are asked to trust but God Himself.
    - (2) Proverbs 3:5



- ii) We find it difficult to trust the Lord because it's hard to trust someone we don't know.
    - (1) We have not learned to know Him and to love Him.
      - (a) To know Him is to love Him.
      - (b) To love Him is to trust Him.
      - (c) To trust Him is to obey Him.
      - (d) To obey Him is to be blessed.
    - (2) If you are having difficulty trusting the Lord, then spend time getting to know Him.
  - iii) We are not to trust our own understanding.
    - (1) Proverbs 3:7
    - (2) Proverbs 14:12
      - (a) We don't want to let go and trust God.
      - (b) We want to do it ourselves.
    - (3) Jeremiah 10:23-24
      - (a) We don't have what it takes to guide our own lives because we don't know all of the factors.
        - (i) Proverbs 3:5
  - iv) Proverbs 2:1-5
    - (1) We are to search for wisdom as if for buried treasure.
    - (2) When we get serious about knowing the will of God, then we will know the will of God.
- b) Complete confidence leads to constant compliance.
- i) Proverbs 3:5-6
    - (1) Not in some of our ways, but in all of our ways we are to acknowledge Him.
      - (a) We cannot tell the Lord that we want Him in only part of our life but not in all.
        - (i) If He is worth part of it, then He is worth all of it.
    - (2) Until we do this, we cannot complain about not knowing the will of God.
  - ii) Many people are afraid of what God might ask them to do.
    - (1) Do not be afraid of the will of God.
      - (a) 1 John 4:18
        - (i) This passage does not mean that we love God perfectly.
          - 1. We have never done anything perfectly except sin.
          - 2. It is not our perfect love that casts out fear.
        - (ii) One translation states, "We have no need to fear someone who loves us perfectly."
          - (iii) It is God's perfect love for us.
    - (2) God's will is best.
      - (a) It is what we would choose if we knew all of the factors.
    - (3) Romans 8:32
      - (a) If God gave us Jesus, there is nothing He will withhold from us.
    - (4) If He sends you as a missionary, then that is exactly where you would want to be.
      - (a) Philippians 2:13
  - iii) John 4:34
  - iv) Psalm 37:4



- 3) FAITHFUL DIRECTION (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- a) When there is that full dependence, there will be that faithful direction.
  - b) Proverbs 3:5-6
    - i) If we trust Him with all of our heart and acknowledge Him in every way, then there are no if's, and's, but's, no stammer or hesitation, He will direct our paths.
    - ii) He will lead us into the paths of success.
  - c) There are four ways in which God will direct our paths:
    - i) Through the Word of God.
      - (1) Psalm 119:105
        - (a) The Word of God will show us the will of God.
      - (2) Salvation is the will of God.
        - (a) 2 Peter 3:9
      - (3) It is God's will that we be filled with the Spirit.
        - (a) Ephesians 5:17-18
          - (i) Why do we ask God's will about whom we should marry or where to go to college or what house to buy when we're not even Spirit-filled?
      - (4) Sanctification is God's will.
        - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:3
          - (i) Sanctification means to be set apart for God.
          - (ii) Fornication means sexual immorality.
            - 1. The Bible says to flee fornication.
            - 2. If we don't do what God says in His Word, why do we then waste our time asking God to guide us and lead us?
              - a. Why should God show us something else if we don't obey what He's already shown us?
        - (5) How many people fail to find the treasures of God's Word simply because they will not open the book and read?
      - ii) Through prayer.
        - (1) Not everything is found in the Bible.
          - (a) The Bible doesn't tell us which person to marry.
          - (b) The Bible doesn't say which university to attend.
        - (2) God will guide us when we pray.
          - (a) Acts 1:24
        - (3) Prayer is a two-way street.
          - (a) Don't do all the talking; let God talk to you.
          - (b) God speaks directly to our hearts, if we will listen.
          - (c) Acts 8:29
            - (i) This shows the inward direction of the Holy Spirit.
          - (d) Acts 13:2
        - (4) We must fast, pray, seek the face of God, and let the Holy Spirit of God (who speaks through the Word) speak also through the witness of the Spirit, as the Spirit speaks to



our hearts.

(a) Nehemiah 7:5

(i) God put it in Nehemiah's heart.

(5) When we totally commit ourselves to the Lord and lean not on our own understanding, God then takes the Word and guides us through His Word.

(a) God takes the Holy Spirit when we pray and guides us by His Holy Spirit.

iii) Through wisdom.

(1) God will give us wisdom.

(a) James 1:5

(i) "Upbraideth not" means that He won't scold us.

(2) Wisdom is judicious, spiritual, common sense.

(3) Romans 12:2

(a) Why would God renew your mind if He didn't want you to use it?

(b) Do not be afraid to think.

(i) When we are surrendered and committed to the Lord Jesus and we acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will direct us by the Word of God when we pray.

(ii) He will direct us by His Spirit, speaking to our hearts.

(iii) He will direct us by the wisdom that He has given us, and we will begin to think God's thoughts after Him.

(4) Ephesians 5:17

(5) 1 Corinthians 10:15

(6) There are some things that we do not have to pray about.

(a) For example, we don't have to pray about the clothing we wear.

(b) God gives us wisdom, and we are to use it.

iv) Through providence.

(1) God opens and closes doors.

(a) Revelation 3:7-8

(2) Proverbs 3:5-6

(3) God will not leave us wandering around like a ship without a rudder.

(4) God will guide His people.

4) FORCEFUL DYNAMIC (Proverbs 3:6)

a) In this passage, the Hebrew word used for "direct thy paths" literally means, "He will clear your path."

i) It means "to cut a straight path."

ii) Isaiah 40:3-4

(1) The same Hebrew word is used in this passage for "make straight."

iii) When we trust in the Lord, He is going to send a bulldozer in front of us.

(1) He will make straight our paths.

(2) Not only does He show the way, but He also clears the way.

b) It's not merely enough to know the will of God and to have that direction, but we must also



have that dynamic (that power) that God makes our paths straight through the wilderness.

- c) Proverbs 3:9
  - i) Proverbs 3:5-6
  - ii) When our worship, our walk and our wealth are given over to Him, then we'll know the will of God.
- d) Are you serious about doing and knowing the will of God?
  - i) Do it in the small things.
    - (1) Do it in the things that are nearest to you.
    - (2) Luke 16:10

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) If you want to know the will of God for your life, the first step is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- b) Have you surrendered to the Lordship of Christ?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16



# How to Be Successful

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Proverbs 3:5-10

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1903

Be finding Proverbs chapter 3, if you will. In just a few moments, we're going to read beginning in verse 5. Proverbs chapter 3 and we're going to begin in verse 5. The question, I suppose, that is asked more than any other question when a pastor is questioned by a group; ultimately this question will come. "How can I know the will of God for my life?" That's just another way of saying, "How can I be what God wants me to be?" Which is another way of saying, "How can I be successful?"

Now I want to say that God has programmed you for success. God did not engineer you for failure. God wants you to be successful; God wants you to be victorious. God has a wonderful, wonderful plan for your life. The tragic thing is that few people know the will of God, much less do the will of God for their lives. Man is a clever creature, but he's lost his way in the darkness. I was thinking about all that man has been able to do. The atom has been split and man has the ability to destroy himself. We've gone out into space and explored space and sent spacecraft to the moon and to Mars and Jupiter and Venus. And beyond that, we've developed radio and television and the computer and they've all come together now where we have this Internet and this cyberspace superhighway, but we're becoming road kill on that superhighway. We're getting all of this information; we don't even know how to process it, much less know what to do with it. We're moving quickly toward a cashless society, where we'll be given numbers rather than even credit cards and be able to go and make deposits and withdrawal and buy and sell without even cash in our hands. It's coming very quickly. We have automobiles now that travel six hundred miles an hour. We have airplanes that travel more than two thousand miles an hour, and space ships that travel twenty four thousand miles an hour. We're living in an incredible age. As the Bible prophesied in Daniel chapter 12 and verse 4, "In the last days men shall rush to and fro and knowledge shall increase." But it seems as we double our knowledge, we triple our trouble, and we seem to be getting deeper and deeper into difficulty, and it seems as though we're looking into the end to the muzzle of a loaded cannon. And yet if you're a child of God, you don't need to be lost in the darkness. If you're a child of God, God has given to you a wonderful, wonderful promise. And that promise is a promise of guidance.

Look if you will here in Proverbs chapter 3 and verses 5 through 10. Here's the recipe, here's the proposition and the promise, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes, fear the Lord, and depart from evil. And it shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." What a wonderful, wonderful promise. And this promise is a promise that is repeated and reiterated so many places in the Bible. You might jot these down and put them in your margin; Isaiah 58 and verse 11, "And the Lord shall guide thee continually," or you might put down Psalm 32 and verse 8, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go, and will guide thee with Mine eye." We have the



Father above us, watching over us and controlling all things. We have the Savior beside us, guiding our footsteps. We have the Spirit inside us, controlling our thoughts and our inner life, and we are to be guided. And God has a plan for you, an individual plan. God doesn't deal with people in mass; He deals with them as individuals. The very hairs of your head are numbered. And it's true for the plumber, as well as the preacher. It's true for the secretary as well as the missionary. God has a plan for every life. And if God called you to be a plumber, you'd have to step down to be a preacher. If God called a preacher to be the President, he'd have to step down to be the President. God's will for you is special, it is wonderful, and God has a plan for each of us.

Now, Steven Olford said, "It is our duty and it is our joy to find, to follow and to finish the will of God for our lives," and friend, that is success God's way.

Now go back to the text that I read for you, it's found there in Proverbs chapter 3 and beginning in verse 5. Let's see if we can find God's recipe, God's formula, God's plan, God's instruction to invest in life and to be successful God's way.

First thing I find that we're to do is, that we are to express a full dependence on the Lord. Look at Proverbs 3 verses 5 and 6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart." "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Now what's he saying here? Well, first of all, there must be this complete confidence. We've got to trust the Lord with all of our hearts. Now notice, it's not a proposition I'm asking you to trust, it is a person. It's not a formula, it is God Himself. "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart."

Now why do we find it difficult to do that? Why is it difficult for us to trust the Lord with all of our hearts? I'll tell you why. It's hard to trust someone you don't know. Isn't that true? Hard to trust someone you don't know. I mean if a perfect stranger were to walk up to you today and say, "Will you do something for me?" What's your first question? "What is it?" Isn't that right? If Joyce were to ask me, however, and she would say, "Adrian will you do something for me?" I might say, "Well, what is it?" And then she might say to me, "Just trust me." I'd say, "Yes." I'd say, "Yes." You know why? I know her that well. And I know that she loves me. And if she would ask me to do something and then just say, "Just trust me," I'd probably be thinking she had something real good she wants to do. Or sometimes she might just say, "Come in here, close your eyes and open your mouth." That takes a lot of faith, doesn't it? Close your eyes and just open your mouth. You know what? I know she's going to put something real good in my mouth. But you see, if I walked up to an ordinary person on the street and he said, "Close your eyes and open your mouth," friend, I wouldn't do it. I don't think you would either, right? Because you see, you can't trust someone you don't know. And if you're having difficulty trusting the Lord, I'll tell you why. You have not learned to know Him and to love Him. Listen folks, to know Him is to love Him. And then to love Him is to trust Him. And then to trust Him is to obey Him. And to obey Him is to be blessed. So it begins with knowing the Lord, and if you're having difficulty trusting the Lord, may I suggest that you spend some time getting to know the Lord. We're not to trust our own understanding. So many times we want to say, "Well, this is the way I think."



Well very frankly, we make a terrible mistake when we trust our own understanding.

Look in Proverbs 3 verse 7, “Be not wise in thine own eyes.” Now that’s the problem with many of us; we think we know. Proverbs chapter 14 verse 12, “There’s a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” We can’t let go. We can’t trust God. We want to do it ourselves. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah chapter 10 verses 23 and 24, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me.” You see, you don’t have what it takes to guide your own life. Why? Because you don’t know all of the factors. And so the Bible says, “Don’t lean unto your own understanding.” It doesn’t mean you won’t have understanding. You’re going to have plenty of understanding, but it’ll be God helping you to understand. Go back to Proverbs chapter 2. Look in the first five verses of Proverbs chapter 2, verses 1 through 5, “My son, if thou wilt receive My words, and hide My commandments with thee; so that thou, thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart unto understanding.” Now here’s a different kind of understanding, it’s God’s understanding. “Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.”

