



# Managing God OR Trusting God

1 Samuel 5-6

Tracy Burke

A photograph of a paved road winding through a dense green forest. A bright, golden light emanates from the end of the road, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the path ahead. The road has a yellow center line. In the top left corner, there is a small orange rectangular graphic element.

God will not be  
managed – but He  
can be TRUSTED

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Do I trust God enough  
to let Him choose the  
route?



EVENTUALLY,  
EVERY  
DAGON FALLS

**“Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD.” (1 Samuel 5:3)**

***Is there anything I have placed beside God that needs to bow before Him?***



# The Hand of the Lord

Dagon's hands were BROKEN...BUT

“The HAND of the LORD was HEAVY...”  
(1 Samuel 5:6, 7, 9, 11)

# WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING

We live  
between  
Chapter 4 and  
Chapter 5



Can I trust the  
hand of God  
when I cannot  
see the plan  
of God?

Knowing  
about God  
≠  
Knowing  
God

Do I simply know  
things about  
God—or do I  
KNOW Him?



Have I personally  
surrendered my life  
to HIM?

# Obedience or Control?



Obedience is “Lord, show me what you want me to do and I’ll do it”



Control is “Lord, here’s what needs to happen, and I’d like you to make it happen this way”



The hand of the Lord is ***FAR*** more capable than mine

# Rejoice – With Trembling

“Worship the Lord  
with reverence and  
rejoice with trembling”  
(Psalm 2:11)

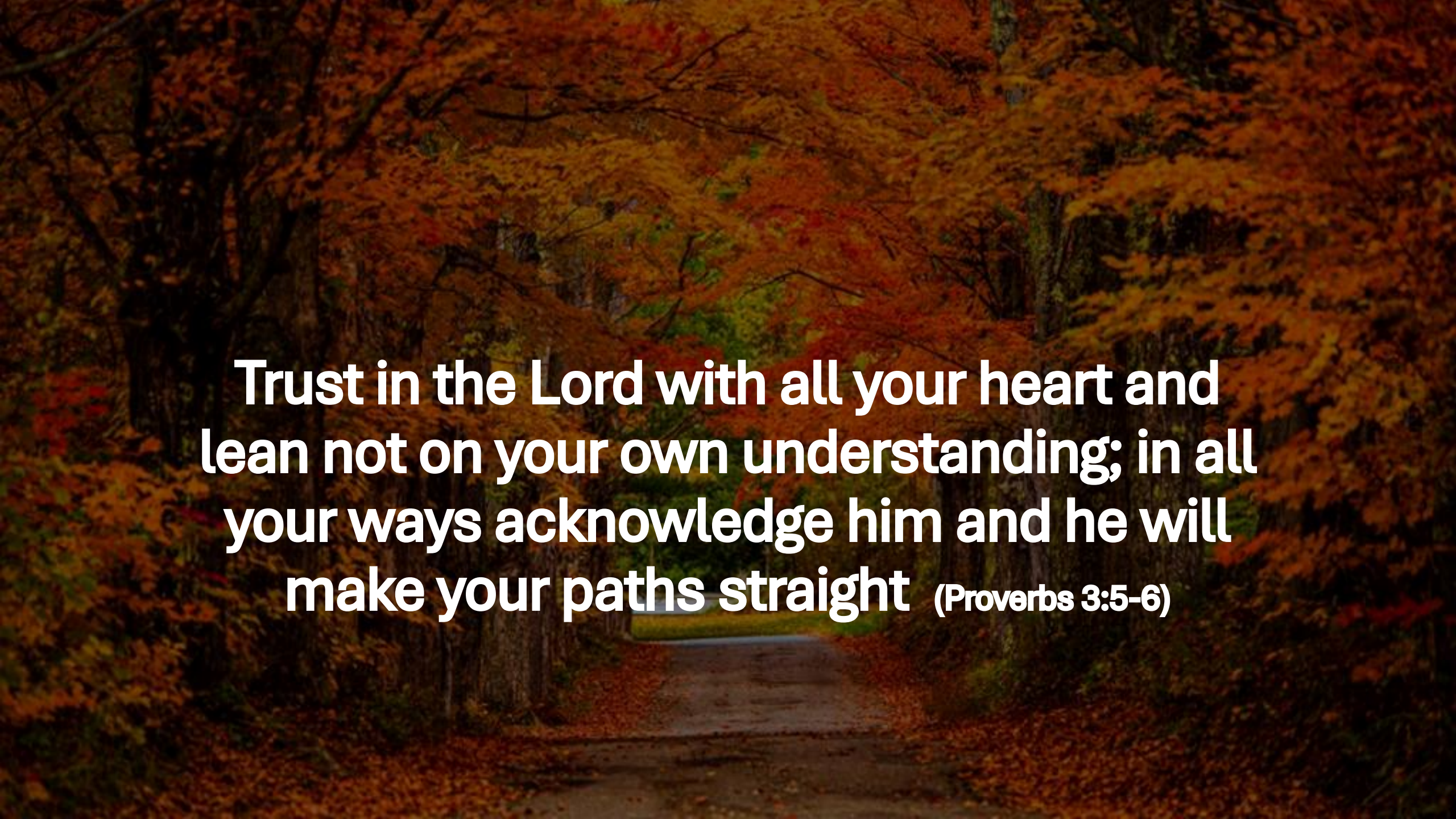
JOY + REVERENCE

Joy in God’s presence  
must never become  
casualness about  
God’s holiness



# We Trust God Rightly When We See God Rightly

- **SOVEREIGN:** I don't have to control everything
- **POWERFUL:** I don't have to rescue Him
- **HOLY:** I don't approach Him casually
- **GRACIOUS:** I don't have to run away

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The path is covered with fallen leaves and leads towards a brighter area in the distance.

**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)**