

- Proverbs 3:5-8

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and **lean** not on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your flesh^{**b**}
and refreshment^{**c**} to your bones.

- Whenever I hear this verse, I can only picture a grandma saying it.
 - And it's the kind-of grandma that has these signs all over her house
- - Its a cute verse! Its sweet, everyone knows it.
 - The setting I can imagine being quoted this to also is when , I didn't make the basketball team or something, and I'm telling my grandma and she goes "lean not on your own understanding"
 - Well, as you can imagine I'm hear to show you this verse conveys something much more serious.
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LEAN שָׁעַן

rely on, rest in, depend, i.e., have trust and belief in an object to the point of being in jeopardy if the object of trust fails, as a figurative extension of leaning upon a physical object for support.

James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

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- Leaning on your own understanding doesn't mean you just don't know something and thus chalk it up to the Lord working.
- Leaning on your own understanding, is having such a confidence in how you believe or perceive your life should go, that you depend on it and are willing to put yourself at jeopardy if you're wrong.
 - i.e. I'm 18 I know for certain I'm called to this field in this area of the country and I'm going to get a 200k loan to get an education to get there. (when in reality that is not at all what is right for you)
- People throughout history have long abated the seriousness of this warning.
- Leaning on your own understanding is trusting in something you think can save you - but actually only harms you

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STORY - *Armenian Genocide and Johannes Lepsius*

- During WW1 in the early 20th century, the Ottoman Empire was reigning over modern-day Turkey (STILL)
- The Ottomans did not like Christians or Jews BTW

- There was a very large group of Christian Armenians in Turkey at this time.
- Because it was wartime, the Ottomons told the Armenian population (*hey, its dangerous here, we will relocate you to a safer region until the war is over*)
- So, starting in Constantinople the Ottomans led the Armineans by foot - **not to a safer area**, but all the way 800+ miles to the Syrian Desert (you know the region all the Biblical armies avoided crossing to get into Israel?)
- If they did not die from starvation and disease on the way, once they get there the Ottomans just killed them by the masses. The total death count is estimated to be around 1.5 million. Only a small remnant survived and were taken to camps.
- Before leaving, Missionary *Johannes Lepsius* tried to warn them not to trust the Ottomans.

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- These poor people could only *lean* on their understanding in the moment. They wanted safety and trusted the government...
- Leaning on the promise of safety and protection, ultimately led to their death.
- Leaning on your own understanding is when you are in need, you're tired, vulnerable, looking for help, you lean on something you think will help you, in reality it only hurts you.

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- So for us, I'd like to present a question this passage should raise
- *WHAT DO YOU LEAN ON?*
- As we learned Wednesday, many times our older brother Israel leaned on Egypt.
- This passage and Egypt came up in Foundation on Wednesday, this is what we said about it
 - *"Egypt is a refuge during famine twice. (both times it leads to dangerous and unfavorable circumstances)*
 - *Egypt is used to build up and secure the family of Abraham twice. (both times it backfires with lasting consequences)*

- *Egypt is a refuge during oppression twice. (except with Jesus, this was warned against by the prophets)*
- *Alliance with Egypt is sought twice. (neither time do they come through)*
- *By the time we get to Solomon, the relationship with Egypt becomes synonymous with man seeking security. Over time Egypt also proves to be an unreliable source of help."*
- And in this passage were about to read: God compares leaning or trusting in Egypt, to leaning on a splintered reed....

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Ezekiel 29:6-7 "Then all who live in Egypt will know that I am the Lord. You have been a staff of reed for the people of Israel. When they grasped you with their hands, you splintered and you tore open their shoulders; when they **leaned** on you, you broke and their backs were wrenched."

- You see during Israel's exile, they thought Egypt could help them or save them, but they could not. Egypt either is simply unable to help or harms Israel themselves.

• **REED ILLUSTRATION with STICK**

- Before the Lord calls Egypt a splintered reed, the evil King Sennacherib compares them to such, and as we said on Wednesday, he is right.

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[Isaiah 36:6](#)

Look now, you are trusting in Egypt, that ***splintered reed*** of a staff that will pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

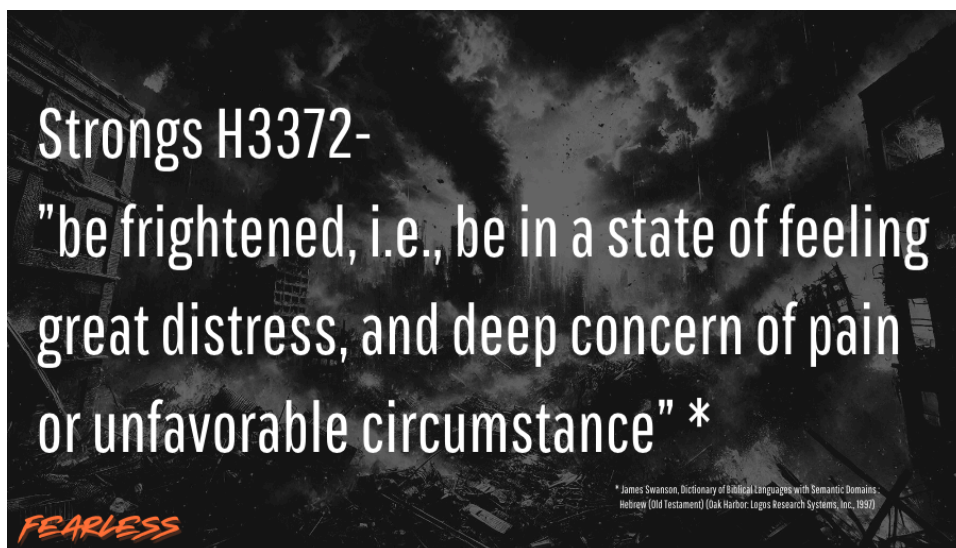
- Israel was warned that if they lean on Egypt for support, it will only pierce them.
- Why do we do this?
- Why do we LEAN on something that will only hurt us, but to US, seems safe, secure and reliable...

