

“Can God Be Trusted?”

“Oh how great is thy goodness which thou has laid up for those who fear thee, which thou hast wrought for those who trust in thee before the sons of men” (Psalm 31:19).

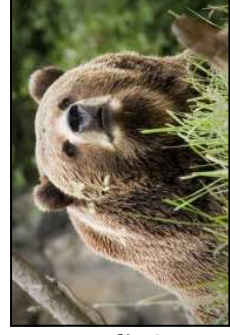
As numerous crises come, most Americans have been learning that they cannot depend on their paychecks always being there. And we cannot trust that our elected officials will be able to resolve all of our nation’s problems. The stress of dealing with diverse difficulties lead to strained relationships and emotional hardships. We struggle to come up with solutions to our own problems. Often we turn to God only as a very last resort after we have tried everything else we can think of. And all the while He is waiting for us to put our trust in Him. *But how do we begin to build a trust relationship with God?*

“A Lesson From David”

“The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalms 18:2).

You may notice that I have used many verses written by David in the Psalms where *trusting God* is often his theme. Clearly, he had learned early on in his life that God was the best one to trust with all the details of your life. Regardless of having the skills of a warrior or the wealth and influence of a king, David always returned to God as his “rock” and “fortress” - the one who could be trusted. But how did he learn to trust God alone?

Often the Bible uses extreme circumstances to teach us truths that we can apply to our lives. David is best known for how he faced down the enormous Philistine warrior, Goliath. *“David said, moreover, The Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine...”* (1 Samuel 17:37). As a shepherd, David had faced the attacks of lions and bears hungry for his sheep. God



had always come through for him in those conflicts so he knew God could also be trusted in a bigger battle.

“Learning to Trust God”

I don’t expect any time soon that we are going to be wrestling lions or bears or having a throw-down with a giant warrior. But we do face daily challenges where we need to put our trust in God. We must begin by acknowledging the “small” things; simple daily victories over frustrating circumstances. Then with those experiences in mind we are better prepared to trust God with the “big” requests for help with a difficult trial. Our memory of God’s reliable support in the past becomes our steady “rock” of assurance for the future. *“Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust...”* (Psalms 40:4a).

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“Trusting God”

How Christianity Works Series

By Pastor Curt Carter

Trust and Obey

**"Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey."**

Chorus:

**"Trust and Obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey."**

Words by John Sammis Music by Daniel Towner

All we have to do is trust and obey and we will have a satisfying, sweet fellowship with the Lord. This hymn written in 1887 has become a reminder of how our relationship with the Lord is supposed to work. We trust Him and He takes care of us. *How are you doing with that?* Many Christians that I speak to find simple trust and obedience some of the most difficult aspects of the Christian life. We wish we could maintain that child-like trust but often are filled with doubts and fears.



When I was four or five years old, my mother was working at a nursing home and a kind, older lady was taking care of me. We used to drive downtown to the nearby business district filled with rows of shops, drug stores and restaurants. This was before there were shopping malls. We would walk from shop to shop looking in the windows sometimes going in to buy something. Once on a bright, spring day, we went into a ladies

accessories store so my babysitter could buy a new hat for an up-coming wedding. She put me on a stool by the door where I could look out the front window at the people passing by. While she was trying on hats, the shopkeeper swung open the big front door allowing the warm breeze to blow through the screen door and fill the store. When my babysitter was finished paying for her new hat, she took a look around and not seeing me, she headed quickly out the door and down the sidewalk. I did think it was strange that she had left the store without me but she had promised to be right back when she sat me on the stool. Soon she returned with a policeman in tow. He asked where she had last seen me and she pointed in the direction of the open door. He swung the door back and there I was still sitting on the stool where she had left me. After all, she had said, **"Be a good boy (obedience) and sit right here until I come back for you (trust)"** and that is what I did. Trusting was so much easier in those days.

Adult Trust Issues

**"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee"** (Isaiah 26:3). As adults we have trust issues because we have been hurt by those that we have trusted. Things we have really counted on have fallen through. Promises have not been kept. Worst of all is when someone we really love and trusted lets us down badly. So when we enter into a relationship with God it takes a while for us to trust. The promises in God's Word, the Bible, are really amazing. Again and again He promises that if we put our trust in Him He will not fail to come through for us.

"Where do we put our trust?"

One of the problems we have in learning to trust God is that we have spent our lives placing our trust elsewhere. We count on our jobs and pay checks. We expect the government to provide the services that our taxes pay for. We have confidence in our own abilities to meet any situation that comes our way. Then God comes along and says, **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding"** (Proverbs 3:5). An entirely new foundation for trust needs to be put in place. It begins by rethinking where we have been putting our trust up until now.



Throughout the Bible, God has advised His people to take care where their place their trust. He warns us not to put our ultimate trust in a country (Isaiah 30:3), national political leaders (2 Kings 18:21 & Psalms 118:8,9) or military might (Psalms 20:7). And we shouldn't put our total trust in friendships because they can fail (Micah 7:5). God does not want us to trust in our own wealth (Psalms 49:6 & Mark 10:24). David, who had the skill of a warrior, said he would not put his trust in his own bow or sword (Psalms 44:6). We should not trust in physical beauty (Ezekiel 16:15). We cannot trust our own hearts (Proverbs 28:26) for they can betray us. In short we should not put our trust in ourselves (2 Corinthians 1:9 & Philippians 3:4). It is only those that trust in the Lord that shall be unmovable when they face difficult circumstances (Psalms 125:1).