

TRUST IS A MUST

Texts: Psalm 37, 33 and 16

Psalm 37:3-5 “Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shall be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 33:20-21 “Our soul waits for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.”

Psalm 16:1 “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.” **and v. 11** “Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

When I was in my late adolescence, we lived next door to a family that had a son about my age. We were friends. The father was a weird fellow. For instance, one Christmas, the son and his sister hung their Christmas stockings on the mantle over the fire-place and the father filled them with cow manure and then had the gall to brag about it to neighbors. He got the children no other Christmas gifts.

On one occasion, the son had climbed a tree and had gotten turned so that he could not climb down the way he had climbed up. He called for his father who said, “Jump and I will catch you.” The boy jumped and the father moved and let him hit the ground. He was slightly injured. The father said to him, “Let that be a lesson to you – never trust anyone!”

What does the word “trust” mean? The Dictionary meaning is: “Firm belief, faith; to have confidence in; to commit; a belief or trust in a higher power.”

“Faith” & “Trust” are used interchangeably. In the Old Testament “trust” used more frequently - just over 100 times. In the New Testament “trust” is used less than 20 times. In the Old Testament “faith” is used fewer than 6 times while it occurs in the New Testament over 240 times. The point? The terms are basically the same. If we are trusting we have faith; if we have faith we are trusting.

Trust is a must if we want to please God. Hebrews 11:6 tells us “Without faith (trust) it is impossible to please God.” Trust is the one word that describes both how to become a Christian and how to live the Christian life. The antidote to worry, fear, anger, discouragement is trust in our beneficent, magnificent, omniscient Heavenly Father! Trust is a must!

Let us focus our attention upon the Psalms indicated and see if we can extract an answer to the question, “What is trust?”

I. THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF TRUST.

First, there are the active elements of trust.

In Psalm 37:1-9 there are at least 3 active elements involved in trusting. They are:

A. v.3 The Element Of Trusting: “Trust in the LORD, and do good.....”;

We must actively, purposefully, willingly and consciously put our trust in the Lord.

B. v.4 The Element Of Delighting: “Delight thyself also in the LORD....”;

Trusting the God Who is in control of time past, present and future is the joyous state that the Lord desires for His children. The fruit of trusting in the Lord is a delightful experience indeed.

C. v.5 The Element Of Committing: “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” The key to trusting and delighting is in committing oneself and all of life’s vicissitudes, fluctuations and fortunes to the Lord Who is “able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think.” (Eph. 3:20)

Second, there are the anatomical elements of trust.

Various parts of our anatomy are involved when we choose to trust God:

A. There Is The Intellect. Trust/faith is based upon credible information; that truth information is the Word of God. - “Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.” (Rom. 10:17) That involves the intellect. Trust/faith is not a leap in the dark. Bible trust/faith is predicated upon what God says that we comprehend with our intellect.

B. There Is The Will. Having heard the Word of God the trusting soul wills to put trust in the Heard Word. When Jesus confronted the infirm man at the pool of Bethesda He asked him, “Will you be made whole?” That is, “do you will to be made whole?” One cannot be forced, against their will, to trust God.

C. There Are The Emotions. We are emotional beings and God made us so. The emotions are involved in trusting when we sense our need to trust; when we desire to trust; when we comprehend the results of not trusting; when we are aware of the Holy Spirit’s promptings to trust the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-6 touches upon all the essential elements of trusting: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

II. THE EVIDENTIAL ELEMENTS OF TRUST

The evidences that one is trusting our God with Whom “nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37) should be character changing, spirit altering and life impacting. We need, therefore, to examine ourselves to see if there are the basic evidences that we are truly, totally trusting God.

Psalm 33:20-21 contains several benefits that the trusting person should evidence: v.20 “Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in

Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You."

Notice the attitude that the writer evidences in these verses:

A. I Will Not FIDGET For He Is My Parent. v. 20 "Our soul *waits* for the LORD."

Fidget: is defined as "a restless or nervous state." I have known people who couldn't relax in the everlasting arms of the Lord and enjoy the journey to heaven. Naomi said to Ruth, "Sit still, my daughter" (Ruth 3:18) Female or male, we need to heed Naomi's advice and wait patiently upon the Lord as Psalm 37:7 instructs us, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him."

B. I Will Not FAIL For He Is My Partner.

v.20 "...He is our *help*." There is a book titled, "God Is My Co-Pilot" by Gen. Robert Lee Scott Jr., USAF , retired. If God is our co-pilot, better yet, our Pilot, how then can we crash? Hudson Taylor, missionary to China said, "If God is your Partner make your plans large!" Paul reminds us "we are laborers together with God" (I Cor. 15:58) therefore, we cannot fail as long as we are in partnership with Him!

C. I Will Not FEAR For He Is My Protector.

v. 20 "our *shield*." The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, that is why we need a shield. The Lord said to Abraham, "I am your shield" (Gen. 15:1) and what He was to Abraham He is to all His children. Nothing can come to me unless it comes through my God Who is my shield. Therefore, I will not fear for I am trusting Him to shield me!