What if you knew in your back yard, somewhere, there was a million dollars in gold bullion, buried four feet deep? You knew it was there. Would you look for it? Somewhere, four feet deep, there’s a million dollars in gold bullion, buried in your back yard. And you probably wouldn’t be in the service this morning; you’d be out there spading around, looking for that gold. God says we’re to search for wisdom that way, as for hid treasure! When we get serious about knowing the will of God, we will know the will of God.

Very frankly, most of us are not very serious about searching for this understanding, wanting to know the will of God. There must be this complete confidence, and this complete confidence leads to constant compliance. Look again now in Proverbs 3 verses 5 and 6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.” That’s the complete confidence. “And lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him.” That, my friend, is that constant compliance. “In all of your ways acknowledge Him.” Not in some of your ways. God won’t take part of it. You can’t say, “Lord I want Your will in this part of my life, I want Your will in my social life, but I don’t want Your will in my business life.” Or, “I want Your will in my church life, but I don’t want Your will in this other part of my life.” You just can’t do that. “In all of your ways acknowledge Him.” Turn it all over to Him. If He’s worth part of it, He’s worth all of it.

A young man wrote these words. I love them, I’ve clipped them, I read them frequently. Here’s what he said. I’m talking now about this constant compliance. He said, “I’m a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The dye has been cast, I have stepped over the line, the decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving and dwarfed goals. My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I won’t give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up for the cause of Jesus Christ. I must go till He comes, give till I



drop, preach till everyone knows, work till He stops me, and when He comes for His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me because my banner will have been clear.”

Well, I like that, don't you? You know, we just need a church full of folks like that. We need a pastor like that. We need a choir like that. You see, “In all of your ways acknowledge Him.” Very frankly, my folks, the reason many of us do not know the will of God for our lives is we have not come to the recipe, “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, lean not unto your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him.” Until you've done that, don't complain about not knowing the will of God.

You say, “Well pastor, if I were to do that, no telling what He'd have me to do.” “Why, Lord, You might send me as some missionary in Africa if I were to do that. You might make me marry some ugly girl. No telling what You'd do. If I just were to say, ‘Lord, I want Your will.’”

Friend, don't be afraid of the will of God. I love that Scripture, First John 4:18, that says, “Perfect love casteth out fear.” That doesn't mean that you love God perfectly. None of us have ever done anything perfectly except sin. It's not my perfect love for Him that casts out fear. Another translation gives it this way, “We have no need to fear someone who loves us perfectly.” It's His perfect love for us! God's will is best; God's will is what you would choose if you had all of the factors. That's the reason the Bible asks this piece of logic in Romans 8:32, “He that spared not His own Son, how shall not also freely with Him give us all things?” I mean, if God gave us Christ, wouldn't He give us something else? If God sent Jesus, you don't have to worry about anything else. “He that spared not His own Son, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things.” Don't be afraid of the will of God.

You say, “Well He might send me as a missionary.” If He sends you as a missionary, that's exactly where you'd want to be. It's God that works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Jesus said in John 4 verse 34, “My meat,” my food, “is to do the will of Him that sent Me.” Psalm 37 verse 4, “Delight yourself also in the Lord and He'll give you the desires of your heart.”

And so, first of all, there must be, there must be this full, this full dependence upon the Lord. Now when you do that, here's the second thing that will happen. You got the first one? Dependence. Here's the second word, direction. When there is that full dependence, there will be that faithful direction. Look at it. Here's the full dependence, Proverbs 3 verses 5 and 6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him,” now watch this, “and He shall direct thy paths.” Now either that's true or not true. How many of you believe it's true? It's true, it's true. Either that is true or it's not true. If in all of your ways, not some of your ways. If you trust Him with all of your heart, acknowledge Him in every way, there is no if's, and's, but's about it, no stutter, no stammer, no hesitation or equivocation, “He shall direct your path.” You can carry that to the bank. God will lead you, and friend, where He is leading you is into the paths of success.

