

## 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 Psalm 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 dwell 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 God 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