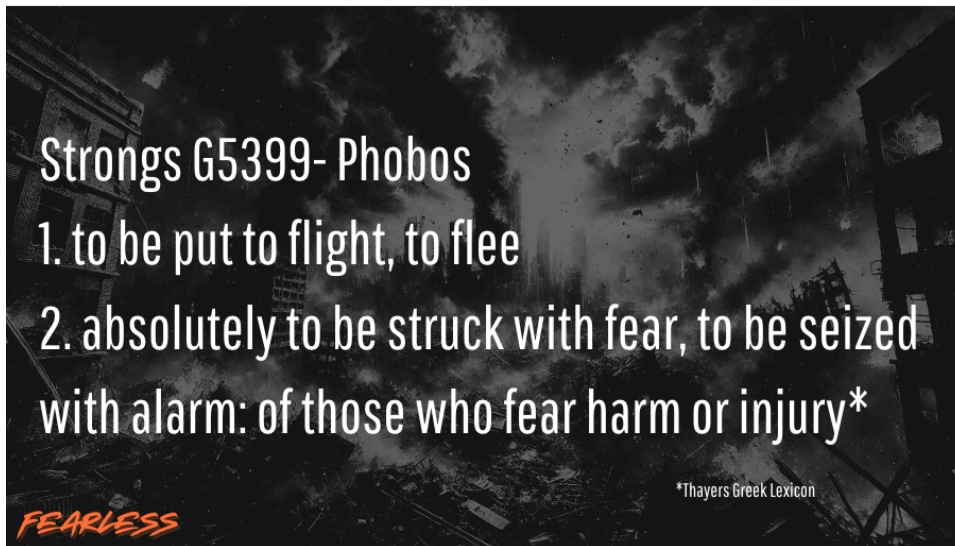
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Jeremiah 42:9-16 "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you

sent me to present your petition, says: **10 ‘If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you, for I have relented concerning the disaster I have inflicted on you. 11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him,** declares the Lord, **for I am with you and will save you and deliver you** from his hands. **12** I will show you compassion so that he will have compassion on you and restore you to your land. **13** “However, if you say, ‘We will not stay in this land,’ and so disobey the Lord your God, **14** and if you say, ‘No, we will go and live in Egypt, where we will not see war or hear the trumpet or be hungry for bread,’ **15** then hear the word of the Lord, you remnant of Judah. This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you are determined to go to Egypt and you do go to settle there, **16** then the sword you fear will overtake you there, and the famine you dread will follow you into Egypt, and there you will die.

- The Lord promises in HIM, there is security, but Israel did not seek him, and you yourself you have the completeness of scripture, promise of Messiah and the HS still, lean on reeds.
- Why? - FEAR
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- ***11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him,** declares the Lord*
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- The possibility of pain, unfavorable circumstance, or distress puts us to FLIGHT from the things God has promised us he will provide for us.
- When we are afraid, we lean on the reed, and the REED is all the ways we try and **create some sense of SELF SECURITY**. You think it can support the weight of your fear, but it cracks under the pressure and stabs you in the process.
- Today's Message is titled: **Splintered Reed**

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- Leaning on a REED of your own understanding is painful, and not just that, it is perhaps, it is plainly put, idolatry.
- God revealed himself to this people on the Mt as the one who saves
 - Exodus 20:2
 - “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- Leaning on a REED, is giving that job that can only be the Lord's to something else.
- *So, Israel's REED was Egypt, what is your Reed?*
- *They leaned on Egypt to provide relief, refuge and security.*
- *What do YOU Lean on?*

REED OF RICHES



1 Timothy 6:2-10 (NIV)

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. **3** If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, **4** they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions **5** and constant

friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been *robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain*.

- Incredible words from Paul.
- Paul is addressing Timothy concerning those who teach against the teaching of Christ. And the way he describes them as: "*robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain*."
- So, to be very clear: those who believe that because they are godly or righteous that they are entitled to more riches are AGAINST the gospel.

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6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. **8** But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. **9** Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that **plunge people into ruin and destruction**. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- A reliance on money, is piercing yourself with grief and disappointment. It is idolatry.