Now, how will He direct your paths? I want to suggest four ways that He'll do it. Number one, He'll do it through the Word of God. I mean, through His very Word. I keep my Bible, another Bible in my office, open to Psalm 119. Before I come out to preach, almost every time, I'll snatch a verse from Psalm 119. Let me give you one, here's one, Psalm 119 verse 105, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” The Word of God will show you the will of God. So many people wanting to know the will of God; “How's God going to direct my way?” Well, through the Word! The Word is a



light and a lamp to you.

Now, people say, "I want to know the will of God." Let me give you three things the Bible says about the will of God. Uses the very expression, "His will." For example, here's God's will concerning salvation, Second Peter 3 verse 9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us ward," now listen to this next phrase, "not willing that any should perish." That's one reason I don't buy this business that says, "God chose some to be saved and God chose some to be lost." Friend, God is, "Not willing that any should perish." Put it down, put it down. I'm so glad! I can say, "Whosoever will may come," and God is, "Not willing that any should perish." You want the will of God? Salvation is the will of God.

Now let me tell you what else is the will of God; that you be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5 verse 17 and 18, "Wherefore, be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." The will of God, salvation, and to be filled with the Spirit. That's the will of God. Are you filled with the Spirit? If not, why not? May I ask that question again? Are you Spirit-filled? If not, why not? It's God's will. Don't be unwise, be wise. Understand what the will of God is. God's will is for you to be filled with the Spirit. Now why should you be asking God's will about who you ought to marry, where you're going to go to college, or what house you ought to buy or what car you ought to buy, when you're not even Spirit filled? And God has told you, that's His will.

Let me tell you what else is the will of God. First Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification," that's God's will, salvation, Spirit filled living, sanctification. He just says, "That's the will of God." Sanctification means to be set apart, for God. And so, listen to it, "For this is the will God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." That means sexual immorality.

Now you're married, and there's some other woman comes into your life, or some other man comes into your life, and you're saying, "Lord, do you want me to divorce my wife and marry this person?" Come up close and I'll give you the answer. No, no! Well, you say, "Pastor, I'm going to pray about it." You don't have to pray about it. That's an insult in the face of God for you to pray about it. This is the will of God! It's right there! Don't commit adultery! Flee from fornication! The will of God is right in the Word of God! Now if you won't do what God says in His Word, don't waste your breath saying, "God guide me and God lead me." He already has! Why should God show you something else? Get in the Word of God and read black print on white paper. You don't have to pray about it. Good night!

I was reading about a man named Veto Miti, M-I-T-I, over in Barcelona. He was working on his PhD, and he had to write a thesis. His PhD in philosophy. And he was writing his thesis, and he was in the library in Barcelona, and he was reading a book on philosophy written by a philosopher, one of these kind, you know, you have to blow the dust off of, and in there he found a document. And it was the will of the philosopher, and it said, "My will is bequeathed to whoever reads this book and finds this will." Veto Miti took that to the courts. And they read it, and they said it's valid, and they gave him two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It was right in the book. It was there, but I thought about how many people fail to find the treasures of God's Word simply because they will not open the



book and read. One way God will direct your paths is thru the Word.

Another way is through prayer. Not everything is found in the Bible. Bible doesn't tell you what girl to marry, what university to go to, but God will guide you when you pray. Put these Scriptures down, Acts chapter 1 verse 24, "And they prayed, and said, 'Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whither of these two Thou has chosen.'" They were looking for someone to take Judas' place. They said, "Lord, show us, guide us."

Now prayer is a two way street. Don't just do all the talking. Let God talk to you. God will speak to your heart directly, if you'll listen. Acts chapter 8 and verse 29, Philip was a man filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Bible says, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, 'Go near, and join thyself unto the chariot.'" The Spirit said. That's the inward direction of the Holy Spirit; He's spoken to me many times that way. Acts chapter 13 and verse 2, and, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, 'Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.'"

What are God's plans for this church? We have to fast and pray and seek the face of God, and let the Holy Spirit of God, who speaks through the Word; speak also through the witness of the Spirit, as the Spirit of God speaks to our hearts.

