

Trust in the Lord

We all wonder what will become of us, especially when we are young. We ask questions like; “Will I become wealthy?”; “What tragedies are coming my way?”; “Will I marry?”; “Will I have children?”; “Will I ever retire?”.

I think for many people there is a fear and apprehension in these questions. We have a tendency of fearing the unknown. For those who don't believe in Christ, I can understand that. Imagine living in a world where everything is random chance. It's survival of the fittest and there is no intervention by a God who Loves the poor, the oppressed, and the helpless. But that's not the Truth, is it? We know there is a God and we trust in Him although there times and days and situations that may shake our Faith a bit or make us question Him.

There are days we feel like the man in Mark 9 who brought his child to Jesus and asked Him to cast out the deaf and mute spirit in him. In Mark 9:23 Jesus tells the man “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” We can see his response in verse 24. 'Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, “I believe. Help my unbelief!” How many of us feel like that man some days? We want to believe but it all seems too big, too much, too overwhelming. How can we trust when we see tragedy all around us? How can we believe all things will work out and are under God's control when we don't understand why He allows or does certain things? But Praise be to God who knows this about us and is constantly working to grow us and bring us closer to Him.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - “the Lord is faithful, who will establish you, and guard you from the evil one.” Our Lord is faithful. He will establish us and he will protect us from the evil one. Does that mean we are immune to tragedy and hardship or that we are guaranteed prosperity? No, but we know that God loves us and wants the best for us. He is protecting us from things we don't see or understand and only allows things we see as bad to happen if He sees how it will grow us closer to Him.

Romans 8:28 - “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” You see, God knows what is best for us even when we don't. Some days he will discipline us. Other days He may, like Job, allow bad things to happen to us but He is always watching over us. He will not give us more than we can handle and through this life and all it's temptations and tragedies He will teach us to have Faith in Him and to trust in Him in all things.

I have noticed that I can only see His hand in things long after the fact. When I am in the moment I tend to be so focused on the event that I forget to focus on the Lord so I miss his miracles. Of course, in my case there are also many times I can remember before I came to believe in the Lord and couldn't have seen him anyway. But now I look back at so many situations that seemed dreadful, or impossible to get out of and I can clearly see God's hand in it. I see how I grew because of some situations and how He saved me from much greater consequences for some bad choices.

The Lord has been my shepherd all my life. I ran from him a long time but He protected me and stayed with me even then. How much more then will He stay with me and protect me now that I am his servant and do my best to do what is right in His eyes because I know He wants what is best for me? And how much more is He with you in your times of need and struggle whether you always feel him there or not?

Psalm 23 - "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

If I could keep that psalm in my heart I don't think I could ever lose my trust in the Lord. God has kept his every promise throughout time and He Loves us. He is preparing us for everlasting life with Him. How can we question His will or doubt that He is in control? But we do, and thankfully we have a merciful God who understands and forgives. He understands us so well that He knew He would have to send his only Son to die on the cross for us in order to atone for all of our sins against Him and yet He loves us. How can we not have trust and Faith in a God who is willing to sacrifice so much on our behalf when it is right to do so?

We sometimes wonder why God allows this or does that. Why evil men are rich and good men poor. Why sinful people appear to have such easy and carefree lives and righteous people appear to have such difficult lives. The Truth is that there is an illusion of happiness and freedom in sin that Satan uses to lure us away from God. But true joy can only come from the knowledge that God is with us and watching over us at all times. Only that can make you truly free to be what God made you to be. All of that joy, safety, courage, and strength can only come from trusting in the Lord our God to guide us, protect us, and Love us all the days of our lives and for the eternity hereafter.

Discussion questions:

What gives you encouragement when you feel like you don't trust God with a situation?

Give an example of a time that you trusted in the Lord and He showed himself to be faithful.

How can you encourage a brother or sister in Christ to trust when they are having doubts?