

GOD

Trusting in God

Our heavenly Father is a loving, almighty God whose great desire is that we enjoy His blessings every day. To do this, we need **trust in Him**.

According to *The New Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language*, to **trust** in someone is to rely on their integrity, strength, ability, or surety; to have **confidence** in them. We'll consider how and why we can **trust in God** in every aspect of our lives.

Let's begin in **Proverbs, Chapter 3**.

Proverbs

3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

In verse 5, the word “**trust**” is from the Hebrew word *batach*, one of two Hebrew words commonly translated “trust”. *Batach* literally means “to lean on, to trust, to be confident”. We are not to rely on ourselves; we are to trust in “**the Lord**”, *Jehovah*, God in His **personal** relation to us. We are to trust in Him “**with all our hearts**”. “Heart” is figurative for the center of our personal lives: we are to fully trust in Him with everything we are.

Verse 6 tells us that as we trust in Him, acknowledging Him in all our ways, He will “**direct our paths**”. In the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew text, the word “**direct**” is the Greek word *orthotomeō*, translated “rightly dividing” in **II Timothy 2:15** (“rightly dividing the word of truth”). It can also be understood as “**to cut straight**”. As we trust in Him, God will cut or make our ways “straight”, helping us to see which way we should go.

Consider **Psalms 37**, where we'll see two more usages of the Hebrew word *batach*, meaning “to trust” or “to lean on”.

Psalms

37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

37:5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.

As we trust in and rely on **God** (*Jehovah*), He promises to take care of us.

Psalms

34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

God is always **good**, and when we **trust** in Him, we are **blessed**. Here, the word translated “**trust**” is the Hebrew word *chasah*, literally “to take refuge”. As we trust in God, we **take refuge** in Him: He is our refuge from the storms of life.

Psalms

118:8 *It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.*

118:9 *It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.*

Because these two verses say the **same** thing (“princes” are, after all, “men”), it is **established**: we should trust in **God** rather than in man. The word translated “**trust**” in **both** of these verses is that Hebrew word *chasah*, meaning to trust by taking refuge in; **but** the word translated “**confidence**” in these verses is the Hebrew word *batach*. This word is only translated “confidence” four times, but it is translated “**trust**” 87 times. Here it’s **established** that it is better for us to trust in, or find refuge in, God than to trust, or lean on, man.

Jeremiah

17:5 **Thus saith the Lord; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh (*the five senses*) his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.**

17:6 **For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in a salt land and not inhabited.***

17:7 **Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.**

17:8 **For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.**

The Hebrew word for “**trust**” in these verses is *batach*. But, in **verse 7** the word “**hope**” (“...whose **hope** the Lord is”) is the Hebrew word *mibtach*, which is translated “hope” only here but elsewhere is translated “**confidence**” 9 times and “**trust**” four times. So, we **could** read this verse: “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose **trust** the Lord is.”

Psalms

1:1 **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**

1:2 **But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**

1:3 **And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

As we **trust in God**, keeping His Word in our minds **every day** (“day and night”), we can expect great **blessings**: verse 3 tells us that whatever we do will **prosper**.

God’s Word contains many **promises** that apply to **every aspect** of our lives. **Numbers 23:19** says: “God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” We **can** put our trust and confidence in God, knowing that **He will keep His promises**. We’ll consider **five** of God’s promises we can trust Him to keep: 1) we can trust in God as our **sufficiency**, supplying all our needs; 2) we can trust in God for **protection**, so we never need to fear; 3) we can trust in God for **guidance**, including in our walk as we serve others; 4) we can trust in God for **peace in our lives**; and 5) we can trust in God **in our prayer lives**.

First, we can trust in God to **supply all of our needs**. **Philippians 4:19** tells us: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

II Corinthians

3:4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

God is our **sufficiency**: we can trust in Him to supply our needs.

9:8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

The **context** of this verse is **giving**: as we give of our abundance, we **receive**, and will have **all sufficiency in all things** so that we can **abound** as we live God’s Word. In **Luke 6:38** we are told: “Give, and **it shall be given unto you**; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.” As we **give**, we are **trusting** in God that He will supply all our needs. According to **I Timothy 6:17**, we are to “**trust**...in the living God, who **giveth** us richly all things to enjoy.”

Matthew

6:31 Therefore take no thought (*undue concern*), saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

As we **put God first**, trusting in Him, He will meet our every need.

Trusting in God to supply all our needs also **includes** trusting in Him for our **health**. **III John 2** tells us: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and **be in health**, even as thy soul prospereth.”

Look again at **Proverbs, Chapter 3, verse 5**:

Proverbs

3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In this **context** of **trusting in God**, consider **verses 7 and 8**:

3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear (*respect*) the Lord, and depart from evil.

3:8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

As we **trust in God** and rely on **Him** rather than on our own understanding, we can expect **good health**.

Second, we can trust in God for His **protection**, allowing us to live **without fear**:

Psalms

56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

56:11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

The word “**trust**” in these verses is from the word *batach*. When situations come up that might tempt us to become fearful, we can “lean on” God, **trusting** Him to **protect** us. Also, notice that verse 11 **reiterates** verse 4: it’s **established**.

Consider **Psalm 37, verses 39 and 40**:

37:39 But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the Lord: *he is* their strength in the time of trouble.

37:40 And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Here, the word for trust is *chasah* – as we go to God, taking **refuge** in Him as we **trust in Him**, He will **protect** us. We have **nothing to fear**. Because we **trust** in God, we too can declare what it says in **Psalm 46, verses 1 and 2**: “God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear...”

Proverbs

29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Again, as we **trust in**, “lean on” (the Hebrew word is *batach*) God, He will **protect** us, and we have **no** reason to **fear**.

