

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. – Prov. 3:5-6*

Since my mom's death last summer, I've had the privilege of spending time with my dad each week. Every week he tells me how much he appreciates the way we sacrifice for him, and every week we tell him how much of a blessing this time is for us. I don't think he quite believes us, but it's true, much truer than he will ever know. Hearing story after story of people who have lost their dads, or have dads who are sick, or distant, or absent just confirms for me what a blessing my dad is.

He tells me regularly that the biggest lesson he's learned since last summer is to trust God. And that is something I hope to learn from him. You'd think a pastor would know about trusting God, right? And I do in my limited capacity. I trust God to watch over my kids (but I get so anxious at every little cough). I trust God to guide our church and its ministries (but I work hard to formulate plans of action based on models and teachings I've learned from others). I trust God to forgive my sins (but oh how the guilt eats away at me.) I guess I trust God, but not yet with all my heart. There's still that little part, that hidden "heart of hearts" that trusts my plans, my learning, my contacts, my society just a little bit more than Him. Hard to admit, but true.

So I work at it because trust doesn't come naturally to any of us. We have to work hard at trusting God. We have to guard our tendencies to take control back once we've given it up to Him. We have to allow ourselves to ponder situations, real and imagined, where we've let God have His way when we think we know a better one. And we have to acknowledge Him in everything we do. This was Jesus' way, giving God the glory for everything. I was reminded as I worked on our bible study for our small group of the time when someone called Jesus, "Good Rabbi". Seldom have I seen a compliment met with such harshness. "Why do you call me good? There is only one who is Good and that's God." And this from God's son!

I still have a lot to work on in my trust of God. And trust and faith are the same idea in scripture, so I guess I still have a lot to work on in my faith in God. The good news is that I have so many people to teach me, to learn alongside me, and to walk this journey with me. My dad is a great teacher, and my small group are great learners alongside, and my church is with me on the journey.

And I acknowledge that they are all gifts from God (see what I did there)?

Questions to ponder:

How's your walk with God? (An old Covenant favorite, but unusually apt today)

Are you trusting Him every day a little bit more?

Are you acknowledging Him and His part in your life?