

**'LEAN IN'**

**...TO THE LORD IN 2025**

*ELMM*  
*Aberystwyth*

***“... it is The Lord in whom our future  
and our hope lies.”***

***“Lean in to The Lord”***

---

**EXCERPTS FROM PERSONAL REFLECTIONS, JAN 2025**



# **"LEAN IN"**

**I sensed The Lord say this during a January devotional time and sought a direct bible reference to 'back it up'**

**I couldn't find an identical quote and so didn't really pursue what God was saying!**

**And then I had a meeting with my friend Paul during a 'retreat' who shared that he felt this was a time to 'lean in'!!!**



5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



# Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



## lean in

phrasal verb of [lean](#)

**commit completely or more fully to something, especially when faced with difficulty or resistance.**  
"speak up, lean in, and don't shy away from reaching out to underrepresented individuals"

**OXFORD LANGUAGES**

---

**COMMIT MORE FULLY TO JESUS,  
ESPECIALLY WHEN FACED WITH DIFFICULTY  
OR RESISTANCE...**

**... DEFINITELY A WISE MOVE!**



# **A WISE MOVE**

**Drawing closer to God is always a good idea**

**To 'lean in' is not to be passive, it is a deliberate decision and action to come toward or to rely upon**

**The writer of proverbs centres the theme around the pursuit of wisdom, poetically personified as woman**



18 She [wisdom] is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed.



# **HOLDING ON TIGHT**

**Wisdom is ultimately personified and given to us in Jesus Christ - take hold of the Lord and hold fast to Him**

**To 'Trust in the Lord' is not usually to stand back, throw up your hands and say: 'You do it all, its nothing to do with me'!**

**Throughout the scriptures we see how the manifestation of the power of God is often preceded by an act of obedience**



# **LEANING TOWARD OBEDIENCE**

**Noah was obedient in building the Ark**

**Abraham obediently offered his son to be sacrificed**

**Moses obediently lifted his staff over the Red Sea**

**Hannah obediently dedicated Samuel**

**Mary obediently bore and raised Jesus**

**Jesus was obedient, even to death, for the will of the Father**



9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.



**THE CALL TO LEAN IS TO BRING US TO A  
PLACE OF RELIANCE AND TRUST, AS WELL  
AS TO A PLACE OF INTIMACY WITH HIM**



***“Lean in to hear His voice”***

***“Lean in to breathe His air”***

***“Lean in to see His view”***

---

**EXCERPTS FROM PERSONAL REFLECTIONS, JAN 2025**



8 Come near to God and he  
will come near to you.



# **LEANING NEARER STILL**

**James' phrase here comes amongst instructions to humble ourselves, resist the devil and submit our lives to God**

**In a world that wants to take us away from The Lord and all He has for us, the call is to a bible shaped life**

**His promise is that as we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us**



**SOME SUGGEST YOU CAN BE AS NEAR TO  
GOD AS YOU CHOOSE TO BE**



# **DRAW NEAR**

**This is not to say that there are never times when you are doing all you can and God still feels distant**

**The Psalms are full of examples of crying out to God in times of need or**

**The promise is: if we seek, we shall find ( ); if we call on Him, He will answer ( ); if we wait on Him, we shall be strengthened (**



23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining [on his bosom] next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."  
25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"



## **κόλπος**

***2859 kólpos – properly, the upper part of the chest where a garment naturally folded to form a "pocket" – called the "bosom," the position synonymous with intimacy (union).***





<https://unsplash.com/photos/baby-sleeping-on-black-surface-wzOyUkuLy7E>



**THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE HEART OF GOD  
THE MORE 'IN-SYNC' WE WILL BECOME  
WITH HIS WILL AND HIS WAYS**





<https://unsplash.com/photos/grayscale-photo-of-woman-in-white-floral-lace-top-GhKlybwmbal>



**AS WE ABIDE IN HIM AND HEAR HIS VOICE  
WE WILL BEGIN TO SOUND MORE AND MORE  
LIKE HIM**





<https://unsplash.com/photos/two-young-girls-looking-out-of-a-window-zr4ISOebFAU>



**WHEN WE DRAW NEAR TO HIM WE WILL SEE  
THINGS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE HE IS  
SEEING THEM FROM**



5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



# **LEAN IN TO THE LORD IN 2025**

**What does it look like for you 'lean in' to The Lord at this moment in your life?**

**Are there areas where you need to trust in The Lord and acknowledge Him as you pursue His pathway for you?**

**What are you going to do in 2025 to draw near to The Lord and make sure you are abiding in Him?**