"TRUST IN THE LORD"

Proverbs 3:5-6
12/11/2016



INTRODUCTION:

***God is trustworthy - Trust Him!**

I. The <u>OBJECT</u> of Our Trust
"in the Lord"

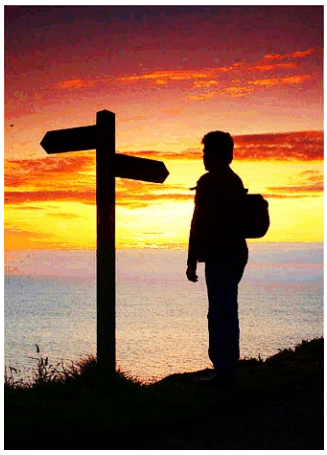
II. The <u>MEASURE</u> of Our Trust
"with all thine heart" (not half-hearted, double-minded - Ja. 1)

III. The <u>ERROR</u> of Our Trust
"and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Beware of arrogant independence)

IV. The <u>EXTENT</u> of Our Trust
"in all thy ways" (not just when calamity strikes or in the "big" decisions)

V. The <u>MANNER</u> of Our Trust
"acknowledge Him" (lit. “know Him”) - (cultivate a closeness to God in prayer)

VI. The <u>RESULTS</u> of Our Trust
"and He shall direct thy paths" (He shall <u>smooth</u> out your road)



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Redemption Meeting – 3-2-2023

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INTRODUCTION:

Proverbs 3:5-6 are two of the most appreciated and quoted verses in Scripture.

Reason: They encapsulate the whole of Christian life and faith. They contain the secret to success and security.

***God is trustworthy - Trust Him!**

"Trust" = Depend upon, as when a patient trusts a doctor for surgery
Or a traveler trusts a pilot for safe landing
Or a carpenter trusts a ladder for a stable platform

I. The OBJECT of Our Trust

"in the Lord"

God is always the object of our faith.

We trust not in man, angels, so-called "saints" (as in the Virgin Mary, etc.).

"In God we trust" – as it says on our one-dollar bill.

Isa 26:4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Man's ability and sufficiency is always short of where he should be. It is very much like a bed sheet that is too short. When it is pulled up close to your head, your feet become uncovered, and likewise visa versa. This picture reveals the inadequacy of man's efforts. Christ desires us to trust Him alone for our sufficiency (Prov. 3:5, 6).

Many times we trust man more than God!
We trust forecasters to predict accurately.
We trust airplanes not to crash.
We trust elevator cables not to snap
We trust social security to provide for retirement.
We trust the U.S. military to protect our country.

As D. L. Moody said, "Trust in yourself, and you are doomed to disappointment; trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you; trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue may blast it; but trust in God, and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.

" Luther gave a similar testimony when he said, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

A frantic mother called her pastor one day. She was experiencing a bad case of "nerves" as so many of us do. He thought he heard a child's voice while she was speaking, so he asked, "Is your child as upset and worried as you are?" "No, of course not," she replied. "But why not?" persisted the pastor. "I suppose she puts her trust in me and lets me do the worrying," she answered. "Then make a transference. Try to think of yourself as a child of God and, just as your child puts her trust in you, put your trust in God."

"Trust God's wisdom to guide,
Trust His goodness to provide;
Trust His saving love and power,
Trust Him every day and hour;
Trust Him as the only light,
Trust Him in the darkest night;
Trust Him in sickness, trust in health,
Trust in poverty and wealth;
Trust Him living, dying too,
Trust Him all the journey through."

II. The MEASURE of Our Trust

"with all thine heart" (not half-hearted, double-minded - Ja. 1)

Doubt dishonors God.

"Take the plunge" and rely on God completely.

Those who doubt their salvation probably have a problem simply trusting God with a child-like, 100% dependency.

Just as salvation is a 100% dependency on Christ and 0% on anything or anyone else, so should the Christian life be.

III. The ERROR of Our Trust

"and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Beware of arrogant independence)

To "lean" on – means to depend on or to rely on.

"Understanding" = *binah* = intelligence

Ex. Joshua & the Gibeonites -

> Joshua 9:14 - And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.

