

TRUSTING COMPLETELY IN THE LORD

Psalm 37:1-11

Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalm 37 is a Psalm of David that is overall a contrasting of the ways of the righteous versus the ways of the wicked. For the sake of brevity we're just going to be focusing on the first 11 verses, which encourages the righteous, but if you read through the whole Psalm it becomes more apparent of that contrast. There are five key words that we can see from this passage of Scripture of what God is exhorting us to do, through the inspired Word of God given to David. Those words are delight, trust, commit, rest, and wait. This isn't an expository message that breaks down the full context of the message as much as we'll be looking at how delighting in the Lord, committing to the Lord, Resting in the Lord, and waiting on the Lord is dependent on our fully trusting in the Lord. While one may think "oh that's in the Old Testament, we're in the New Covenant now, we're in the age of grace, so I'll just stick to the New Testament." It bothers me that people will be told, even by pastors, to just stick to the New Testament. Yet, outside of Jesus' parables, the majority of what Jesus spoke was in references to Old Testament passages of Scripture. Does anyone know what book of the Torah, what we call the Old Testament, Jesus quoted from the most? The top three are the Psalms, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah. Deuteronomy, for the most part, is the spelling out of the law of God to the Israelites although it was not just that. It gives the whys of God's ways. What escaped the understanding of the Jewish leaders in Jesus' day was just that. Through His many teachings, Jesus explained to the people and the Jewish leaders what God was expecting of them, the whys of God's ways, by referencing the writings in the Torah, referencing the spirit of the law as opposed to the letter of the law. Jesus was

pointing to the royal law of loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind and loving our neighbors as ourselves, not in the ceremonial and tribal laws that are no longer extant. We aren't meant to take someone out and stone them anymore if someone commits adultery. Jesus also spoke of the prophecies that were pointing to Him. Jesus used many of the Psalms in referring to prophesy, like when He cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1) when He was hanging on the cross. I've heard it argued for Deuteronomy and also Psalms as being what Jesus quoted the most. I don't intend to do a study or exposition of that really, as there are already plenty of lists that you can find on the internet, and a contributing factor can be in the drawing a distinction of what is a quote of Jesus' from the Torah and what is just common dialogue. For instance, was each time Jesus said I AM, a quote of when Moses asked God who to tell the children of Israel had sent him, and God said, "I AM who I AM." In the book of John we have Jesus recorded as giving His many I AM statements. "I Am the Bread of Life." "I AM the Light of the world." "I AM the Door of the sheep." "I AM the Good Shepherd." "I AM the Resurrection and the Life." "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." "I AM the True Vine." There are many other times Jesus said the two little words I am successively, such as "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matthew 9:13) Were those intentional references by Jesus, to God saying, "I AM who I AM"? I would have to believe that there was not one word that Jesus spoke that wasn't perfectly instructed by God the Father. Jesus said, "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." (John 12:49-50) Repentance; everlasting life; see the connection? Our faith fully depends in our trusting in the Lord. Really, those two words are interchangeable. When we are struggling, in our faith, it IS imperative that we study God's Word, so to have a knowledge and understanding of God and His ways, to where we can live in the wisdom that He desires to work in us.

Scripture, that was canonized into what we call the Holy Bible, IS the inspired and authoritative Word of God. As the Apostle Paul pointed out to Timothy, to whom he referred to as his spiritual son, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17) For doctrine: the knowing what we know, is the understanding of the major principles that God is teaching us. An example could be what the Apostle John tells us in John 1:1-5, 10-14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light

of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, **the glory as of the only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth." That speaks of the doctrine of Jesus' divinity. Jesus Himself spoke of His divinity when the disciple Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." (John 14:8-11)

Why is Jesus' divinity, that is Him being of God important. The Apostle Paul explains that, "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (Romans 8:3-4) Only the sinless Son of God, Jesus, could be that propitiation, that is, the perfect fulfilling of God's justice of our sin against Him. To go a level deeper in that, we are being called INTO Him, to be One in Him, not that we become our own god, but we become one in God through Jesus Christ. Jesus also said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-20) One thing that seems to trip up God's people, even preachers of the gospel, is in the differentiating of the law and God's grace. Throughout Jesus' teachings, never did He shy away or backstep from God's laws. He actually elaborated on them more fully, giving the true meaning of the law but He didn't say, "you're in God's grace now, just believe." Yes, Jesus gave us His Word saying, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to

condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17) Yet just before that Jesus told the Jewish leader Nicodemus, that one must be born-again in order to see the kingdom of God; that is to be saved. He elaborated on that by saying that one must be **born of the Spirit**.