Nehemiah was trying to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and he did, by the power of God, but he said in Nehemiah chapter 7 and verse 5, "And my God put into my heart to gather together the nobles," and so forth. I'm not going to read the rest of it; I'm just going to say that God put it in his heart. Has God ever put anything in your heart? Sure He will. When you began to commit your way to Him, when there's that complete dependence, when you totally commit yourself to Him and, "Lean not unto your own understanding," God takes the Word and He begins to guide you thru the Word. God takes the Holy Spirit when you pray, and He begins to guide you by the Holy Spirit.

Tell you another way that God will guide you; wisdom. God will give you wisdom. James 1 verse 5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth liberally to all men, and upbraideth not," that means He won't scold you. And listen to this, "and it shall be given," it shall be. What is wisdom? Wisdom is not just getting all warm around the heart, wet around the lashes and goose bumps and liver shivers. Wisdom is judicious, spiritual, common sense.

Now Romans chapter 12 and verse 2 says, "Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Question, why would God renew your mind if He didn't want you to use it? Don't be afraid to think, because when you are surrendered and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, when in all of your ways you acknowledge Him, and when you pray, He will direct you by the Word of God. He will direct you by His Spirit speaking to your heart, and He will direct you by that wisdom that He has given you, and you will begin to think God's thoughts after Him. You will have wisdom. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 5 verse 17, "Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is," that is by wisdom. First Corinthians 10 verse 15, "I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say."

So, there's some things you don't have to pray about. I mean, look, do you have to pray whether or not you ought to put on your socks? Or you go to get dressed, do you pray about which necktie you're going to wear? Well, maybe some should do that. There's certain things, hey; you don't have



to pray about those kind of things, God gives you wisdom! Use it!

But here's another way that God leads. Now all of this is under the heading, "He will direct your path." First dependence and then direction. When you trust Him with all of your heart, when you acknowledge Him in every way, then He begins to direct you. How does He do it? Oh friend, He will direct you through the Word, He will direct you when you pray and the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart. He will direct you by giving you Godly wisdom, and He will direct you by providence. God will guide you through life like a guided missile through providence. How does He do it? He closes doors and open doors. Revelation chapter 3 and verses 7 and 8, "I know thy works, and behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." I like that. Then He says, "I am He that openeth and no man shutteth and I am He that shuts and no man opens." How did we get out here into this beautiful place we affectionately call our Canaan? Do you know what we endeavored to do? We endeavored to build these buildings downtown. We tried to move Heaven and Earth to build them downtown. We tried to find property, we talked to our neighbors about buying, we did everything we can do, and it seemed like bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, the doors were shut in our face.

One night when I was down in Orlando, Florida, I told you this before, I tried to sleep, but I had a rock for a pillow, and folks, I am a sound sleeper. When my head hits the pillow, it is lights out. All night long, though, God just said, "Adrian, you're going in the wrong direction, you're trying to pour water uphill. You're in the wrong place. You need to move out somewhere on the Interstate 40 corridor and see if there's property out there." So I talked to some of our leadership. I said, "Don't think I'm crazy, but let me just tell you something that God has put in my heart, let's talk about it." And over there, where God was saying, bang, bang, bang, bang, the doors were shut, out here, God says, "Come on in, come on in, come on in." God just opened the door.

That's the way God leads. When you're praying, when you're walking in the Spirit, you know, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5 and 6. He'll do it through His Word. He'll do it when you pray and the Spirit of God speaks to your heart. He will do it thru sanctified wisdom. God will renew your mind and use it and give you wisdom, and then God will open doors and God will shut doors. God doesn't leave you just wandering around like a ship without a rudder, a mast, a compass or a sail on a dark and stormy night. God will guide His people.

