

Trust In The Lord With All Your Heart

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean to your own understanding' (Proverbs 3:5).

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts," says the Lord God (Isaiah 55:8 & 9).

'Oh, the depths of the riches of both the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and His ways are past finding out' (Romans 11:33).

We must learn to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and our minds; that is to lean on Him and be confident in His decisions for our lives and we must not rely on our own understanding, our insight or our senses because His knowledge and His ways are past our ability to comprehend. Once we fully accept God's ways are past our ability to find out or understand, just coming to that realisation can help with a difficult situation. Knowing that should make it easier to let go and trust God to do what He wants. We need to be still and realise God is sovereign and He is our spiritual refuge. 'Be still and know I am God ... the Lord of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge' (Psalm 46:10 & 11).

Things will happen in our lives we simply do not understand and we may never know the reason. Other times the reason becomes very clear. Sometimes we will never find answers to our questions, but searching the scriptures can help answer some of our questions. There are moments when we are seeking the Lord for something and read the scriptures, when a verse will seem to 'pop up' and catch our attention and the answer is written in front of us. None of us will ever be able to fully understand God and His ways. We need to trust in the Lord and not always try to understand what He is doing. We should not try to work everything out because we cannot. We need to hand all our cares over to Him and trust Him to deal with everything in due time. 'Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and in due time He may exalt you. Cast all your cares (anxieties, concerns, worries, problems) upon Him for He cares for you' (1 Peter 5:6 & 7).

God has a special love for the descendants of Adam. The Bible never fully explains the love of God ... it just is. The closest we can get to an explanation is found in Genesis where He tells us we were made in His image and likeness. Any parent who has their own little child in their arms and can see themselves in their child's eyes, will know a wave of love that only a parent or close family member would experience. That is the closest we can get to explaining the love of God. We know we can trust God to make a way for us to reconcile with Him through Jesus, so we can trust God in everything. We can see the lengths God went through to reconcile mankind with Himself. If we can trust Him for offering us our salvation, we should be able to trust Him with the smaller details of our lives.

There are many people who want to escape from God and one of the commonest ways people think they can achieve that is to be 'religious'. Their hearts are alienated from God and the more religious they become the worse they get. Many of the problems worldwide can be contributed to empty religion. Put simply, the root of mankind's problems is the desire to be independent of God. People start with the belief, man is essentially good and left to himself he will do all right, but that is contrary to the scriptures and it is a lie. We cannot live without God guiding our lives. 'Every man has become a brute without knowledge of God ... He is the One Who formed all things' (Jeremiah 51:17 & 19).

We need to trust God with our lives. We need to lay down our independence. It is sinful to desire to be independent of God. We all need Him. He will supply all our needs. We have no need to worry about where our food or clothing will come from. Jesus said, "Do not be anxious for your life, what you will eat, nor for your body, what you will wear. Life is more important than food and the body is more important than clothing. Consider the ravens. They do not sow, they do not reap, they have no warehouse or barn and God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than birds! Who of you by being anxious can add eighteen inches to your height? If you are not able to do even the least of things, why are you anxious about the rest?" (Luke 12:22 to 26). 'Our God will supply our needs according to His riches in glory in Jesus' (Philippians 4:19).

It is not logical to think we can be independent of Him. He is our very breath. 'The Lord God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and Adam became a living soul' (Genesis 2:7). 'In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind' (Job 12:10). How long can we survive without

breathing? The Lord controls the whole universe, every star, every planet, all the angels, all of the earth's seasons and tides, and here we are as tiny as ants in His sight, saying we want to be independent of Him! It is just not possible. How foolish and futile that is! We cannot live without God. To try to is absolutely absurd. God is not a luxury – He is essential to our lives. We cannot be independent of God and if we try to be, He will deal with our rebellion until we lose the desire to be free of Him and we learn to trust in Him.

We need to trust in the Word of God more than we trust in our senses. Eve trusted in her senses – the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the fruit on it looked good (Genesis 3:6) but her error of desiring to please her senses of taste and sight was the beginning of the downfall of mankind. God is the only constant in our lives. He is always there, whereas the world around us is transient. To get us out of our stubborn independence God causes us to wait on Him. 'Since ancient times no one has heard by the ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who works on behalf of those who wait for Him' (Isaiah 64:4).

Abraham had to wait twenty-five years for the Lord to fulfil the promise of a son. 'Your name will no longer be Abram but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations' (Genesis 17:5). The Lord already had the promised son Isaac in mind and we can see that when God said, "I have made you the father ..." more than a year before Isaac was born, but Abraham had to wait for God's time to fit in with the whole salvation plan. Jesus was a descendant of Abraham and Isaac. During the long years of waiting, Abraham had to accept his total dependence on God before the promised son arrived. Abraham aged 100 and Sarah aged 90 (Genesis 17:17) were physically too old to have a child and could not have achieved the pregnancy without God's intervention. 'Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age. It had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women (her monthly cycle and thus normal fertility had ceased)' (Genesis 18:11). "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the set time (in God's time) I will return to you when the season comes round and Sarah will have a son" (Genesis 18:14).

