ACKNOWLEDGING GOD

The word acknowledge* is used in the following scripture: “In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path.”—Prov. 3:6

To me, this is a very wonderful thing—that my whole life can be directed by God. But I have a responsibility too. It’s found in this word acknowledge. What does it mean? I looked it up in the dictionary and it’s even better than I thought. It says:

1. To admit as true

Isn’t that wonderful! First of all, we are to admit that God is true—in all our ways. To acknowledge Him is to say, “He is true.” That gets us off to a good start. If we don’t acknowledge that He is true, we might as well not go any further. If we did, we would be entering an area of doubt, and doubt is not in the world in which I wish to live! So, in all thy ways admit that He is true, and He shall direct thy path.

2. To recognize the authority of

The Bible uses such wonderful words, doesn’t it? Most people are satisfied to use a word in only a small part. But here is acknowledge, a word with several usages; but the Bible makes full use of the word. If God is true, then it naturally follows that He has authority. We would say, “Of course, God has authority.” But the real question is: Are we willing to recognize His authority in all ways of our life? Again, it breaks down to a simple truth: God can only direct us when we do recognize his authority. Too often we say we recognize His authority, but we don’t, because we modify things with our own reasoning. In all thy ways—recognize the authority of your God—and He shall direct your path.

3. To respond to

Again the full usage of the word astounds me. Naturally no one can direct my path unless I followed their direction. Yet, how often have I cried for God’s guidance when all the while I refused to respond to his Word. I wanted my own ideas to come about. But here again, I can see a wonderful progression. If I recognize that God is true, and I recognize God’s authority then, I must ask myself, “Should not I respond to Him?” So, in all my ways, I must respond to God and He will direct my path.

4. To state that one has received notice

This does not state one will receive; rather, it says that one has received! That’s faith. I suppose that our greatest hindrance to our Spiritual rest is the fact that we feel we must see what we call “concrete evidence” before we are willing to say, “I have received.” We feel that we are only being honest when we adopt this attitude. I can not really say I have acknowledged God’s Word unless I say, “I have received it,” because God’s Word says that I have received. My flesh will say, “Not so!” But my God says, “It is so.” Therefore, it’s best that I say “Flesh, you are a liar, only God’s Word is true.” So, in all thy ways, say that you have received from the Lord, your God, and He shall direct thy path.

5. To express thanks for

This rounds out the definition of the word acknowledge. Isn’t it beautiful? How full the Word is! To acknowledge God means:

I know you are true.

I recognize your authority.

I respond to you.

I have received from you.

And now I thank you.

There’s not much more to say, so in all thy ways, give thanks to your God, and He shall direct thy path.

*Webster’s New Word Dictionary (1967), School and Office Edition