

Bay City Wesleyan Church

August 5, 2018

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Trusting God in Difficult Times
Sunday Morning Service- Trusting God
<http://bible.com/events/454986>
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Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

<small>5</small> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <small>6</small> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

<https://bible.com/bible/114/pro.3.5-6.nkjv>

[Image]

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/152x152/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/29135966-1533238829250.jpg>

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

<small>5</small> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <small>6</small> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

<https://bible.com/bible/59/pro.3.5-6.ESV>

Proverbs 3:5 MSG

<small>5</small> Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that God corrects; a father's delight is behind all this.

<https://bible.com/bible/97/pro.3.5.msg>

Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

<small>5</small> Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <small>6</small> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/pro.3.5-6.nlt>

1. Trusting God in Financial Despair
2. Trusting God in Spiritual Deserts
3. Trusting God in Unmet Desires

1. Financial Despair

When we have financial troubles from lack of budgeting skills, lack of enough income, massive debts, or no source of income, it can feel like our world around us is crumbling. It can be so easy to ignore the

providence of God when times are good. It can be so easy to focus on the money in our lives. We can quickly succumb to the mastery of the burden of keeping up with our finances. God wants all of our heart, and all of our ways, which includes what we spend and how we make money. Do not let the overwhelming nature of finances get the best of you. Your emotions are not tied to how well you are doing in life. Your emotions should be given to God. Your emotions should be under control. Your emotions can become your master too. And, if you do not surrender your emotions to Him, they are at the mercy of circumstances, attitudes, and the enemy. Do not let the enemy take control of your emotions through your financial anxieties or successes. Let God be the one to guide you.

Practical Application:

1. Setup a budget: weekly, monthly, yearly.
2. Practice gratitude
3. Be open to opportunities
4. Seek peace by meditation and reading God Word. (also, the app Abide is great)
5. Learn to be okay with where you are.

When you wholly put your trust in God, then He will save you from despair.

As Dr. D. W. Ekstrand states, "No believer can fully avoid the wilderness experience" it is the path we must all travel. "

2. Spiritual Desert

When we find ourselves in the middle of a spiritual desert, it is difficult to see how anything can get you through it. You might feel desperate, alone, scared, and hopeless. You might be thinking, "how could this happen to me?" Aren't I a good person? Aren't I a good, growing Christian? Don't I do everything I am supposed to do to be with God? A spiritual desert might make you lose sight of your faith altogether, and that is exactly what the enemy wants. He wants you to fail and to live in the darkness and emptiness of his lies. He is not for you. He is for himself. And, you must not let that happen. You must call upon the name of the Lord, and put your faith in Him to get you through!

Practical Application:

1. Journal daily
2. Pray frequently
3. Talk to a friend with spiritual maturity
4. Attend corporate worship services regularly
5. Chose to hope in God

When you put your trust in God, then He will bring you out of the desert!

Paul was a good example of

7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that the extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 8 We are experiencing trouble on every side, but are not crushed; we are perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 we are persecuted, but not abandoned; we are knocked down, but not destroyed, 10 always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our body.

- 2Co 4:7-10

3. Unmet Desires

Have you ever desired something so much, but not been able to obtain it? Have you ever wanted something so badly, and not gotten it? Have you ever found yourself desperately crying out to God for your dreams to come true? Do you feel like God does not care for you? Do you feel like He is not listening? Do you keep hearing, "No." or "Wait," when all you want is a "Yes?" God does hear you. He loves you, and wants what is best for you. He wants you to follow the example of His Son, Jesus, through the empowering of The Holy Spirit. God is neither a genie who grants wishes or harsh task-master waiting for us to complete some mission before He blesses us. From a friend from college: "Instead of placing your hope in what you're wanting, place your hope in the eternal." Through Jesus we have direct access to Him and His heart for us. He is our Father, and wants the best for us. Just as I want the best for my daughters, how much more does our Creator want for us. And, I do believe that once you truly lean into the heart of God, and give Him all of your hopes, dreams, fears, plans, and desires, He will help you determine and fulfill the ones to build the Kingdom. God-given desires will be fulfilled with surrender, discernment, and perseverance.

Practical Applications:

1. Write down desires
2. Keep praying and discern with God His plans.
3. Open your mind and heart to hear God's plan for your life.

When you put your trust in God, then He will align your desires to His.

Psalms 46:10-11 ESV

10</small> "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" 11</small> The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
<https://bible.com/bible/59/psa.46.10-11.ESV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

When you wholly put your trust in God, He will save you from despair, bring you out of the desert, and align your desires with His.

[Plan]

The Trust Protocol By Mac Richard

7 Days

<http://bible.com/r/2Qo>

Benediction

May you leave here today trusting God with more of your life, more of your heart. Let Him guide you. He will lead you to a life full of His love. May the Holy Spirit empower you to live like Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.