That, brothers and sisters, is where the fun begins. The other night I was in the midst of preparing a message for today and I just could not get going. I took to the internet, and I stumbled upon a video message of how God works in us, even in our DNA. It was a four hour video presentation and I really didn't feel like I wanted to endure it all but I was led to watch the whole thing-all the way to the closing prayer. The pastor giving the message was talking about the Mark of the Beast and how we are being conditioned as a society to willingly receive the Mark, "for the greater good of mankind" by taking the vaccination, having businesses scan your forehead for your temperature, and then in how the gospel of Jesus Christ has been hindered in all of that. I am not saying any of the present vaccinations are the Mark of the Beast. But we are being conditioned to accept it when it comes. And it is believed that the Mark of the Beast in some way will alter one's DNA to where one is programmed as being Satan's. I don't suppose anyone wants for me to lay out the four-hour message to you at this time, and to be honest, it was pretty deep. It went a lot deeper than the fact that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that we must just believe in Him. The highlights of which are pertinent for our message is this: when we receive Jesus into our hearts, "as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Corinthians 1:22), that is when God begins working in us, transforming us into Christ-likeness.

You could say that we are being re-programmed or having the programming enabled within us, according to God's foreknowledge, to be as children of God by being made like Christ. Yet, the reason I say it can be us being program-enabled is that anyone that knows computer coding, a coding script can be put into the code that basically does nothing unless it is slightly altered to then work with the rest of the code. I used to be into game modding, in my former life so to speak, and it was found in the game coding lots of stuff that never made it into the game. Coders found coding that had been disabled, which included different missions and different functions that the game developers chose for one reason or another to leave out, or it just didn't make the cut. An example is that one character can be placed before a line of code that just turns it into a comment. Remove that one character and it becomes active code. Another example is in the code there can be a zero or one that either enables or disables a certain function. Make it a zero it is inactive. Change it to a one and it becomes active. One digit can massively change the function of the coding. That really speaks of what Jesus said, "with men this is impossible, but

with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) It can be said, as we are all born into a sin-nature we have the code of eternal life with God in us but it had been disabled-that is, it needs to be enabled. You know how Jesus said, "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21) It is in us but with sin, it has been disabled. Jesus alone can enable that. "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:12) Think of how Adam and Eve ate of the fruit that was forbidden and suddenly they were changed-for they did die, despite what Satan tried to tell Eve, that she would surely not die but be as gods. The same can be said about generational curses. It can be in your dna to have a propensity towards drug addiction, alcoholism, sexual immorality, having a temper, being lazy, etc. And as we are all born into sin, therefore "all have sinned [against God] and fall short of the glory of God. That is just how we are programmed, in our dna. Listen to what King David says as he was inspired to write in Psalm 139, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." (Psalm 139:13-16) Similarly, God told the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5) "That's great and all", you might think, but that was King David and the great prophet Jeremiah. Listen to this, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:28-32) Another way of saying that is, "if God is working in us, who can be against us!"

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The Apostle Paul says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:1-2) When we receive Christ, His Spirit begins working in us, renewing our mind, changing our heart as David referred to in Psalm 51. That is why we are told to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works

in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (**Philippians 2:12-13**) That speaks to what they say in the computer field, garbage in, garbage out. What we allow ourselves to be programmed with is who we become. This invariably leads down the path of whether we are once saved always saved, called eternal security. We have already been told to "work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling."

