

Can You Trust God?

Choosing to Trust God

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 29, 2020

What are you having the most trouble trusting God with right now in your life?

I. Is God Trustworthy?

A. Do You See God as a Loving and Trustworthy Father Who Steps into Our Trouble?

[See Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19, 27-36, 46]

You'll never trust God until you personally see God as trustworthy for you!

B. Do You Know How to Fasten Your Faith on Specific Promises?

You've got to know your Bible by reading it regularly, slowly, and prayerfully.

We don't read our Bibles just to gather more and more information. We read our Bibles so that we can experience a radical transformation in the way we respond to life.

1. We're knowing who God is for ourselves - utterly trustworthy and unchanging.
2. We're understanding more and more the humble reality of just how God-dependent and frail we are.
3. We're learning more and more of the precious promises we can cling to that connect this trustworthy God to these frail and fearful people.

"What I have found over the years is that the most common breakdown is the failure to trust specific promises from [God]" which leaves Christians living in "...a kind of mental and spiritual haze. They pray for help, but they have no specific promise of God in mind that they are praying about, and so their trust floats in the air instead of fastening on a promise. Faith is meant to fasten firmly and unshakably on one or more of those promises. But when promises are not in view, faith dangles in the air..."

~ John Piper, *Reading the Bible Supernaturally*

Faith has to be stuffed with the character and promises of God, which we will not learn outside of the Word of God.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Romans 8:35-39 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have. For God Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

II. Can You Trust God?

Look back at what you wrote in the box at the top of your outline. Can you trust God *with that?*

1 Samuel 3:18 “Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, ‘It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.’”

“I knew I needed help, so in my prayer time I started talking to God about me and my attitude. I asked Him to help me to trust Him and to stop my pity parties. I turned my life over to Him and started trusting Him, so that I could help others who are having similar problems. Since I made that choice I’ve been a different person with a better outlook, enjoying my life here and feeling good and happy. GOD IS SO GOOD and such a Blessing. I now look forward to every day.”

~ Neal Elliott, GFC member

III. Will You Make a Choice to Trust God ~ Despite How You Feel?

You have to make a conscious decision to turn towards God, His word and His promises for us, and to submit to His sovereign will that’s sandwiched between His love and His wisdom.

Psalm 31:1-2, 7 “In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. ² Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me...⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities.”

Psalm 56:3-4 “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. ⁴ In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”

“For many years in my own pilgrimage of seeking to come to a place of trusting God at all times—I am still far from the end of the journey—I was a prisoner to my feelings. I mistakenly thought I could not trust God unless I felt like trusting Him (which I almost never did in times of adversity). Now I am learning that trusting God is first of all a matter of the will, and is not dependent on my feelings. I choose to trust God and my feelings eventually follow.”

~ Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*

Trusting God is a life-long struggle as long as you live in this flesh, so you need to form a lifelong habit of fostering and cultivating trust in God regardless of your feelings.

IV. Would You Be Honest about What Really Gets in the Way of Trusting God Most?

Our own sinful drift is what most often keeps us from trusting God because our default setting is never towards trusting Him.

Isaiah 30:1-2 “‘Woe to the rebellious children,’ says the Lord, ‘Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; ²Who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked My advice, to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to *trust in* the shadow of Egypt!’”

Who do you really look to instead of or more than God?

Isaiah 31:1 “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 who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord!”

“...I am 75 now, but still very sensitive to the fact that I am far from being a ‘finished product’ and that I have much to learn and that even the same lessons need to be learned over and over again...The greatest lesson I was learning then is one that I am still learning: We never become a finished product. Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 50:10-11 ‘Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the sparks you have kindled. This is what you shall receive from my hand. You will lie down in torment (or sorrow).’

Throughout life, we must discover time after time when we have crossed the fine line between trusting and relying upon God and lighting our own fires (forcing our own plans). I learned to be alert and sensitive to my own danger of stepping out of the fog to ignite my own sparks. Fires so often seem more secure than staying in God's fogs and trusting Him.”

~ Edith Schaeffer, *Staying in God's Fogs While Trusting Him*