

# A Trust Relationship

Proverbs 3:5-8

## Intro

Last few Sundays we have been looking at the theme “Disappointment with God.”

There are times when we as believers wonder where God is when we want answers, especially through life’s most difficult circumstances.

Perhaps some of us have wondered why does God allow us to go through suffering and hardships. Why is God silent or perhaps distant? Sometimes we wonder why God is not fulfilling His word as He promised. This leads to disappointment.

We looked at biblical characters who at one time or another went through periods of questioning God. People like Martha and Mary two weeks ago and Joseph last week.

## Trust

BUT there was one noticeable thing that they did in the midst of their difficult journey. They may have questioned the Lord but they never gave up trusting Him. They put their total trust in God knowing that He was in full control even when they didn’t understand why bad things we’re happening.

If I were to ask you individually, most of you would say without hesitation that you trust God. However, if you are honest, you will have to admit that there are times when trusting is not so simple or easy.

I know it’s easy to say, "I trust God, Oh, yes. I trust God completely." BUT do I trust God completely? Is He truly my source? Do I trust Him in everything? Do I trust in Him with some things? Do I trust Him in big things and not in small things? It’s not an easy thing to do in a self-reliant society to trust someone you can’t see. I kind of want to take control. Do I trust God completely?

Sometimes life is hard and difficult, with no end in sight. We cannot see what lies ahead and we feel helpless and alone in our struggles. God wants us to trust even when we do not understand, when the future is uncertain, when we feel like we cannot go on. God says for us to trust Him.

How many here have ever seen the classic movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life”? George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart) wonders if his life really matters. He feels like a failure. In his sacrifice for others he has not attained his dreams. At his point of crisis he meets up with an angel named Francis. In the end, George Bailey gets a delightful revelation of how God has been working all along and used his life in a marvelous way.

The lesson George Bailey learned is found in our text this morning: Proverbs 3:5-6 “*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.*”

The evangelist D. L. Moody once said, "*Trust in yourself and you are doomed to disappointment. Trust in your friends and they will die and leave you. Trust in money and you may have it taken from you. Trust in your reputation and some slanderous tongue may blast it. But trust in God and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.*"

In John 14:1 Jesus said, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.*”

## **Proverbs 3**

Solomon starts off this 3rd chapter with a very matter of fact statement.

Proverbs 3:1-2 *“My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.”*

Then He gives very specific details of principles that we should live by in order to have long life, and peace. Some of these are rather simple, in fact all of them are simple to talk about, but when it comes to putting them into practice it becomes more difficult.

## **Trust**

Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

### Definition of Trust:

The firm belief in or confidence in, the honesty, integrity, reliability, and justice of another person. It is faith in or reliance on the person trusted.

## **God is Trustworthy**

1/ He’s Conscious- This means God is aware of our needs.

The word of God say’s in Matthew 6:8 *“For your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”*

Isn’t it good to know that we have a God that is omniscient or all knowing? That’s the first reason why you should trust Him, because He already knows everything about you, even the number of hairs on your head. God is conscious of every detail in your life.

2/ He’s Concerned- 1 Peter 5:7 says, *“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”*

Yes He cares about you! Whatever concerns you concerns Him. So whenever you’re faced with problems, situations and obstacles that seem insurmountable just throw them on Him, He can handle them. God constantly cares for us, and because of that Peter can tell us that we are to cast all of our anxiety, all of our worries upon Him. His care is constant. It’s not occasional or sporadic; His care is total, not partial. His care is sovereign. Nothing can touch you or me without first touching God.

When it comes to trusting God, you can rest assured that He gives you and me constant care. I love Hebrews 13:5-6, where God has said, *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?””* Amen? That’s a great promise.

Many times throughout Scripture God assures us that He is never going to leave us.

### Illustration

Most of us have read the beautiful poem called Footprints. It’s brought comfort to many people. What’s interesting is that the person, who wrote Footprints, Margaret Fishback Powers, went through difficult trials. There was a man in her life that that she loved but he left her. She went through a time of deep sadness. She also caught meningitis and was literally bedridden for many months.

She came to the lowest place of her life. During that time, another man fell in love with her and wanted to marry her. But she wouldn’t marry him. She basically said, "I’m out of trust. I’m not sure I trust God. I know I don’t trust men. I’m out of trust."

