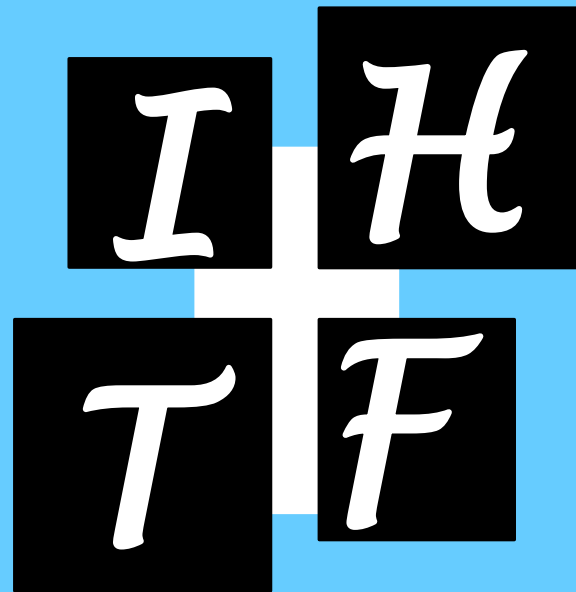


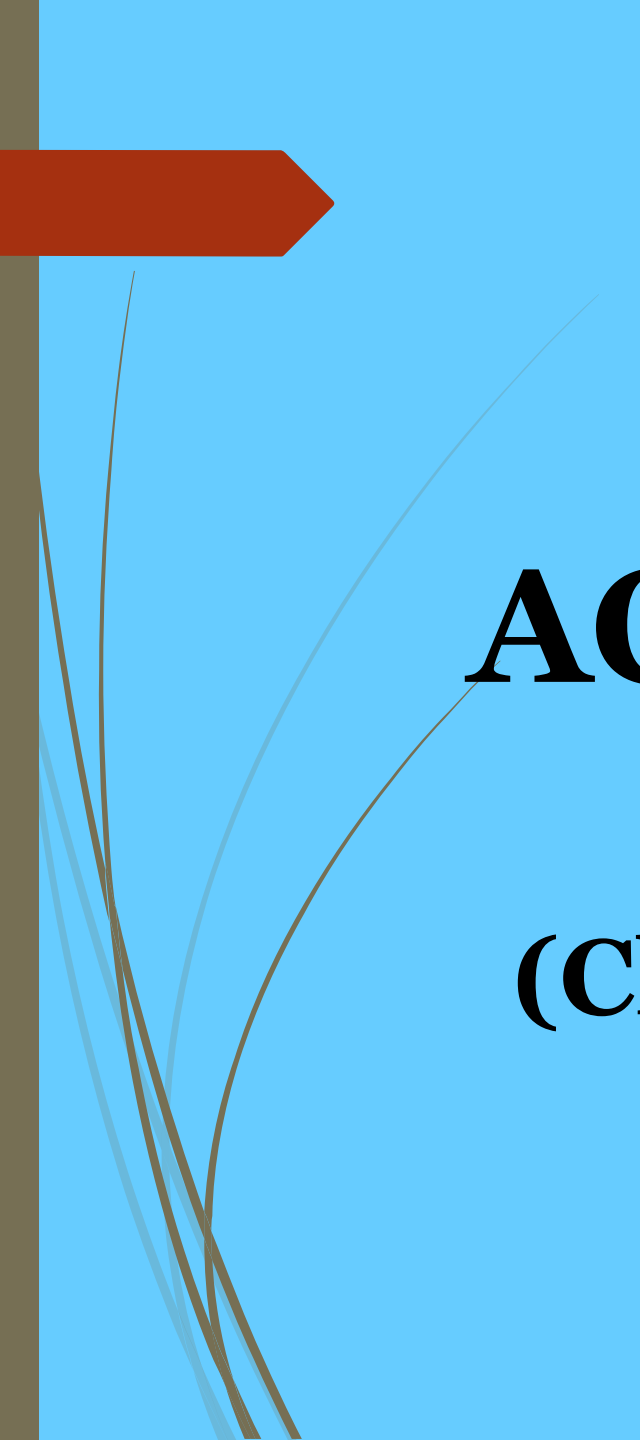


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ACKNOWLEDGING GOD

(Christian Character Series)

In All Your Ways ...

Proverbs 3:5-6

**5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;**

6 in all your ways submit to Him (NIV),

[In all your ways acknowledge Him (NKJV)]

[In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him (AMPC)]

[In all thy ways think on Him (WYC)]

and he will make your paths straight.

If this is the recipe for success and peace in our lives, should we not try to understand what it actually means to acknowledge God? The writer of Proverbs emphasized that in all our ways, whether things are going as wanted or not, acknowledging God is what will get or keep us going on the straight path, the path or righteousness. Acknowledging God is about submission, knowledge, recognition and thinking on Him at all times and in all things.

Acknowledge - Definition

Source - Oxford Languages Dictionary

- Accept or admit the existence or truth of.**
- (Of a body of opinion) Recognize the fact or importance or quality of.**

Similar: admit, accept, grant, allow, concede, confess, own, appreciate, recognize, realize, be aware of, be conscious of, subscribe to, approve (of), agree to, accede to, concur with, acquiesce in, go along with, respect, cooperate with, bow to, take on board, be wise to, cognize

Opposite: reject, deny

May we meditate on these verbs to understand how to acknowledge God!

How Do You Acknowledge God?

Psalm 23

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

David captured the concept of 'acknowledging God' as a sheep depending totally on its Shepherd. It is an account of a display of total faith, a sign of respect and total surrender. Whether in good times like 'green pastures' or uncertain times like 'still waters' which can pose serious health risks and may run deep, or in 'the valley of the shadow of death', the Shepherd, who knows best, is always around. We will fear no evil. His goodness and mercy will follow us.

A Life of Acknowledgement

Leading a life of acknowledgement should be the habit of a believer. Here are a few helpful pointers. May the Holy Spirit direct us to know more about this lifestyle and be one with it.

- Being mindful of God and practicing His presence constantly
- Expressing gratitude to God always
- Praising God continually
- Talking to God in prayer without ceasing
- Actively listening to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit and responding with understanding and actions
- Recognizing our shortcomings and confessing them and asking God to set us back on the path of righteousness when we digress



Take Away

The life of a sheep is one of total surrender to its shepherd. The consequences of a wayward sheep can be disastrous. May we learn from the Holy Spirit how to acknowledge God in all our ways, proclaim at all times that He is our Shepherd and allow Him to direct our paths. Amen!