

Pk's Perspectives... Trust

If you are a participant in the cyber world of Facebook, there is a very good probability that you have seen the following anecdote posted on someone's page:

One Sunday morning at a small Southern Baptist Church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

This story gets at the heart of one of our greatest faith challenges: trusting that God knows what He is doing, and trusting that His intentions are always good - even when we can make neither rhyme nor reason out of the circumstances of life. George Macdonald writes, "Trust God to weave your thread into the great web, though the pattern shows it not yet." Charles Spurgeon speaks to this issue of trust when he writes, "We cannot always trace God's hand, but we can always trust God's heart."

Isaiah 26:3-4 reveals one of the great promises that is absolutely vital to our faith journey: "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on You! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock." We cannot trust God's hand at work in our circumstances unless we, without reservation, trust the holiness and goodness and sovereignty of God. If we have misgivings about the character of God, we will surely have uncertainties about God working in and through our difficult circumstances.

E.M. Bounds wrote in one of his many books on the power of prayer, "Trust always operates in the present tense. Hope looks toward the future. Trust looks to the present. Hope expects. Trust possesses. Trust receives what prayer acquires. So, what prayer needs, at all times, is abiding and abundant trust."

The "go to" verse of Scripture in those moments when we're trying to help someone experiencing a difficult time in their life is Romans 8:28: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." Personally, I've found the promise of this verse to be exceptionally clear as it relates to the circumstances of others while struggling to understand its veracity as it relates to my own journey!!

Let me close with a passage from the book Messed Up Men of the Bible: "Control seems preferable to what we typically think of as its opposite - chaos. But I want to suggest that the opposite of control is not chaos. It is trust, and trust is far preferable to control. We fear we won't be taken care of, won't have what we need, or will be taken advantage of. But trying to be in control is futile, because in reality there is very little that we can control." Insiders tip for trusting God: trust comes easier for children...grown-ups trust less, worry more. Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK.