

“I Know You Meant Well: Just Trust God”
Mathew 6:25-34 (NIV)
November 3, 2019
Rev. Dave Baldrige
Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Y4vbS6c4p4> (Trust fall fail)

Oopsie, that trust fall failed! I know you mean well, Just Trust God. Sometimes I think we may fail when we say that. We make it sound so simple and so easy. We mean well. It is not always easy to trust. Yet at the same time we need to indeed trust in God—we need to fall *back* into the arms of Jesus, not fall forward and fail on our own. So, there is much truth in, “Just trust God,” if really truly mean what we say.

The truth is as followers of God there is a trust we must have in our life. That trust should not be in the world, should not be in people, but our trust should be in God. However, I can trust God for food, but it doesn’t mean He is going to drop a lobster and steak meal down out of heaven. Manna maybe, steak and lobster---probably not. You see there must be an active faith and an active trust.

This is the last of our series on “I Know You Meant Well.” Let me say a big thank you to Rev. Cathy in the powerful message last week of “I Know You Meant Well: Just Forgive and Forget.”

In this series we even gave a message on “It is what it is,” which could be a variation of the phrase “Just trust God.” However, “it is what it is” seems to deal with current situations, where trusting God encompasses not just our current situation, but a trusting of God with our days ahead.



Next week we begin a 3-week sermon series **(Image)** “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” Let me just say the worship planning team has been creative in working on this series. But I’m excited about the series as we talk about, “Who is my neighbor?” “How do I neighbor?” and “What do I say to my neighbor?” Invite a ‘neighbor’ to join us for this series about neighbors.

So, we say, “Trust God.” “Have faith in God.” Is there a difference between faith and trust?” I used the search engine Google and typed in “Difference between faith and trust.” In .83 seconds, I got 112 million responses.

So, in these next few minutes I would like to go over each of these response 😊. I think faith and trust go hand in hand. Faith is to believe in someone. We sometimes even use the phrase, “I have faith in you.”

Trust is a complete dependence. Like a trust fall. Complete dependence they are going to catch you, just don't fall the wrong way. And yet we also use the phrase, "I trust you." So, trust and faith and how they differ would be quite the sermon. However, that's not this sermon. This sermon is focusing on what does it mean to "just trust God." Trust is following HIS way, not our way.

Proverbs 3:5-6 New Living Translation (NLT) ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Oh, to seek His will in all we do. Our scripture read this morning from Matthew 6, part of the Sermon on the Mount, says "Seek first HIS and kingdom and HIS righteousness..."

Oh, to just seek Him and trust Him. In our scripture reading of Matthew 6:25-34 it talks about worrying. It basically tells us not to worry.

(audio of "Don't Worry be Happy" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-diB65scQU> first 42 seconds)

Oh friends, but we can't always be happy---we are humans, with emotions of sadness, sorrow, anger. And to not worry---well, I know it's there in the Bible, but that's hard too!!!!

Yet scripture is clear in this passage. Don't worry about your life. Worry can't add even an hour to your life. Don't worry about clothes. Don't worry about food and drink. Don't worry about tomorrow.

Why no worry? Because we are to trust in God!!!

So, what does it mean to trust? Well by using the acronym TRUST and sharing some illustrations I pray that just perhaps we may get a better grasp of what it means.

Thank God for His faithfulness.

One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters."

God is faithful. God sees us. And not only does God see us, He catches us. In this illustration, the trust fall results in Father catching child. Just trust God---He sees you. He will catch you. He's there for you.

Rest in God

Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We must find time to rest in God. To be still and know that God is God.

One man challenged another to an all-day wood chopping contest. The challenger worked very hard, stopping only for a brief lunch break. The other man had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks during the day. At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other fellow had chopped substantially more wood than he had.

"I don't get it," he said. "Every time I checked, you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did."

"But you didn't notice," said the winning woodsman, "that I was sharpening my ax when I sat down to rest."

Rest in God. Take care of your soul.

Understand God's Promises

Bibleinfo.com says God has made over 3573 promises. Biblegateway.com says there are 5467 divine promises of God. Oh, we cannot know them all, but embrace the ones that you do know. That will booster your trust factor. He will never leave you nor forsake you. God says He is with us. His promises number in the thousands. Do you trust Him enough to know that He cares for you?

Today on this All Saint's remembrance Sunday we know that there has been a place provided for believers.

Here this story: (used in a sermon in 2011) Facing death a man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know". The dying man said "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

As the doctor was holding the handle of the door, from the other side came a sound of scratching and a dog whining, and as he opened the door, a golden retriever sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. You see, I don't know what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

And Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God believe also in me. IN my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:1-4)

Understand His promise that a place has been prepared.

S urrender to God

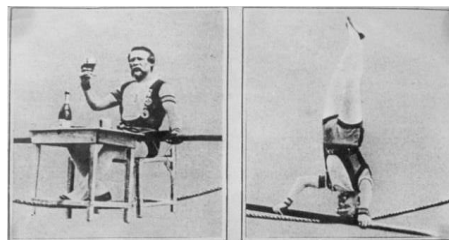
It is so hard to completely surrender.

This man **(image)** gives us a good example of what trust is. Oh, it is not because he is walking a tightrope across Niagara Falls, but it is the entire story. This is Charles Blondin.



Charles Blondin gained worldwide fame in the summer of 1859 as the first person to cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope. A rope 1,100 feet long and 3 ¼ diameter. 160 feet above the water.

Not only did he make it across successfully, he went on to cross several other times, each time adding new elements to his act. He did it blindfolded. He did it on stilts. He actually set down and cooked and ate an omelet **(image)** and even was upside down.



On one such trip he crossed pushing a wheelbarrow. **(image)**



The crowd of spectators had plenty of faith in his abilities. They'd seen him successfully cross the falls multiple times. However, as the story is told this time when he reached the other side, Charles asked a simple question, "Who believes I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" The crowd immediately responded with hoots and hollers and affirmative encouragement.

"Okay," Blondin then said, "Who wants to get in the wheelbarrow?" And...there were no takers.

Oh, it is easy to say to someone else, Just Trust God, but are we ourselves ready to have the trust. How big is your trust of God? God pushing the wheelbarrow...would you still hesitate to get in? Trust is scary.

Thank God for His faithfulness.

Rest in God.

Understand God's Promises.

Surrender to God.

Think of who you are.

Friends get a proper perspective of who you are. Some of you may still not get it. Allow me the joy of sharing with you who God says you are.

You are forgiven.

You are reconciled with God.

You are redeemed.

You are bought with a price and belong to God.

You are known by God.

You are justified before God.

You are accepted.

You are saved.

You are alive.

You are free.

You are a new creation.

You are born of God.

You are adopted by God.

You are a child of promise.

You are a citizen of heaven.

You are a member of the body of Christ.

You are loved.

Thank God. Rest in Him. Understand His promises are for you. Surrender completely to Him.
Think of who you are. Trust God.