

**FAMILY LESSONS ON
THE PATH OF FREEDOM**

Based on Proverbs 3:5-6

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LESSON #3

Flying Blind

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV84)

When the Wright brothers discovered how to fly in 1903 it was the fulfillment of one of man’s greatest dreams, to break free of the earth, defy gravity, and soar among the clouds. But whenever those early pilots flew into the clouds, something almost always went wrong. Flying blind, they usually became disoriented or confused and soon found themselves plummeting downward out of control, caught in the powerful grip of a tail spin. Unless they knew how to recover, they would crash into the earth below. It was not because of something dangerous inside the clouds, but rather because of something dangerous inside the pilot, a tiny organ inside the inner ear that gives us our sense of balance. Whenever a pilot loses sight of the horizon, that tiny organ can become disoriented and confused, deceiving him into thinking that he is level when he is not. Eventually, pilots learned to fly by electronic instruments that told them everything they needed to know to fly through the clouds safely. But whenever they were inside those clouds, pilots had to trust those instruments completely, even when their inner ear was telling them something else.

Just as there is a difference between flying by sight and flying by instrument, so there is a difference between walking by sight and walking by faith. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us that the path God has for us begins with trust and continues with trust every step of the way. But that trust is extreme, requiring “all” of our heart and “all” of our ways. Our tendency is to only trust God some of the time in some of our ways. And these are the areas that cause our greatest problems in life, like a pilot flying through the clouds, trusting only some of his instruments some of the time. There is something dangerous inside of us. It is our fallen nature, that old nature which deceives us and which never completely disappears in this life. When we trust in ourselves alone, we can easily become disoriented and confused. But God offers us the best possible resources for walking by faith. Through His Word and prayer, He brings us to a path that is straight, level and even. We do not find this path on our own, but He “makes” it for us. By His power we learn to walk that path daily, when we trust in Him completely with all our heart and all our ways.

What should we not trust in (Proverbs 28:26; Jeremiah 9:23–24)? What practical advice does David give us for trusting God (Psalm 37:7–9)?

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.