

A Simple Matter of Trust

But is it? Can trust be given or earned so easily? Trust threatened can cause doubts and relational problems. Trust lost can be hard, if not impossible, to regain. But with God trust should never be an issue. God will NEVER give you a reason NOT to trust Him.

Is that last sentence hard to accept? If so, perhaps you need to consider the reasons and areas you are unable to trust Him. Think about that for a minute. Is the reason you don't trust God based on YOUR expectations of what you think He should do in a given area or circumstance you're in? Dr Randy Carlson frequently says, "Expectations minus reality equals disappointment." I don't believe we will know God's bigger plan until we join Him in eternity. Even though there are times I can look back and see how He was working in my life, I don't believe in spending too much time trying to figure it out while I'm here on earth. Trying to understand the mind of God (something we can never do) will just open the door for Satan to cast doubts into your faith and trust in God. Dr Charles Stanley said, "One plus God equals enough." If the "one" is YOU with complete trust in God, Satan will begin to tremble.

Whenever I find my mind beginning to drift or wander toward my circumstances I look for scripture that reminds me of God's instructions and promises to me. Only God can restore my strength and trust in Him. One of my favorites is Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*"

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you (Psalm 9:10). But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5). The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7). Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge (Psalm 62:8). Whoever gives heed to instruction

prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD (Proverbs 16:20). Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal (Isaiah 26:4).

I found 164 references about trust in the Bible (on Bible.com). 51 were from David in the Psalms and the majority talked about the benefits of trusting God and not other things.

Another reference you can trust in is Luke 24:44. After the resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples and said to them, "...*This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.*" There is comfort and confidence that God can be trusted because He tells us everything must be fulfilled. This includes His promises and guidance.

A lack of trust can be caused by holding on to your own desires because you have not turned every area of your life over to God. You may still want what YOU want and not what HE wants. In order to reach a place of trust, you can't just know what God says in Scripture, you have to work it into your life and actually do it. What I would consider a word of warning comes from Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, dated April 7, "An obstinate outlook will effectually hinder God from revealing anything to us." If you remain focused on YOU, you could hinder the Spirit and become like what 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*"

Several things have grown my own trust and faith in God, but one defining moment came when I first heard God had pursued me when I wasn't even looking for Him. Ezekiel 34:16 says, "*I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.*" Realizing that God pursued me in my darkest days and from the depth of my sinful pit helped me know I could

trust God with everything. I will never have His view of things or know what's best for me like He can.

When I think about what He did for me by sacrificing His only Son to bring me into a right relationship with Him, how can I do anything but trust Him, praise Him and thank Him forever!

Have you ever thought of giving the life of YOUR child for someone you loved, much less for a bunch of unappreciative sinners who wanted nothing to do with you? And you doubt that you can trust Him to provide anything you might need?

Can trust be simple? With God it can be, but you have to do one thing. You have to release your white-knuckle grip on those desires, mindsets and struggles that bind you to earthly thinking (self-focus).

You cannot continue to believe you can or have to do it by yourself. You cannot fix all your problems. You do not need to keep up with everyone else in your quest for bigger and better stuff. You cannot believe that working eight days a week will bring you closer to God. If you do these things then you have allowed Satan to deceive you and you are actually walking away from God.

I have no doubt God will provide what you need. You just have to accept that it may not be what YOU think you need or desire. If you only trust

God when things follow YOUR agenda, do you really trust God and is your mind really ON God?

If you are to successfully release your grip on yourself, you have to reach the place where you truly believe you are NOT here for you.

Colossians 3:2 reminds us, "*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*"

You are no longer your own, you should remember you are here for God's purposes. As such, trust God to provide, protect and guide. He didn't restore your relationship with Him so you could go back and worry about your needs.

Let me make this final reference from Paul both a thought to meditate on and a prayer to God, "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 15:13).

Heavenly Father, I pray that You would make this real to me in my life every day. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen!

When you begin to trust what God tells you and begin to see the life change happening as you follow Him, you will come to know God as the one constant in your life, truly a Rock like no other.