

Wednesday Encouragement

9/9/20

As my kids went back to school this week, it had me thinking about the idea of trust. I think a lot of us would say it takes time to earn our trust. That we don't automatically trust everyone we meet. That we're cautious with the things that matter. I think that has a lot to do with trusting ourselves a lot more than we typically trust other people. I think a lot of us have control issues that show up in our unwillingness and inability to trust others. So we hold what matters close and we don't easily trust others with those precious things/people.

But then again:

- I put my kids on the bus the last two days with a bus driver I barely know.
- I sent my kids to school the last two days with teachers I don't know very well, and I really have no idea what they're doing for several hours.
- I had lunch at a restaurant yesterday where they prepared my food out of my sight and I ate it without a second thought (it was delicious by the way).
- I drove down the road yesterday even though I wasn't sure of the experience and qualifications of the other drivers on the road.

The list could go on, but the point is, in situations where I *choose* to trust others, it can actually get to the point where it becomes second nature. I didn't hesitate to put them on the bus or send them to school or order food or drive. Now, understand, that if in one of those situations someone broke my trust, it would change things for sure—but trust really is a choice. In all of those situations, it's both a choice to trust and a choice to accept the risk of trusting. There really is still a risk in all of those situations, but my trust outweighs that worry.

Which then brings up the question of why I don't trust God nearly as much as I should. It brings up the question of why I don't trust God with every area of my life. I hold some parts of my life back from God. And when I say it out loud, when I admit it, I know it sounds ridiculous. I know God. I've chosen to serve God with my life, yet I still tend to hold some things back.

I know what scripture says:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (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.

In response, I trust the Lord with part of my heart and in the rest of my life I depend on my own understanding. Maybe that's where you are, too. As humans, we've gotten pretty good at accepting that as "good enough."

It goes back to that idea of a choice again. I need to choose to trust God every single day. But the good news is that when we choose to trust God with everything, from a God's-eye perspective, there's no risk. When we trust God with everything, things will still go wrong, but God remains in control. God remains on His throne, and understanding that brings something that we cannot find on our own and something money cannot buy—peace.

So this week, today even, if you're struggling to find peace, let me ask you this question: what are you holding back from God? Trust Him with it today.

Kraig