

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Book of Proverbs** (*Proverbs 3:5-8*)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

## Reflection ~ Our Greatest Stumbling Block

**Lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).** Many of us have no hesitation in trusting ourselves. In the logical human sense, is there a person who deserves our unquestionable trust but ourselves? Going by rationing thinking, we tend to trust ourselves more than trust in God in whom we profess our belief and love. Our outward actions show this. It is part of our human weakness. Thus the Lord exhorts us not to trust ourselves too much. Trusting ourselves too much is a bad fruit of our pride which makes us forget that God is the one ultimately in charge and that without His grace we cannot draw in the next breath.

**Pride is the unwillingness to search out the Truth which is God (cf. John 14:6).** The fundamental problem of our world today is the shutting out of God from the world that He created and so loved. There is confusion and error in all levels of our world: climate, financial system, governments, social institutions, families, human hearts and lives. In their blindness, people find God irrelevant to their lives, not realizing that they come from God from whom they derive all their goodness. There is a perception that only the weak is religious. However, God exhorts His people to seek Him like seeking a priceless pearl of immeasurable value, and once they find Him, they need to cherish and treasure Him, putting Him above all people and things (cf. Matthew 13:45-46). This divine doctrine puts us on the sure path to our glorious, eternal inheritance which God has planned for each and every one of us before we are born.

**Pride blinds us to our true standing before God.** As Abraham, our Father in faith, has pointed out we are but dust and ashes (cf. Genesis 18:27). Only clothed in Christ do we stand justified before God. We seldom remember all our good is from God. We do not give God the reverence and love due to Him because we often forget that apart from His grace, we are nothing before God. In forgetting this, we filled ourselves with self-esteem based on our talents and achievements without acknowledging that all these are from the bounty of God. Relying on our own human power and rational thinking, pride builds up in our hearts and this is reflected in our relationship with others. Instead of showing the unconditional love of God to others as commanded by God, we deal with others based on our pride and rational thinking.

**Pride stands in the way of true discernment.** True discernment is a divine gift which enables the meek of heart to see things with the light of the Spirit of Truth. It is not based on human rational thinking which cannot discern the divine truths of God. True discernment throws light on the difference between good and evil which maybe masked to look good, and the true value of things. Lack of true discernment impairs judgement and leads to life choices which distance the soul from His Maker. A follower of Christ without the gift of true discernment unconsciously lives a watered down version of his/her calling. This soul does not truly understand the supreme position of God in its life and fail to embrace and live fully the divine doctrine taught by Jesus, the Divine Master.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding (Psalm 111:10).** Holy fear arising from reverence due the Lord will ensure that we will not forget the true reality of our standing with God that we are ever in need of His love, mercy and Providence. It will help keep us humble and thus, open our hearts to be receptive to God's graces. In humility, we would not take our salvation for granted, but as in the words of St Paul: to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (cf. Philippians 2:12).

## Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. I stand before You a miserable sinner with impure mind and heart. Through my pride, I have trusted myself too much. Please magnify my trust in Your love, mercy, power, wisdom and Providence. Humble my heart and make it like Yours. Forgive all my past sins. Purify my mind of all demonic deception and wrong way of thinking. Impart to it Your wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Cast out from my heart anything that stands in the way of holy truth. Let Your Holy Spirit flood my mind and heart with its truth, light and love. Through the intercession of my Blessed Mother, bestow upon me the gift of true discernment and lead me in the way of holy truth. Mary, my Mother of Salvation, intercede for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)