Sometimes our hearts are burdened by the suffering endured by other people and we are keen to help them in any way we can. Moses had that same sense of burden for the Hebrews when he was aged forty but he had to wait forty more years and was aged eighty (Exodus 7:7) before the Lord's time was right and He asked Moses to act on behalf of the Hebrews (Exodus 2:11). Moses spent forty contented years in Midian (Exodus 2:21) before having to leave and take on the responsibility of the difficult Hebrew nation (Exodus 3:1 to 10). Moses became the most powerful man in all history. He was able to change God's mind (Numbers 14:19 & 20). He was the only human since Adam and Eve who spoke to God face to face (Exodus 33:11). He was also the meekest and humblest man on earth (Numbers 12:3). God does not trust power to anybody except the ones who are humble enough to trust in Him and who will depend on Him. 'Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you so He may have mercy on you and show loving kindness to you, for He is a God of justice. Blessed are all those who wait for Him' (Isaiah 30:18 & 19).

God is waiting for the sound of our 'cry' for help. He is waiting until nothing will suffice but God. Crying out to God for help is showing Him we are intentionally placing our trust in Him for the answer and it is humility not weakness. Not to accept God's offer for help in His way is pride. Some people say, "I do not want God telling me what to do," or "I will not cry out to God. Why should I? He should just come to me and answer. That is what He is there for." That is not quite right. God delights to give us things but we need to follow Abraham's example. We need to trust God, humble ourselves, be obedient, expect to be dependent on Him for the answer and we need to believe the Word of God. When we pray in desperation for an answer to prayer like Hannah did when she prayed for a child (1 Samuel 1:2 to 18), we have to trust in Him for the answer. Hannah's prayer was answered the day she prayed and she knew it because from that moment onwards she was happy. She then trusted God to bring it to pass, which He did in the course of natural time. It was Hannah's trust in God, her obedience to His Laws, her belief in Him and in His ability and desire to do what she asked for, that brought the answer. The 'cry' from her heart in the Hebrew language (shuoth or u-bke), are the words meaning to cry out in emotional pain, to implore in desperation like we would if we were drowning, not the word for self-centred weeping like Esau did when he realised he had lost his inheritance (tzoqe), which sounds in English very much like 'sook'.

When Daniel cried out to the Lord, his prayer was heard at that very moment even though the answer did not come for three anxious weeks. 'He (the angel) said to me, Daniel, "You greatly beloved man,

understand the words I speak to you and stand upright, for to you am I now sent.” When the angel had spoken this word to me I stood trembling, then he said to me, “Do not be afraid Daniel, from the first day you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard and I am come for your words’ sake, but the prince of the kingdom of Persia (an evil fallen angel) withstood me for twenty-one days” (Daniel 10:11 to 13). Sometimes evil intervention is the reason we have to wait for an answer but we can trust the Lord, Who will always win eventually.

To deal with the sins of independence, pride, lack of faith, lack of trust and unbelief, we should submit to God and not be in control of our lives. We need to desire to remove our independence. Independence can be cloaked by religion and it may sound respectable but many people use religion to avoid depending on God. They may depend on the church, or they depend on being an ‘ordained’ minister. Some married people depend more on their spouse than on God. Other people depend on their jobs for finance instead of realising it is God Who provides our financial needs from whatever source He chooses. God might bring us to the point of desperation to deal with our sin of independence. We have to get to the point where we cannot make things happen and the only way we can achieve what we pray for is for God to do it, like Abraham and Sarah. The church often teaches from the pulpit, God wants us to make the decisions for our lives. That is not right. God wants to make the decision for us and for us to obey His decisions. He is sovereign. To want to make decisions, is to want to be independent of God. We need to let go and let God be the decision-maker. He will tell us where to live, who to marry, what job we are to do, what church we are to attend and what mission field He wants us involved with. The Lord often names our children. He provides our food, clothes, housing and our finance.

We may get to the point in a difficult situation where there is no answer and we feel like we just cannot cope with the situation any longer and there is no way we can solve the problem. When that happens we have no option but sit and wait for God to do the impossible. The Psalms are full of cries (shuoth) for help. We need to cry out to God for help as though we were drowning. If we were about to be swept away we would not formulate a polite request for assistance. We would scream out in desperation. Pride disappears when we are desperate. God waits for us to cry out in humility and once we have put our trust in Him and in His ability to do the impossible, then all we can do is wait for the impossible to happen. Nothing is impossible to those who have faith and believe (Matthew 17:20).

‘Trust in the Lord (that is to lean on Him, rely on Him, be confident in Him, wait for Him) and do good. Dwell in the land and enjoy safety. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. (Sincerely, completely) commit your way to God. Trust in Him and He will make your righteousness shine as the light and your justice as the noonday sun. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him’ (Psalm 37:3 to 7).

Amen and God bless you.

www.bibleabookoftruth.com