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Revelation 3:17 (NIV)

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

- When you trust and rely on riches to make your life better, to save you from something, to have security and refuge, you will lean on that, and it will pierce you like a reed.

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- There is an whole days worth of stories in the bible of men getting pierced by their security in riches
 - The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21) - spends all his time storing up riches only to die
 - Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22) - is more secure with \$ than messiah

- Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:14-16) - sells his salvation for \$\$
- The Ephesian Silversmiths (Acts 19:23-41) - start a riot against the kingdom to protect their income

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- How do I know I'm leaning on the Reed of Riches
 - You constantly think "we do not have enough money"
 - When presented with a problem, you usually think money is the solution.
 - Life is void of giving

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REED OF EMOTIONS



Proverbs 28:26 (NIV)

Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe

- The Reed of emotions is trusting in and seeking refuge in, your own hearts thoughts and feelings. You trust yourself and who YOU feel about a situation.

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Just a spoiler alert: the emotion you are usually relying on whether you

know it or not is: FEAR

1 Samuel 13:7-14

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.

- One trap we fall into is group fear - when others are afraid you get afraid.
- Have you seen those prank videos where one person acts afraid and everyone else reacts with no evidence?
- That's most of you.
 - Your kid is sick with something, and another mom goes - "oh my gosh it could be this" - and now you become afraid when before you were fine.

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8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. 9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul **offered up the burnt offering.**

- Everyone is afraid of the battle ahead, they know they need to make an offering before fighting, Samuel doesn't come when Saul thought he would and out of fear begins to lean on the practice that he thinks will save him when in reality it was always the faith that would save him.
- Have you ever thought about it that way?
 - Maybe it wasn't about the sacrifice being what would give them victory, but Saul's faith to trust Samuel. The sacrifice was just the way to see how much faith he had!
- Leaning on the reed of emotions is being swayed by your surroundings and then trusting your own deceitful fearful hearts ideas. It the "JUST DO SOMETHING"

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10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When **I saw** that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash,

12 I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So **I felt** compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

13 “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said.

- Notice the language coming from Saul's honest answer
- SO I **SAW THOUGHT I FELT** COMPELLED
- He already had clear instruction, he knew what he was supposed to do but he **FELT** something different.
- Other translation say "I forced myself"
- I tell tale sign you are leaning on the reed of emotions is the thoughts or actions you're having, feel like you cannot control them. You just had to do something!
- Leaning on your own thoughts and heart will only pierce yourself - you're heart is never right.
- Only when the grace of God gives you HIS heart are you right

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Jeremiah 17:9–10.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

10 “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

1 Corinthians 10:12

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

In difficult situations involving your children, what do you lean on - how you feel about it?

REED OF ABILITY



Jeremiah 17:5–6.

5 Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. 6 He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

- When facing adversity, tired, worn out. Many try and LEAN on the reed of ability.
- If I just work harder
- I don't need help
- This is the sinful side of SOPHRON. Instead of wanting to saving others with the power of God
- You want to save yourself and your situation, with yourself.
(remember Joseph, I cannot do it but God can)

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ILL: this is the kid who thinks they can do an adult task but just hurt themselves trying

Job 8:11–19.

11 “Can papyrus grow where there is no marsh?

Can **reeds** flourish where there is no water?

12 While yet in flower and not cut down,
they wither before any other plant.

13 Such are the paths of all who forget God;
the hope of the godless shall perish.

14 His confidence is severed,
and his **trust** is a spider's web.

15 He **leans against his house**, but it does not stand;
he lays hold of it, but it does not endure.

- What I have created can save me
- MY skills
- My accomplishments

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- IMAGE OF DEAD REEDS

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Isaiah 31:1

31 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!

THIS IS PRIDE

- How do I know I'm leaning on the Reed of Ability?
 - When your skills or abilities are challenged you become defensive and driven to prove yourself
 - You are never satisfied with the job you have done
 - You have a difficult time receiving help

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Landing:

- Proverbs 3:5-8
- **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **lean** not on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
8 It will be healing to your flesh^b and refreshment^c to your bones.
 - Leaning on a REED, piercing your shoulder, your hand. It handicaps you
 - But the enemy wants to use that reed not just to harm you....

● **Matthew 27:28-31**

28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a **reed in his right hand.**

- Jesus is undoubtably exhausted, near death. He body is likely telling him to lean on something, to try and rest - all they give him is a reed...it gets worse

● And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on him and took the **reed and struck him on the head.** (NIV - again and again) 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him."

- When you lean on the idolatrous REED of your own security, you are striking your own salvation.

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- When you are tired, distressed, looking for relief from whatever battle you are fighting what do you lean on???
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- Don't lean on the Reed - stand on the Rock
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- **Isaiah 10:20** [20](#)In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will **no more lean on him who struck them**, but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.
 - No more leaning on the thing that is striking you, hurting you -
STAND ON THE ROCK
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Exodus 33:21-23

21 Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may **stand on a rock**. **22** When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. **23** Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

- **Psalm 18:2**: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."
- **Psalm 62:2**: "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken."
- **Psalm 94:22**: "But the Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge."

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock, his works are perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is he.

What Reed are you leaning on?

Stand on the ROCK