One night in her diary as she lay in bed, she began to write that beautiful poem, Footprints, and that night God inspired her and she saw the answer.

### **I Had a Dream**

*"One night I dreamed a dream.*

*I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.*

*"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."*

3/ He's Consistent- This means He's faithful and you can also count on Him and trust Him to do exactly what He say's He will do, even if others let you down or are unreliable, God will never let you down, you can always rely on Him. 1 Corinthians 1:9 say's, "*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*" So even when we are unfaithful to God, God remains faithful to us.

4/ He's Capable- In Ephesians 3:20 it says, "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...*" God is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we could ask or think according to the power that He works in us. This would suggest to us that nothing is too hard for God. Even if He chooses not to grant our request, He's still capable of supplying our every need.

God wants us to rely solely on him and no one else, and not only on him, but in his attributes of character, like: His love, grace, mercy, His providence and His supplying power. He also wants us to rely on his integrity or on the fact that when he says he's going to do something that he is going to do it; but according to His time and way.

**Proverbs 3:5b** "*And lean not on your own understanding.*"

Do not trust your own wisdom. God has given each of you the privilege of either choosing to trust Him for wisdom or trust your own wisdom. If you are to know and experience God's plan for your life you need to turn to God for guidance.

### **The story of my personal experience...**

**"You Can Trust Him"** (by Dr. S. M. Lockridge, he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego CA. from 1953 – 1993, he entered heaven in 2000)

"He's the one who made us. It is He who made us and not we ourselves. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. No means of measure can define His limitless love, and no farseeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shoreless supply. I'm telling you today you can trust Him.

"No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing. He's enduringly strong, and He's

entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast, and He's immortally graceful. He's empirically, powerfully, and impartially merciful. He's the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon of this world. He's God's Son. He's the sinner's Savior. He's the centerpiece of civilization. I'm trying to tell you, Church, you can trust Him.

"He does not have to call for help, and you can't confuse Him. He doesn't need you, and He doesn't need me. He stands alone in the solitude of Himself. He's august, and He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's preeminent. He's the loftiest idea in literature. He's highest personality in philosophy. He's the supreme problem of higher criticism. He's the fundamental doctrine of truthology. He's the cardinal necessity of the spiritual religion. He's the miracle of the age; He's the superlative of everything good that you can call Him. I'm trying to tell you can trust Him.

"He can satisfy all your needs, and He can do it simultaneously. He supplies strength for the weak, and He's available for the tempted and the tried. He's sympathizes and He sees, He guards and He guides. He heals the sick, He cleansed the leper. He forgives sinners. He discharges debtors. He delivers the captives. He defends the people. He blesses the young. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent. He beautifies the meek. I'm trying to tell you, Church, you can trust Him. (Audience: Amen.) He's the key to knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the path of peace. He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness. He's the gateway to glory. You can trust Him.

"He's the master of the mighty. He's the capturer of conquerors. He's the head of heroes. He's the leader of legislators. He's the overseer of the overcomers. He's the Governor of the governors. He's the Prince of princes. He's the King of kings. He's the Lord of lords. You can trust him.

"His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His life is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy. His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you. He's indescribable because He's incomprehensible. He's irresistible because He's invincible. You can't get Him off your hands. You can't get off your mind. You can't outlive Him, and you can't live without Him. Pilate couldn't stand it when he found out that he couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him, and the witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree, and Herod couldn't kill Him. And death couldn't handle Him, and thank God, the grave couldn't hold Him. There was nobody before Him. There'll be nobody after Him. He has no predecessor. He'll have no successor. You can't impeach Him, and He's not going to resign. You can trust Him."

"He's the Alpha and the Omega. The beginning and the end. The first and the last. He's all things. He's the giver of life. He's the joy out of every sorrow. He's the light of every darkness. He's the peace that passes all understanding. He's the giver of every good and perfect gift. You can trust Him. There's no God before Him. There'll be none after Him. He is the first. He is the last. He is preeminent. There is no other God."

Hallelujah. Thank you, Lord. We give you praise, we give you glory. We walk out of this building today knowing, God, you are trustworthy. And God's people said, "Amen".