

***Life Principle Day Twenty:
Disappointments are inevitable;
discouragement is a choice.***

**Today's Reading
Proverbs 3:1-35**



On today's journey, we discover Solomon's wise words. In Proverbs 3, we are confronted

with choices...God's and ours. There are times when we make choices that do not reflect the wisdom of God. We end up leaning on our own understanding. Those decisions lead us down crooked paths that are often difficult and even disappointing. When, however, we seek the wisdom of God, we are assured of straight paths.

Don't be misled, however. Even the obedient life doesn't always result in easy paths free of disappointment. Because of our lack of knowledge, understanding, and divine perspective, we experience inevitable disappointments. Once disappointed, we are faced with another decision. Which direction will we choose to walk? Walking towards discouragement and despair will lead us to a bumpy path that takes its toll on our spirit and emotions.

To avoid discouragement one has to make choices that bring God into the situation. Line after line from Proverbs 3 teaches us the wisdom of God and guides us to make godly choices. Phrases like "...keep my commands in your heart" "...trust in the Lord with all your heart" "...he will make your paths straight" "...honor the Lord with your wealth" "...blessed is the man who finds wisdom" help us to steer away from discouragement. Preparing our hearts to use God's wisdom to deal with discouragement will help us grow in Christ.

Dr. Stanley teaches steps to consider when overcoming discouragement.

1. Ask why you are discouraged.
2. Ask God to liberate you from discouragement through prayer.
3. Reflect on all the paths that the Lord has guided you through in the past.
4. Focus on what God is doing now as you walk.
5. Consider how you can encourage yourself.

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