

## The Maze of Life Proverbs 3:5-6

### Introduction:

One of the favorite fall events is a corn maze. So many twists and turns, different paths, intersections, checkpoints, dead-ends. It's hard to know which way to go. What if there was a "maze runner" who knew which path to take? And what if there was a map that could show us the next turn?

Life is like a maze, we need someone to guide us through the maze.

The joy is that at the end of the day, we're never as lost as we think we are.

**ILL - A Massachusetts couple** and a baby less than 1 year old, was lost in a corn maze and called 911 for help. The K-9 found the couple just 25 feet from the entrance. <sup>1</sup>

As we go through life it can be like a maze with exciting checkpoints along the way. Sometimes there are scary and difficult moments.

**Checkpoints to celebrate:**

Births; first day starting school; new grade;  
weddings; new job; promotions; birthdays;  
holidays; graduation; salvation; baptism;  
joining a church;

**Difficulties that feel like dead ends:**

Grieving loss of loved one/dear friend; job loss;  
divorce; bullying; heartbreaks; lost items;  
financial loss; tragedy; big move;

As you picture your life on a road map, are you on course, trusting and living for God? Or have you focused your eyes on the things of this world?

God is the supreme, all-knowing Guide who will never lead you astray. Listen to these lyrics from the pen of Christian song writer Michael Card:

*To hear with my heart,  
To see with my soul,  
To be guided by a hand that I cannot hold,  
To trust in a way that I cannot see,  
That's what faith must be.<sup>2</sup>*

The believer who is walking with the Lord has the promise to claim that the Lord will direct your paths:

**The Prophecy of Zacharias:**

Luke 1:79

<sup>79</sup> To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death,  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

1 Thessalonians 3:11

<sup>11</sup> Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

Psalm 48:14

<sup>14</sup> For this God *is* our God for ever and ever:  
He will be our guide *even* unto death.

Psalm 78:52

<sup>52</sup> But made his own people to go forth like sheep,  
And guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

**TT - Three directives to follow if you want God to direct your paths**

I can say I want to be different, to have the Lord direct my steps, to live a godly life for Him but **if I follow the same recipe I'll bake the same cake**. What does it look like to live differently and to have Him direct my steps?

**TT - Three directives to follow if you want God to direct your paths**

## 1. Trust in the LORD

**ILL** - The man in the wheelbarrow on the tightrope

James 1:17 - God deserves to have your trust because He never changes. Life's circumstances are ever-changing.

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

### **ILL - Lord, Take My Hand!**

Ralph Sockman told the story of a New York lawyer who, when he first came to the city, would take his young son on long walks. In order to keep up, the small fellow would hold his father's little finger. By and by the lad would grow weary, and his steps would lag. At last he looked into the benign face of his father and asked, "You'll have to take hold of my hand now, Daddy, for I can't hold on much longer."

Is not this a picture of ourselves? We have been holding onto the little fingers of security so long that we are losing our grip on things that matter. Now we must ask God to take our hand and lead us. "Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isa. 26:3).<sup>3</sup>

Doesn't say trust in things...The average person has 300,000 items in their household. It isn't money \$50,000, \$69,000, triple digits not corporate ladder

**...with all thine heart -**

God isn't interested in part of your heart and the other parts to trust in other things above. You can't say, "Lord, 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 my relationships." You just can't do that.

**Adrian Rogers said,**

"If He's worth part of it He's worth all of it."

Ruth **trusted** in the LORD ... Ruth 1:16

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Ruth 2:12

12 The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

David **trusted** in the LORD - 2 Samuel 22:3

3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust:  
He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge,  
My saviour; thou savest me from violence.

Job **trusted** in the LORD - Job 13:15

15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:  
But I will maintain mine own ways before him.

**Isaiah** warns us of trusting in other things - Isaiah  
31:1

1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help;  
And stay on horses,  
And trust in chariots, because they are many;  
And in horsemen, because they are very strong;  
But they look not unto the Holy One of Israel,  
Neither seek the Lord!

Trusting in  
doctors; lawyers; educators; scientists; military  
leaders; investors; God

**Question:** What are you holding onto that you need  
to give up and trust Jesus?

## 2. Don't Be A Know-It-All

Don't rely on your own understanding. Be teachable

### **Be Avid learner** - Psalm 119:73

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me:  
Give me understanding, that I may learn thy  
commandments.

Timothy was **teachable** - 2 Timothy 3:14

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast  
learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom  
thou hast learned them;

**David Novak cautions us** about operating in our own  
counsel/wisdom:

Crystal Pepsi was a failure in the top 10 failures.  
Simply because the inventor ignores his CEO and  
board of directors. I'm going to do it my way.<sup>4</sup>

Proverbs 3:7

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in thine own eyes:  
Fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Jeremiah 9:23

<sup>23</sup> Thus saith the Lord,  
Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom,  
Neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might,  
Let not the rich *man* glory in his riches:

Stubbornness - What areas of your life are you still  
trying to do your way?

Stress comes when there is friction between fighting  
against God's ways.

Hebrews 4:13 - He has all wisdom and is worthy of  
our learning of Him

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest  
in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto  
the eyes of him with whom we have to do.



### **3. Submit to God in Everything You Do**

Acknowledge. Submit. Take Action.

James 1:22

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

#### **ILL - Erik Weihenmayer**

had to develop a team that he could trust. He had to be willing to put away the doubt and develop the trust in this team. He had to believe that this could be done

Joshua 9 - A few weeks ago we saw this mistake of Joshua and the elders who didn't acknowledge God and they made a bad deal with the Gibeonites.

Spiritual People Acknowledge Him - 1 Corinthians 14:37

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

In all thy ways:

Obedience; forgiveness; honesty; work;  
Peer pressure, purity, financially, selecting a college, relationships, temptation,

#### **Wiersbe says,**

Note what we are to do with God's Word: receive it, hide it in the heart, incline the heart toward it, apply it to our lives, cry out to God for wisdom, and search the Word to find God's will. Solomon is not talking about simply "reading a chapter a day" and letting it go at that. He insists that we live in the Word of God and allow the Word to live in us.<sup>5</sup>

**Will you trust Christ for salvation?**

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**Closing:**

What will you trust God for today?

Salvation

School Year

Checkpoints to celebrate

Difficulties that feel like dead-ends

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna44875752>

<sup>2</sup> Leadership Ministries Worldwide, *Practical Illustrations: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians* (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2001), 54–55.

<sup>3</sup> G. Curtis Jones, *1000 Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1986), 272.

<sup>4</sup> <https://davidnovakleadership.com/blog/learn-from-my-crystal-pepsi-mistake/>

<sup>5</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Pr 2.