

Trusting God
February 13, 2011
Substitute Teacher, Barry Asmus

Before we were Christians, there were a billion stories of life without Christ. Ego-centric, my desires, my pleasures, my happiness, my control, my success, my needs - - - resist authority, willful rebellion, obsessions, compulsions, addictions, sinfulness - - - I, I, me, me - - - what about me? But in all that we sometimes heard a quiet song in the background of our lives - "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me"...

And finally we saw the light: Born again, forgiveness, trusting Christ for our salvation. For by grace are you saved thru faith. When the Infinite slipped into the bloodstream of human history, the world would never be the same again. You mean infinite like omniscient? Infinite like omnipresent? Infinite like omnipotent? You mean infinite like Ps. 139 - - He knows me - - He loves me - - He thinks about me constantly?

When the earth became the visited planet, "The world became flesh and dwelled among us", God's continuing story became a never ending one: a birth, a death, and a resurrection - - a solitary life who changed the world.

So now we want to please God - - church, fellowship, worship, generosity, obey commandments, love our neighbor, evangelize, work hard, etc. While we all believe that salvation is an undeserved gift, unmerited and unearned, many of us think that living a good Christian life takes some doing on our part: good works, striving, and effort that depends in part on our giftedness and moral goodness. Our primary motive is to please God with our best efforts. In all that we sometimes miss the scripture that says without faith it is impossible to please God; that trusting comes first; that pleasing God is actually a product of faith and trusting God.

Salvation - Trusting God - where grace saves us from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification (living the Christian life) - Trusting God - where grace saves us from the power of sin (only by grace can we say "no") and finally,

Glorification - Trusting God - where grace saves us from the presence of sin (Heaven is indeed a wonderful place)

For by grace are you saved, sanctified, and glorified. God does it all. Through faith, we trust, and that pleases God immensely.

How does taking the "trust" path happen? Often the catalyst is difficulty.

Trials, tribulations, and adversity are frequently God's greatest blessings, blessings in disguise, angels dressed in black but for a moment. Often the things we think will break us are actually the things that make us.

The Shela-Lyn and Brad Boxberger story of Trust will encourage us all.

Worship in Song and Reading

Trust in the Lord at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Ps 62:8

Song: *Trust and Obey*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, For there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will be withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. Ps 84:11,12

Song: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Theme song from movie: True Grit. You'll like it.)

Trust in Lord, and do good: so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him: and He shall bring it to pass. Ps 37:3-5

Song: *'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov 3:5,6

Song: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

O soul, are you weary and troubles? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. I Peter 5:7

...Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust. Ps 40:4

They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. Ps 125:1

Song: *Only Trust Him*

Come, ev'ry soul by sin oppressed – There's mercy with the Lord, And He will surely give you rest, By trusting in Him word.
Only trust Him, only Trust Him, Only Trust Him now; He will save you, He will save you, He will save you now.