

- **At all times.** “Trust in him *at all times*, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge” (Psa. 62:8).

Some Specific Promises God Has Made to Those Who Trust Him

God has promised ...

- **To care for those who trust Him.** “The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. *He cares* for those who trust in him” (Nahum 1:7).
- **To never forsake those who trust Him.** “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have *never forsaken* those who seek you” (Psa. 9:10).
- **To guide those that trust Him.** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and *he will make your paths straight*” (Prov. 3:5-6). He will guide you in the dark places (Isa.50:10). He will be there in the “valley of the shadow of death” (Psalm 23).
- **To always be there for those who trust Him.** “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you” (Psa. 9:10).
- **To bless those who trust Him.** “But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him” (Jer. 17:7).
- **To supply the needs of those who trust Him.** “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear” (Mt. 6:25).

Conclusion

As we have seen in the wonderful Scriptures in this lesson, Christians do not trust in a theory, a political philosophy, human resources, or our own strength or wisdom. We trust only in God who is worthy of our confidence. His power is unlimited. “For nothing is impossible with God” (Lk.1:37). His wisdom is incomparable. “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Rom. 11:33). His love is unfailing. “But I trust in your unfailing love” (Psa. 13:5). He alone is worthy of our complete trust. People may fail us; our material resources will eventually fade away; our strength will run out; human wisdom can lead us astray. God alone will be there when everything else is gone. **But, God will be forever trustworthy. Do not hesitate to put your trust in Him.**

Lesson Nine Learning to Trust God

The Basis of Trust in God

Do you really trust God? To fully trust God means ...

- Believing that His Word is true; that it is a reliable source of our knowledge of God. God does not lie.
- Having absolute confidence that He will never fail. God is reliable.
- Depending on Him when all else is uncertain. God will never change.
- Relying on Him to care for you and supply your needs. God keeps His promises.
- Having the assurance that He hears and will answer your prayers even when the answer is delayed. God answers prayer.
- Believing that He is both wise and good, even when we don't understand. God always works for our good.
- Having confidence that He always knows what is best. God does not make mistakes.
- Being assured that He will reward those who trust in Him. God is faithful.

The list is long and could go on for many pages. However, please note that all of the above statements are based upon a fundamental faith in the *character* of God. It means we really believe that God is who He has revealed Himself to be in Christ, and that He will always act in harmony with His nature.

When Trust in God Is Put to the Test

It is easy to trust in God when everything is going well for us. Our trust in Him is put to the test when bad things happen to us. For example:

When bad things happen to good people. Our tendency is to then ask *why* He allows it to happen, and to allow some doubts to begin to creep into our minds. We find it hard to accept what we cannot understand. We want to know “*Why?*”

True trust in God remains firm even when circumstances seem to contradict what looks right to us. Our trust of God goes beyond our capacity to understand. This is what Job was experiencing when in deep trouble he exclaimed, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him" (Job 13:15).

When the answers to our prayers are delayed. God has promised to answer our prayers, but what happens when the answers do not come? There could be several reasons:

Perhaps we are not asking for the right things. Are we seeking first the Kingdom of God? Are our motives right? Could we be asking selfishly? Are we seeking for things we really don't need? All these things could affect God's response.

Perhaps the timing is wrong. God really does answer prayer, but sometimes the answer is, "Be patient and wait awhile, it is not the right time yet."

Perhaps God has something better for us than we have asked for. He would not want to spoil His best for us by giving us something less that could distract us or detour us from it.

Perhaps God's answer is "no" because what we are asking for would not be good for us.

When God's perspective is different from ours. God sees our lives from a much broader perspective than we do. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:9). For example:

- We see only the present. God sees the end from the beginning.
- We see only short-term results. God sees and is more interested in the long-run.
- Our wisdom is very limited. God knows everything.
- We do not always know what is really best for us, but God does.
- We may not understand God's total plan for our lives, but God is preparing us for it.
- We may not recognize our real needs, but God knows where we need to be corrected and polished.
- We usually look for the easy way, but God sees the discipline we need to be what He wants to make us.

If we could see things from God's perspective we would certainly want Him to do it His way! However, the very fact that we cannot always see from His perspective indicates the importance of learning to trust Him.

The Results of Trusting God

If you trust God it will ...

- **Give you confidence to approach Him.** "Let us then approach the throne of grace *with confidence*, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb 4:16). We can know God in an intimate relationship so that we approach Him as our Heavenly Father who understands us and wants to do good things for us.
- **Release you from fear.** "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore *we will not fear*, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" (Psa. 46:1-3).
- **It will give you joy, peace, and hope.** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace *as you trust in him*, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13).
- **Bring more stability to your life.** "But when he asks, he must *believe and not doubt*, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind" (Jas 1:6).

You Can Trust God When ...

- **Everything else is shaking.** "*Trust in the LORD* forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal" (Isa. 26:4). "Those who *trust in the LORD* are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever" (Psa. 125:1).
- **When you don't know which way to go.** "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul" (Psa. 143:8).
- **When the answer does not come.** "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him" (Psa. 37:7).
- **When human resources fail.** "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God" (Psa. 20:7).