



## Trust

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding . . .”  
(Proverbs 3:5 NIV).*

**T**rust is a sacred thing. And sacred things are to be handled carefully, seriously, soberly, cautiously. To trust God with all your heart is not a casual thing.

It’s also not an easy thing. Since God is totally trustworthy, it should be easy to trust Him; however some people are severely wounded in their spirit and disabled in their soul as truly as if they had a physical disability. This is demonstrated by their behavior. They either trust no one or they trust almost anyone. Both extremes can be seriously harmful. Both groups need help. I’ve noticed that neither group readily recognizes there is a problem. Until they do, they will not receive the help they need.

**I**f you are one of the trust disabled, you may already know that the first step toward being able to trust either God or people appropriately is deep level healing of wounds to the soul. God is healer and He knows how to do this. We have to ask Him to do it and seek Him about it. Trusting God requires steps of faith, based on what the Word of God tells us about God’s trustworthiness.

God does not ask us to trust Him without having a solid foundation upon which to base our trust. No step of faith is a leap out onto nothingness. Each faith step toward God and toward greater trust is a step onto who God is as revealed in His Word. God and His Word are the two most solid things that exist—more solid and more real than anything we can touch, see or stand upon in the physical world. God and His Word are unfailing, unshakable and strong.

**F**aith and trust are not the same but are closely related. At the risk of being too simplistic, trust is almost like taking faith one step farther.

With our trust we place all that we are and all that we care about into the hands of the One who is the object of our faith. It means to *en-trust*. This is the point that, in the natural as well as with God, we are willing to risk all. This kind of action should take place only after careful study of all the best information we can gather about the individual in whom we may place our trust. In the natural, we should spend significant prayer time about any major trust decision, for example, marriage.

Today’s verse instructs us to trust in the Lord “with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” This doesn’t mean we make this kind of trust commitment blindly. Rather we are to accept what God’s Word says about God’s trustworthiness.

**G**od has made some bold claims. For example, God has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:15). If we know something of the Word of God about His trustworthiness, we will probably nod our agreement with that statement. But what about when our world falls apart and Jesus seems nowhere around? What about when our children suffer and we cry out to God, but there seems to be no answer? What about the physical trial that seems so long? Is Jesus still trustworthy? Will we still trust Him? David wrote in Psalm 27:10 NKJV: “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.”

Our faith will be severely tested at times. We can forget this is normal in the Christian life. In times of testing is when our faith becomes more than head knowledge. That’s when we know the truth of His faithfulness experientially. He is still there even when we can’t sense His presence or hear His voice. He does not lie. If you continue to trust, you will soon know—He did not leave you. He never will.

**M**ost people are looking for something certain. Many spend their lives seeking or working for security. If you have found Jesus, you have found that which is completely certain. And you do not have to work for it. If you have not found Jesus—until you do, you will never find the true security you desire. When you do find Him and if you have been severely wounded by people, you may have to learn to trust Him. The good news about that is God heals and delivers and helps. He will help you. God is for us and not against us. He will never do us wrong.

Jesus is called the Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The cornerstone is the primary stone in the foundation on which the whole building rests. He is called the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). *This* Rock is unshakable. He is like an anchor (Hebrews 6:19, 20). *This* Anchor is unmovable. There are other cornerstones, other rocks, and other anchors. They can be strong and each will hold secure—until something stronger comes along. Because there is nothing greater than God, nothing stronger than Jesus will ever come along. You can rest assured of that. Our Chief Cornerstone, our Rock, our Anchor will never fail us.

**S**cripture also warns about misplaced trust. As a young man Joseph (Genesis 27) mistakenly placed his trust in his brothers that they would warmly accept the grand dreams God had given him. They did not; instead, they were indignant and jealous and conspired to kill him. God saved his life and even used the whole painful scenario as the first step in the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams. Joseph learned and grew from his mistake, as painful as it was. The truth is, people have issues and to place major trust in some people can prove troublesome if not disastrous. That doesn't mean no one is trustworthy, as wounded people sometimes believe. God has some very trustworthy servants—not perfect, but mature and established in and upon Christ. We simply must use wisdom when placing trust in fallible human beings and ask God to reveal who is worthy of our trust.

Another example of misplaced trust is mentioned in Psalm 20:7 NIV: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." If written today, that

verse might say "nuclear weapons and superior military technology" instead of chariots and horses. The message is that when a nation considers its army and military technology to be its sure defense, that is misplaced trust. The size of the army or the mighty weapons a nation has does not predict success in battle. God has proven this over and over as He has helped little Israel against armies that had superior numbers and military might.

**A**t the personal level, chariots and horses might be anything—other than God—that we trust for our success or security. This could be influence in the community, a good reputation, money, educational degrees, personal appearance, our job, family heritage, skills and abilities, personality, knowledge or experience. All these can and eventually will fail. The wise will trust in the Lord, and they will be secure.

Scripture has a lot to say about the benefits of trusting God. I will leave you with a couple of promises from God's Word:

**“O** taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man [or woman] that trusteth in him” (Psalm 34:8 KJV).

“And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him” (Psalm 37:40 KJV). **SH**

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Teaching Letter 23

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