We can trust in God for protection and live life without fear because we know that **he is always with us**:

Isaiah

41:10 Fear thou not; for *I am* with thee: be not dismayed; for *I am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

And, when things **do** come up, we can **trust in God** as we believe what it says in **I Corinthians 10:13**: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.” As it says in **Romans, Chapter 8 verse 31**: “...if **God** *be* for us, **who** *can* be against us?”

Third, we trust in God for **guidance**, in our own personal walk and as we serve others.

Remember **Proverbs 3:5 and 6**, which say: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall **direct thy paths**.” We trust God as we “acknowledge him,” putting **His Word** on in our minds. **Psalm 119:105** says “**Thy word** is a lamp unto my feet, and **a light unto my path**.” God’s Word illuminates our path so we don’t stumble. **Proverbs 2:6** tells us: “For the Lord giveth **wisdom**: out of his mouth (*via His Word*) cometh knowledge and understanding.” When we trust in God and put God’s Word on in our minds, He gives us **wisdom**: we **know** which way we should go.

As we **trust in God** to direct our paths, we can be our best as we **serve** others. God tells us in **I Corinthians 12:18** that He has put each one of us in the Body as it has pleased Him. **Each one of us** has a vital function in the household. **John 14:12** tells us that we can do the works of Jesus Christ, and greater. **Matthew 10:8** says: “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”

In order for us to **do** what God’s Word says we can do as we serve others, we need to **trust in God**. Rather than relying on ourselves or on our own abilities, we need to remember what it says in **Philippians 2:13**: “For it is **God** which **worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.”

Fourth, we can trust in God for **peace** in our lives. We see this in **Isaiah, Chapter 26**, where we’ll read **verse 3**.

Isaiah

26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Notice that the words “**on thee**” are in **italics**: they are **not** in the original texts and have been **added**. In the **Lamsa Bible**, translated directly from an **Aramaic** manuscript, this verse reads: “Thou wilt keep us in perfect peace, for in thee we have trusted...” In the **Interlinear Bible**, which shows the English word for each **Hebrew** word in the text, **Isaiah 26:3** reads: “You will keep in perfect peace the mind (*that is*) stayed, for he trusts in you.” So, a more accurate rendering of **Isaiah 26:3** would be: “Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed because he trusteth in thee**.”

Because we trust in God, our minds are “**stayed**”. In the **New American Standard** and the **New International** versions of the Bible, the word “**steadfast**” is used **instead** of “**stayed**.” The Hebrew word translated “**stayed**” (“**steadfast**”) is **samak**. This same word is translated “**established**” in **Psalm 112**, where **verses 7 and 8** read: “He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart *is* fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart *is* **established** (*samak*), he shall not be afraid...”

Isaiah

26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed* because he trusteth in thee.

26:4 Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah *is* everlasting strength:

The word “**trust**” in both of these verses is that Hebrew word *batach*: we trust in, lean on, have confidence in God, and as a **result** our minds are “**stayed**”: **steadfast, established**. We simply **don’t budge on God’s Word**. When this is true, we will have “perfect **peace**”.

To learn **more** about this **peace** that God has made available to us, and how to get it, let’s consider **Philippians, Chapter 4**, beginning in **verse 6**:

Philippians

- 4:6** Be careful (*anxious*) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.
- 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

As we trust in God, we **put God’s Word on in our minds**, and our minds become **established**. We **dwelling** on the eight things mentioned in verse 8: things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy – all characteristics of **God’s Word**.

“**God of peace**” in verse 9 is a **figure of speech** (Genitive of Origin), and literally means “**God Who gives peace**.” As we keep our thoughts on God’s Word, we are **not anxious**, and we can enjoy the **peace** that **God** gives. **Verse 6** tells us that **instead** of being anxious, we are to let our requests be declared to God by **prayer** and **supplication** (specific earnest request) with **thanksgiving**.

This brings us to the **fifth** major aspect of our lives in which we can trust in God: our **prayer life**. Prayer is **important**: it brings desired results. **James 5:16** tells us: “...The effectual (energized) fervent **prayer** of a righteous man availeth (**prevails**) much.”

Psalms

- 62:8** Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us. Selah (“*Consider these words*”).

We should “**pour our heart out**” to God: this **includes** in our **prayer** life.

- 55:17** Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

- 55:22** Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Prayer should be a **significant part of our daily lives**.

I John

3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

We can **expect results** when we pray. Look at **Chapter 5, verse 14**:

5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Notice the word “**confidence**” in these verses in **I John**: this word can **also** be understood as “absolute assurance” or “**trust**”. We can **trust in God** when we pray.

One very important thing we need to do when we pray is to **believe**. **Matthew 21:22** says: “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.” With this in mind, let’s read **Hebrews, Chapter 11**, verse 1:

Hebrews

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

A more **literal** translation of this verse might read: “Now **believing** is the title deed to things **prayed** for, the **evidence** they are yours **before** they are seen.” But the three words “**things hoped for**” are translated from the one Greek word *elpizō*, which elsewhere is translated “have hope” (1x), “hope for” (2x), “hope” (9x), and “**trust**” (18x). So, we could insert the word “**trust**” in Hebrews 11:1: “Now believing is the title deed of **trust** (*things trusted for*), the evidence they are yours before they are seen.” What this verse then tells us is that **prayer is trusting in God**. When we **pray**, we are **trusting in God** to bring to pass what we need. And as we pray with **believing**, we can **expect** to receive.

We have seen that there are many great **benefits** and **blessings** that are ours as we **trust in God**. We can trust in God to **supply all our needs**, to **protect** us so we can live without fear, to **guide us** in our walk and service to others, to provide **peace** in our lives, and to **answer our prayers**. In short, **we can trust in God to keep His promises**, and as we do we can joyfully live the more abundant life that God has made available for us.

- Dr. Rick Batt