Now, here's the third thing. The first word; dependence. The second word; direction. The third word; dynamic. Listen, when there's a full dependence, there's a faithful direction and there is a forceful dynamic. Look if you will in Proverbs 3 verse 6 again, "In all of thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall," now watch, "direct thy paths." That's the Hebrew word, *yashar*, which literally means, "He will clear your path." It means literally to cut a straight path. Let me tell you how that's used in the Old Testament. For example, in Isaiah chapter 40, talking about the coming of Messiah, verses 3 and 4, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God,'" same word, "make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain." What does that mean? When you trust in the Lord, He's going



to send a bulldozer in front of you. He's going to make straight your paths! Not only does He show the way, He clears the way! It's not enough for Him to show you the way if there are obstacles there, He's got to clear the way. He's got to make a way for you! And God will do exactly that.

When I played football, I was always grateful, if I had the ball, for a man going down the field in front of me, throwing those blocks and moving those obstacles. You know, God does some downfield blocking for you? Did you know that? You may not even have known He's been doing it. Did you know that God revs up His bulldozers for you, and God makes a way through the desert? You see, it's not merely enough to know the will of God, not enough to have that direction. We've got to have that dynamic; we've got to have that power, that God makes our paths straight for us through the wilderness.

I read about Henry Morehouse. He was an evangelist, well-known evangelist in his day. He'd be off on the road and sometime he'd come home and bring presents. Had a little girl who was crippled, precious little girl. At the house, she would put her crutches aside and just kind of scoot around on the floor, her legs were very weak. Henry Morehouse had been gone for a long time, and he brought a real nice present to his wife, and the little girl saw it at the door. And she said, "Daddy, let me carry it to mamma." And the evangelist knew that she couldn't carry that heavy present. He said, "Darling, you, you can't carry that." She couldn't hold it in her hands and use the crutches at the same time. He said, "Sweetheart, you can't." She said, "Please Daddy. I can do it. Let me carry it to Mother." He said, "Sweetheart, you can't do it. She said, "Daddy, I can do it. Let me do it!" And he caught something in her eye and knew she had something in her mind and said, "Well, all right, here take it." And then she held it in her arms and said, "Now, Daddy, pick me up and take me to mamma." And so he picked her up and carried her as she carried that.

Friend, God's done that for me so many times. God has given me a job, a message, and then He just picks me up and carries me. He'll do that for you. He is the one! He is the one who has programmed us for success. Well, you say, "Pastor Rogers, I thought this was supposed to do with money and finances." It has, it does. Just, just read Proverbs 3 verse 9 now, "Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase." You see, look folks, when we get serious about doing the will of God, we're going to find the all's in this thing. Look in Proverbs 3 verse 5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart." Look in verse 6, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him." Look in verse 9, "All thine increase." When you worship, and your walk, and your wealth, are given over to Him, you'll know the will of God, you'll know the will of God. Put those all's in there! Don't play games with God! Are you serious about doing and knowing the will of God? You say, "Oh I wish I knew the will of God." Well, just do it in the small things. Do it in the things that are nearest to you. Luke 16:10, "He that is fee, faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."

You ask, "What is the will of God?" Well, here is the answer true; the nearest thing that should be done that He can do through you. Isn't that beautiful? Listen to it. You ask, "What is the will of God?" Well, here is the answer true; the nearest thing that should be done that He can do through you. Just begin that way. It's hard to steer a ship that's not moving.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Now, step number



one is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, to be born again. Please beginning to pray, just begin to pray. This may be the time when Jesus will come into your heart, and I know He will if you'll ask Him. So would you pray a prayer like this, "Lord, I acknowledge my sin. I know that my sins deserve judgment, but I also know, Lord, that You love me and You want to save me. Jesus, You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, Jesus. I believe You carried my sin to the cross and paid the sin debt with Your blood. I believe God raised You from the dead. And right now, this moment, I open my heart. I receive You now. Right now, I receive You. Right now, I trust You. This moment, I receive You, now. Come into my heart, I give it to You. Save me, Lord Jesus, save me Jesus. I don't look for a sign, I don't ask for a feeling. I stand on Your Word. Thank You for saving me Jesus, thank You Lord, thank You. And now Lord Jesus, You're my Lord, my Savior, my God and my friend, and I will follow You and live for You the rest of my life. And Lord, I'll not be ashamed of You. Lord, I'll make this public. In Your name I pray, Amen."



PO Box 38300 | Memphis TN 38183-0300 | (901)382-7900