Solomon said:

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Proverbs 4:5

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

"Get understanding" (Prov. 4:5, 7). Implication: True understanding lies outside of ourselves – in God.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Because our understanding has been adversely affected by sin, it serves as an unreliable compass

"How is it," asked a French pastor of Dr. Griffith Thomas, "that the professors in our theological seminary at Paris are not even sure that Jesus ever existed in the flesh, and yet some of the poorest and most obscure members of my congregation know it beyond the peradventure of a doubt?" The poorest and most obscure members were "trusting in the Lord with all their heart," but the theological professors were "leaning upon their own understanding."
--Sunday School Times
From the book Best Sermon Illustrations by J. G. Lawson

A pilot was experiencing difficulty in landing his plane because of fog; and the airport decided to bring him in by radar. As he began to receive directions from the ground he suddenly remembered a tall pole in the flight path, and appealed in panic to the control tower about it. The reply came bluntly, "You obey instructions; we will take care of obstructions." How many a Christian hesitates to obey God's Word because of problems and difficulties! If we only obey, He is capable of dealing with the problems and difficulties.

Some Warnings about Decision Making:

1) Beware of making hasty decisions (Quick decisions)

2) Beware of making carnal decisions (Decisions when you are not close to God)

3) Beware of making self-serving decisions (out of selfish motives)

4) Beware of making unsure decisions (If its doubtful, its dirty)

5) Beware of making emotional decisions (without reason)

6) Beware of making faith-less decisions (throwing out “the fleece”)

IV. The <u>EXTENT</u> of Our Trust

"in all thy ways" (not just when calamity strikes or in the "big" decisions)
[message on prayer]

In every situation and circumstance in life.

"God, I need You."

Acknowledge Him in your:

- **Home life** (Lord, how can I be a better wife, husband, mother, father? I need your wisdom that I might have better parenting skills)
- **Vacations** (Which place & activity would most help our family and glorify you?)
- **Vocation** (Which career choice should I pursue?)
- **Location** (Where would you have me live and serve you? Let me be content where I am. But I desire you to direct my steps for the future)
- **Education** (Should I attend college? If so, where?)
- **Friendships** (Keep bad company away from me, Lord? Give me your choice of friends.)
- **Recreation** (Should we own a TV? If so what should we watch? Is this program permissible to you Lord?)
- **Church Ministry** (Lord, you have led me to this assembly. How should I serve you here?)
- **Devotional Life** (Psalms 119:18 - Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.)
- **Lesson Prep.** (Give me wisdom, Lord. What is it that my class really needs to hear?)
- **Standards** (Are these clothes acceptable to you, Lord? As a Christian, what hair style would be most appropriate for me to represent you Lord Jesus?)

Make God part of all you do. Breathe prayer all day, every day, 24/7.

We are often distracted away from having such a continual communion with God.

V. The MANNER of Our Trust

"acknowledge Him" (lit. “know Him”) - (cultivate a closeness to God in prayer)

“Acknowledge” = *yada* – The common word for to “know”.

As in Genesis 4:1 - “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived”
Or Genesis 8:11 “…Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.”
The word “knowledge is in the word “acknowledge.”

--Make God part of every part of your life.

Prayer is often the first area in our Christian life that gets neglected. (and yet it is the most important)

God created man to fellowship with Him (Sin has broken that fellowship; but the Grace of God in Christ restores that fellowship)

Man's communication with God. He communicated to us in His Word - the Scriptures (written Word), and by His Son - Jesus Christ (incarnate Word) (Heb.1:1-ff).

Prayer is simply: "Asking, seeking, and knocking" Mt.7:7

Different types of prayer: Asking for self; asking for others (intercession); praise & worship, thanksgiving etc.

Prayer is not:

1) Reciting memorized poems or Scripture (with vain repetition)
2) Reminding God of that which He already knows (the prayers of many people seem to be sermons at God or reminding Him of things He already knows)

When we pray we are not telling God or asking God for something He is not aware of already - so why pray?

Basically for 3 reasons:

1) **it pleases God**, 2) **it glorifies God**, and 3) **it benefits us**.

A. Prayer PLEASES GOD (He desires it)
Prov 15:8 -The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

1. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD
1Thes 5:17-18 - Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Tim 2:8 - I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

2. IT IS A COMMAND OF GOD
Ps 27:8 - When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

Luke 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Col 4:2-3 - Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us

1 Pet 4:7 - But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Rom. 12:12 - Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 Tim 2:1 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Eph 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (note: the word "all")

If it is a command to pray then not to pray is **sin!** and a lack of prayer is **sin!** (Samuel said to Israel: 1 Sam 12:23 - Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:)

B. **Prayer GLORIFIES GOD** (He is shown (proven) to be mighty, sovereign, faithful, etc.)

1. **IT REVEALS <u>GOD'S GREATNESS</u>**

Jer 33:3 - Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

ex. Christ's prayer before raising Lazarus (Jn.11:39-42).
The lost (skeptical) world needs to see a God who is alive, and a
God who responds. (ex. Elijah I Ki.18:36-39)

2. **IT REVEALS <u>MAN'S DEPENDANCE</u>**

We are dependant, limited in what we know and can do. We need
supernatural power!

