



***"Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart,
Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it,
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light
and your judgment as the noonday.
Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him..."
Psalm 37:3-7a (nasb)***

These verses began with "Trust in the Lord..." and after we looked at doing good, cultivating faithfulness, delighting in the Lord and committing our way, the song writer brings us right back to the main thing -

TRUST IN HIM

Part of delighting in the Lord, is in knowing Him. For many of us, we have known the Lord a long time. We initially came to a point of saying, "Yes, I trust that God is God." "Yes, I need a Savior," and "Yes, I trust that Christ is that for me." But what happens in the in between of "dwelling in the land"? What happens when our faith is shaken not stirred? What happens when instead of delighting in the Lord, we begin to question?

If you've been a believer for any length of time, I'm sure that God has shown Himself to be faithful. I'm confident that you can you look back and see His hand at work in your life. How can I be so confident? Because I know God. He is always worthy of trust. We might be short-sighted and forgetful people but if we take the time to look at the span of our life, we have to admit, He's been at work, even when our choices were the opposite He would have had for us and consequences continue to play out, He continues to work. Look back and just see how many times that He has proven Himself, even when He didn't have to.

I know there are some though, that are looking back and instead of seeing His hand at work, you only see the debris left in sin's wake. More time is spent with eyes fixed on past sin than on the One who desires to heal you from it. Dwelling in the land has been hard, and faithfulness may not have been the path you chose, but that can change, today. TRUST HIM NOW.

Like King David, we must come back to the main thing. Trust in Him. The beauty of His grace is that it's sufficient for every need. If He says your sin was removed by Christ dying on the cross, trust Him, it's gone. Like a loving parent, God may not remove the natural consequences of the sin but His forgiveness is still all over it! Accept it, and then extend forgiveness to yourself. Maybe you need to know that God's not as concerned with what you've done as He is with what you're going to do. You say, "Oh, but you don't know what I've done in the past!" No, I don't, but I know what He can do with your future!

As we trust in Him, the scripture says, ***"He will do it, He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday."*** Praise the Lord God! We don't have to conjure

up our own righteous living. As we delight in Him, as we trust Him, as we commit our way to Him, He's going to do it! He is going to accomplish whatever is needed.

Philippians 1:6 Paul says **"For I am CONFIDENT of this very thing, that He who began a good work us will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."** Halleluhah! He's not finished with any of us yet! He has taken it upon Himself not only to save us but to perfect us, and when God sets His mind to do something, you can absolutely count on it happening. There's not a sin that's too big for Him to remove, there's not a consequence that surprises Him and He doesn't already have a plan in place to deal with it. He's not going to look down and say, "Oh her? I don't know how to fix that for her." No, you will NOT be the one to stump God, He remains Omnipotent and Sovereign. Trust His promises. Instead of reminding yourself of your failures, remind yourself of His faithfulness. Just as the psalm says, "Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness."

Philippians 4:8 is a great place to start, it says, **"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."** The next verse goes on to say when we do that, that's when we will have the peace of God. Isn't that what we desire?

In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 9, there's a fascinating story of a man who brought his son to Jesus. This son had a demon that threw him into seizures and made him mute. He had been that way from birth and the man had asked the apostles to cast the demon out, but they couldn't do it. Jesus' answer was **"O unbelieving generation..."** But the father persists in asking, **"but if You can do anything and take pity on us and help us..."** Jesus responds, **"If You can? All things are possible to him who believes."** The father quickly replies, **"I do believe"** and then adds, **"Help my unbelief."** That's often where we're at, aren't we? We do believe, but Lord, help our unbelief.

You know the great news about that story? Jesus was able to work with just that small amount of belief. Through the power of His Spirit He was able to take that inkling of faith and do what needed to be done.

In this section of scripture, we are told to trust, and do good, dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness, committing our way to the Lord... That means, we need to act on the belief we do have. Believe, and work on believing even more. Trust in the Lord and allow Him to do the rest. Remember, it is for our benefit to follow these instructions. Whatever your circumstance may be, trust in the Lord God, and He will do it, He will bring forth your righteousness as the light!

Father, how simple it can be when we trust You. How messed up we can make it when we choose not to. We believe, but Lord help us in our unbelief. Help us to grow in our trust because You are worthy of complete trust, not just partial. Forgive us for thinking less of You than Who You are. Thank You that YOU are the One who will complete what You have begun and for the forgiveness we have in Christ Jesus, in whose name we come, assured that You are faithful to complete what You have begun. Amen