

## Trust In The Lord

- *Proverbs 3:5-6*

- We are going to read a very popular passage of scripture this morning as our text, but perhaps as never before, let the Word of God speak to you this morning as we read these 2 verses.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- Now I love this passage of scripture. This is one that I come to often to gain encouragement & strength from in times of uncertainty & despair.
  - The Bible is clear here that if we will trust in the Lord, if we will acknowledge Him, then He will certainly direct our paths.
    - Let me clear this morning. This is not something that God said could happen, but this is a fairly straightforward promise from God that is guaranteed IF we do or part.
  - God has a specific plan for each of our lives here this morning.
    - God had a plan for my life and your life before He laid the foundation of this world.
      - Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
    - God has a specific plan not just for this world or this church, but He has a plan for you.
      - Psalm 37:23 – “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:”
    - We all are very different, with unique talents and abilities & though His plan for each of us may be different, we all have the same purpose ... it's to be more like Jesus.
- With all of these promises in mind, you would think that trusting in the Lord would be an easy thing to do; yet it seems so difficult when disappointments or tragedies or many times just the normal day unveils its trials, we don't trust in the Lord like we should.
- I want to trust in the Lord more each day & maybe you are here this morning & you want to trust in the Lord but you just don't know how.
  1. Trusting Confidence (v.5)
    - I am not asking you to trust in some scheme that some doctor or professor put together. I'm not asking you to believe in some myth or fantasy that holds no water.
    - I'm not asking you to trust in some theologian, some spiritual leader, or even me for that matter. We are talking about the King of Kings & Lord of Lords. The very same One that we just read about Who created you for His workmanship & has a very specific plan for your life.
    - Let me ask you this morning, “Do you find it difficult to trust in the Lord with ALL of your heart?” Here are some of the reasons that we struggle with our trust:
      - a. Our Love For The Lord
        - i. If you're having difficulty trusting in the Lord, it's in part because you don't love the Lord like you should. You can't trust a person that you don't love.
          1. If a stranger comes up & ask you to do something for them & they demand your trust, chances are you won't do it.
          2. But if you love someone, even if you don't know what it is they want, you still trust them.
          3. Why? You know deep down they would not do anything to hurt you, right?
        - ii. But it's really hard to trust somebody that you don't love.
        - iii. For some of you your love is not what it should be b/c you don't really know Him.
          1. I love my wife more today than I did the day I married her over 13 years ago. Do you know why? Because I know her better today than I did back then. It's

easy for me to trust her b/c I have spent time with her & I love her completely.

2. If you are here today & you have never been saved, you cant trust God b/c you don't love Him like you should, and you don't love Him like you should b/c you don't know Him as your Savior & Lord.
  - a. But the greatest news is this, you can know Him today.
  - b. Romans 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
3. If you are here today & you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior & you have been saved for any amount of time & you have spent some time getting to know Him, it is much easier for us to love Him b/c we know Who He is.
  - a. If your trust in God is not would it should be b/c your love for God is not where it should be, can I challenge you to get into His Word today!

#### **b. Our Trust In Self**

- i. The Bible says, "lean not unto thine own understanding."
  1. When do we begin to lose our confidence & trust in people or circumstances? Is it not when we cant make sense of what is going on around us?
  2. I think that "lean not unto thine own understanding" was meant for us.
  3. I used to feel intimidated when things would happen & people would begin to question, "Why?"
    - a. You know, I'm a Pastor now. I should have an answer for every question you have, right? Wrong.
    - b. I've learned that saying, "I don't know why", is often times the best thing to say, b/c then our faith kicks in & we just "Trust in the Lord" together.
      - i. Job's friends gave reason after reason as to why Job was suffering the way that he was. And they were wrong every time.
      - ii. He was suffering b/c he was being tested.
  4. I've run into some people before, even my own family, who thought they had life & eternity all figured out & they did not need God.
  5. There's a lot of folks today who feel they can twist the Word of God to match their lifestyle & make their own way to Heaven, and if that's you this morning, let me give you this one verse to think about.
    - a. Proverbs 16:25 - "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

