

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5*

One of the greatest challenges of being a person of faith is to go forward when the facts or outcome isn't clear, or when we are thrust into a situation that we feel unable to cope with. Obviously the writer of Proverbs gave that bit of advice probably because he saw it happen in his own life.

If we believe God's word, we need to believe the truth of that advice. Not that it makes it any easier. After 27 years of ministry, the word of my testimony is that to trust the Lord, or maybe understand what God is doing, or not to be surprised when something happens that seems to be coming “out of left field”, is really HARD.

Ministry is never that certain and God keeps God's children constantly on their toes. I had just begun ministry in 1984 and spending some time with a visit from some relatives when I received a phone call from the granddaughter of one the beloved women of the church. Her grandmother had just hit a little boy on a bicycle and more than likely he was dead. What complicated the situation was that the boy's family was also members of this little country church. “My own understanding” said that my first funeral would be some dear older saint in the church, not a ten year old boy, ministering both to the woman who caused the accident as well as the family who had lost their little boy. It gave a new meaning to the phrase “Trust in the Lord”. It can literally be like the person in this story

A man fell off a cliff, but managed to grab a tree limb on his way down. “Is anyone up there?” he cried out. “I am here, I am the Lord, do you believe me?” the voice said. “Yes, Lord I believe, I really believe, but I can't hang on much longer.” “If you really believe you will be alright, I will save you, just let go of the branch.” The man paused for a moment then said, “is there anyone else up there?”

Or maybe as we journey we can relate to the words of Mother Theresa of Calcutta who observed that *“I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much.”*

So when we declare that we are people of faith, and that we trust Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, let us give thanks that our very salvation is not us, but God's love in Christ. That is our foundation and our rock.

But as we live in the real world, let us rise to the challenge life circumstances place before us, The word of my testimony is that God will lead us through., even though we have no clue as to what is happening !

But Jesus showed us in his following of God's will, much to the confusion and lack of understanding by his closest followers, God's will was best in the cross and the victory of the resurrection.

We are just as human as Jesus' first followers. So one step at a time, one situation at a time may be “trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding”

Pr. John Van Haneghan