Technological advances today can tend to make us:

a) Proud - <u>I</u> can do it!

b) Independent - I can do it <u>without God</u>!

(My observation: Prayer has always been an activity men struggles with (ex. Disciples <u>sleeping</u> in the Garden of Gethsemane) Yet today
it appears that it is done <u>less</u> frequently than ever before in history, although tons of books have been written on the subject.

Your prayer life actually reveals how <u>humble</u> you are.
In prayer (worship, praise) you are acknowledging God for who He is.

In prayer (asking forgiveness) you are acknowledging your own sinfulness and need for forgiveness.

In prayer (making personal requests known) you are acknowledging your dependence. (i.e. that you do not know all, nor do all - that is we can't do that which is of eternal worth by ourselves)

In prayer (intercession) you are acknowledging that the world does not revolve around only you; that others have needs that God is interested in meeting.

C. Prayer BENEFITS US

1. PRAYER IS GOD'S APPOINTED WAY FOR HIS CHILDREN TO RECEIVE THINGS

The world expects to get things solely by work, planning, scheming or by accident. "Ye have not because you ask not" Ja.4:2 (not b\c you work not, plan not etc.)

Our needs are met by prayer:
God wants to give guidance (An ability to <u>know</u>)
Prov 3:5-6 - 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.

God wants to give us an ability to <u>do</u> that which we (by ourselves) cannot.
Matt 17:21- Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

God wants to give us gifts (blessings) to <u>have</u> that which we do not have the ability acquire for ourselves

Song: "My Father is rich in houses & lands, He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands; Of Rubies and diamonds, of silver & gold, His coffers are full - He has riches untold."

2. PRAYER IS GOD'S WAY FOR CHRISTIANS TO HAVE FULLNESS OF JOY

How happy is a child who never asks & receives from his parents.
Prayer is the secret to gaining real joy!
Jn.16:24 - "that your joy may be full"

3. PRAYER IS NEEDED TO GIVE US SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

"It is foolish and wicked to try to do God's work without God's power"
2 Chron. 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The power of the Holy Spirit is vital! Cp. the book of Acts - the power & boldness of the disciples because of prayer. See Acts 6 - the results of the apostle's praying. Cp.Eph.3:19

We are always looking for better <u>methods</u> (programs); what we need is better men.

Prayer is a necessity ("don't leave home without it")

Communication with God is Two-Way. Speaking in Prayer and then Getting the Answer from His Word, the Bible.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- When in sorrow, call John 14
- When men fail you, call Psalm 27
- If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
- When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
- When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
- When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
- When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
- When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11
- When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23
- When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Cor. 13
- For Paul's secret to happiness, call Col. 3:12-17
- For idea of Christianity, call 1 Cor. 5:15-19
- When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31-39
- When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 11:25-30
- When the world seems bigger then God, call Psalm 90
- When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8:1-30
- When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121
- When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67
- For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55
- When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1
- How to get along with fellow men, call Romans 12
- When you think of investments/returns, call Mark 10
- If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
- If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37
- If you are losing confidence in people, call 1 Cor. 13
- If people seem unkind, call John 15
- If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126
- If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, call Psalm19

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day!
Feed your faith, and doubt will starve to death!

VI. The <u>RESULTS</u> of Our Trust

"and He shall direct thy paths" (He shall <u>smooth</u> out your road)

"Direct" = *yashar* – to make straight

Same word as in

Proverbs 4:25
Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look **straight** before thee.

Psalm 5:8
Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way **straight** before my face.

2 Chron. 32:30
This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it **straight** down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, **make straight** in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 45:2
I will go before thee, and make the crooked places **straight**: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

God smoothes the path vertically and horizontally (cp. Heb. 12).

Hebrews 12:12-13
Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; [13] And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

When God directs (makes straight) our path it will be level, right, correct. That path will be pleasing to Him and to you.

Life is a series of rough paths without God's leading.

Proverbs 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but **the way of transgressors is hard**.

We should all want that "good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. " (Romans 12:2)

CONCLUSION: Song: "Lord, I Need You" (Ron Hamilton)