#### **2. Total Commitment (v.6)**

- **We are to acknowledge Him as Lord over every area of my life. That means as Lord, as Sovereign God, as the One Who has the right to rule over my life.**
- **Maybe you have never done this before, but have you recognized Him as Lord over EVERYTHING in your life?**
  - o Is there something that you've laid on the altar that you've taken back off the altar?
  - o Maybe you've trusted Him as Lord with your finances, but not Lord of your marriage.
  - o Maybe you've trusted Him as Lord over your job situation, but not Lord over your kids. W
  - o We can know His will, but number one, there must be a trusting confidence. We're to trust with all of our heart. Number two, there must be a total commitment in all of our ways. In

every way, we are to acknowledge Him as absolute, sovereign Lord of our lives and make a total commitment.

- **And if we will do our part here in verses 5-6, God will do His part b/c the promise is, “and he shall direct thy paths.”**
  - o I have been studying the writings of Dr. Stephen Olford over the last year or so. When Dr. Olford was a young man, he was raised in Africa, the son of missionary parents. He's a very intelligent young man. He decided he wanted to pursue a course in engineering. He went away to an engineering school, one of the finest schools in all of the world. Stephen Olford was a top student. His plan was to become a successful engineer. To go back to Africa to have leisure. To have the nice things that money could buy and to help the missionaries and the work of God on the side. It seemed a real fine plan to him. He had it all set, but he was leaning on his own understanding. His father was back in Africa. Olford was away in school. He got sick. He went to the doctor. The doctor came to his bedside and said, "Young man, in two weeks you will be dead." His life caved in around him. Here he was, leaning on his own understanding, making his own plans, and while he was on that deathbed, a letter came from his missionary dad and it took months for the mail to travel. His father had no way of knowing the condition that his son would be in when the letter arrived. But in that letter, Stephen Olford's dad said to him these words, “tis but one life will soon be passed; only what's done for Christ will last." God broke through to this young man and he bowed his head and he prayed this prayer, “Anywhere. Anytime. Any cost. Amen?”
- **Would you be willing to pray that prayer? Would you be willing to say today, "Lord, anywhere. Any time. Any cost.**
  - o “Preacher, I cant say that.” Do you know why? Because you're not trusting Him with all your heart. You're afraid of Him. And if you're afraid of Him and it's because you don't love Him and if you don't love Him it's because you don't know Him and if you don't know Him it's because you haven't been spending time with Him.
  - o Sometimes we see the will of God as something we have to do. But we need to start viewing it as something that the King of Kings allows us to do.
- **“OK Preacher, but how will the Lord, ‘direct my path?’”**
  - o Through the Word of God
    - We don't read God's Word b/c we don't understand it, but its b/c we do understand it I think.
  - o Through prayer
    - James 4:2 - “Ye have not because ye ask not.”
  - o Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
    - Philippians 2:13 – “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”
  - o Following God's open doors.
    - Revelation 3:8 – “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:”
- **Oh, if we would just learn to trust in the Lord completely, with our whole heart. Let me give you one other verse as we close.**
  - o Isaiah 40:3-4 – “Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:”
  - o Do you know what God does for the child of God that is walking in His Spirit? Do you know what God does for a person who trusts Him with all of their heart and acknowledges Him in all of their ways? He bulldozes a path through the wilderness. That's exactly what it

means. It means to cut a path and mountains will melt. And valleys will be filled. And crooked places will be made straight. And God smoothes the way for His people and God goes before His people to make a way when they trust in Him.

➤ **There's no sweeter joy than walking in the will of God & trusting Him completely to be Lord over EVERYTHING in your life.**

- In all of your ways acknowledge Him. The big things, the little things, the social life, the personal life—all of your life! Acknowledge Him and God will clear a way through the wilderness for you and you'll find God's way.