D. I Will Not FROWN For He Is My Praise.

v. 21 "our heart shall *rejoice* in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name." Some saints may have Christ in their heart but they haven't notified their face yet!

ILLUST. A little girl came home from school and walking into the house she said, "Mom, I saw a Christian down the street." The Mom asked, "How do you know he was a Christian?" The daughter replied, "He must have been, Mom, he looked so sad!" Frowns are not becoming to the trustful.

E. I Will Not FRET For He Is My Prospect.

v.22 "Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we *hope* in You." Jesus is coming any time now and the "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) truth ought to eliminate all the worry warts from our outlook..

ILLUST. I had a neighbor who was a hand wringing fretter! When not otherwise occupied with work that required the use of her hands she would wring her hands con-

stantly and verbalize pessimistically regardless of the subject being discussed. If we spoke about the nice weather she would say, "Yes, but it might rain"; if we said, "Your lawn looks nice" she would reply, "Yes, but it might die this summer"; if we said, "The Lord really met with us at church Sunday" she would respond, "Yes, but the Devil is out to get us all!" You couldn't win. She was born in a negative mood, objective case and with a restless disposition!

Living a life of true and total trust in the Lord will affect our attitude in every area of life for He is our Parent, Partner, Protector, Praise and Prospect. Therefore, I will not fret, fail, fear, frown or fret! These evidences are just some of the testimonies that trust is more than a truth that we talk but a life that we live.

ILLUST. Down at the bank the other day, I saw an office door marked, "Trust Officer." He is the fellow to see if you want to set up a Trust Fund. Many Christians trust the human Trust Officer, but do not trust the Holy Trust Officer. Our Holy Trust Officer is too good to be unkind and to wise make mistakes. Put your trust where God put your sins – on Christ! Are there evidences that you are doing that?

III. THE ETERNAL EFFECTS OF TRUSTING.

Trusting impacts not only our earthly existence but our eternity as well. Psalm 16:11 bears this out. In the first verse of Psalm 16 the Psalmist declares his commitment: "Preserve me O God for in you I put my *trust*." And in the last verse he demonstrates his confidence: v. 11 "You will show me the *path* of life; In Your *presence* is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are *pleasures* forevermore."

In Psalm 16:11 there are 3 Eternal Effects from trusting the Lord:

A. We Discover The Path Of Life.

v.11 "You will show me the *path* of life." There is a Pathway to glory: Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6); There is a Portal to the Pathway: Jesus also said, "I am the door" (John 10:7 & 9). The Door must be entered, the Path taken if we are to experience the eternal effects of trusting Him.

B. We Dwell In The Presence Of The Lord.

v.11 "In Your *presence* is fullness of joy." Walking the Path of Life with the Lord is a joyous experience here on earth and, like Enoch, one of these days we will walk right off this earth into the Father's house!

C. We Delight In The Pleasures That Last.

v.11 "At Your righthand are *pleasures* forevermore." Moses is a great example of one who passed up the pleasures of earth for the pleasures that are eternal: "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." (Heb. 11:25)

We have heard the truism often repeated, "You can't take it with you." It can also be said with equal weight, "You can't enjoy the pleasures of sin on earth and the pleasures of the Savior In heaven." I see many who want the best of both worlds; who want the benefits of saints but live the behavior of sinners. One cannot have one foot on the Narrow Way and the other on the Broad Way. A rude awakening awaits such.

CONCLUSION

Trust is a must! Total, absolute and complete trust in Jesus Christ as ones Savior is essential and has evidential and eternal effects. If we have not discovered the **path**, we will not dwell in the **presence** nor delight in the **pleasures** of the Lord forever.

Things may be happening in your life that you don't understand right now. You don't have to understand, you only have to trust God, He knows and He cares (I Peter 5:7); You may be walking through a dark valley and can't see your way clear. Trust God, He can see! He's up ahead!

ILLUST. Have you ever wondered how pilots fly airplanes at night? How do they see where they are going? The fact is, they don't see where they are going! They have a panel of gauges and instruments that tell them where they are and what they need to do in order to get where they want to go. These gauges are a thousand times more reliable than the pilot's own sense of direction. When I am flying to my home in California from the Mid-West or the East coast late at night, and the plane is somewhere over the Rockies, I don't want a pilot who is depending on his own sense of direction, who says something like, "I think the mountains are to my left so I will steer to the right." No, I want a pilot whose eyes are glued to the instrument panel, because that panel is far more reliable.

It's the same with trusting God. You and I don't have to see every event yet future; we don't have to understand everything that happens in our lives – we only have to trust God to do what he has promised to do. Let us demonstrate to those around us, who are groping in the dark, that we are trusting our Pilot, God, to bring us to the desired destination!

ILLUST. The words of Thomas Kelly are fitting with which conclude:

"Trust in Him you saints forever,
He is faithful, changing never;
Neither force nor guile can sever
Those He loves from Him."

Keep us Lord, O keep us cleaving
To Thyself and still believing;
'Till the hour of our receiving
Promised joys with Thee."