Let me just say this. In **Revelation 20**, we have God on His great white throne of judgment a book will be opened and each person will be judged by their works. Recall David saying "in Your book they were all written"? That is separate from the Book of Life-and we all should make sure we are in that book. But who wants God to open our book and just see the works of Satan from page to page? That too can all be read from our DNA as the video I watched argued. What we look at, what we do, good or bad, it IS being recorded, likely in our DNA, for it becomes us. You ever realize how the more you spend time with God and His Word, He becomes you? Likewise though, you ever notice how the more you listen to ungodly music or watch ungodly movies or have ungodly friends it seems to rub off more and more to where it becomes you. That is why Paul tells us to "reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (**Romans 6:11**) We are being made into Christ-likeness, to eventually be as one in Christ. In **Galatians 2:20** Paul tells us, of which we should aspire to as well, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." If anyone wonders as I did, why God wasn't reprogramming me, so to speak, so that I COULD live that abundant life that Jesus spoke of, it can only come about in complete surrenderedness to Christ. If we keep allowing ourselves to be reprogrammed by the things of this world we are never going anywhere in what God has already prepared the code for us to walk in.

Now for our passage of Scripture in Psalm 37. "Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb." You ever notice how some of the most evil and diabolical persons on earth live to ripe old ages? First of all, God does use ungodly people for His purpose, most noticeably to us maybe is in how God judges His people. As it has become painfully obvious that the powers that be are pushing evil agendas such as homosexuality, transgenders, and even pedophilia, and they are stirring the pot by dividing the nation with left vs. right, black vs. white, men vs. women, and citizens vs. immigrants-and by the way, all of this is being pushed worldwide. It has led church leaders and those who have an understanding of God's ways, that we are being reminded of what God had Solomon say to the Israelites, "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and

heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) We are not being called to take up arms and fight for our justice. There was a very specific purpose for God telling the Israelites to wipe out all of the descendents of the Canaanites. God sent forth the flood yet soon afterwards we read of the tower of Babel incident as well as God's curse on Canaan. Long story short, God just didn't become unhinged and blood-thirsty in the Old Testament. God was dealing with abominations that He wanted eliminated.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday." There is certainly nothing wrong with us asking the questions such as, "God, I'm confused, what does this all mean?" "Heavenly Father, why does it seem like You are a million miles away from me?" Until we get His answer we have to trust Him. There are two words that are repeated in our passage of Scripture and that is TRUST and WAIT. It is in our waiting when we find out how much we are really trusting Him. Are we continuing in reading His Word and spending time with Him in prayer while we are waiting for Him? One thing I speak to the Lord in times of confusion and in a lack of understanding is this, "God you say You have not given us a Spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) "Lord this is really bothering me, I humbly ask for Your truth as Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth. (John 16:13)

Then we wait. Sometimes He may lead you to a video series on Youtube or a four-hour lecture on video, yet most of the time He will lead us into His truth by studying His Word. "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." I just read the other day a discussion on a forum about what people would do if they suddenly had 2 million dollars. The old me would have spent that 2 million probably within days. What came to mind is what Jesus said to be praying, when He gave the disciples a format for prayer, in what we call the Lord's prayer. He said, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Luke 11:2) How many here would be ready to submit wholly to the Lord if they came into 2 million dollars? As Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much." (Luke 16:10) That is why you can read about past lottery winners that became penniless not long afterwards.

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; **Do not fret** because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; **Do not fret**—it only causes harm." Do not fret. He says it twice. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, right? An author does what? Writes a book.

Jesus is rewriting our book for God's glory and for us to be blessed, to live life to the fullest. Fretting and worrying most definitely can change who we are from the inside out. That is why we are told to be "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (**1 Peter 5:7**) We have to give our worries to God, all it does is cause stress which leads to poor health, a changing of our DNA. This great big computer program that we are in, which I've heard it theorized, even by non-Christians, that we are living in a simulation, like the movie the Matrix, it is all designed by and controlled by God. Nothing escapes His notice. God didn't program evil to exist to just mess with us though. Evil exists because of free-will. Satan and the demons that rebelled with him were not created as evil beings, they chose to rebel against God. Since we are born into sin, we now have the choice to continue in being separated from God and be in sin or we can accept the free gift of God's grace through the redemption of our souls in Christ Jesus. " In Christ we are made a new creation as we are born again. Along the way, God will reveal some code that still dwells in you that needs reprogramming. God has revealed it to me in dreams to where I've woke up and said, "Lord I don't want that in my mind and heart, please forgive me of my sins and cleanse me of that." When God brings something out of your heart or mind, really out of your being, your DNA, it is still your free-will to either keep it or ask God to remove it. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (**1 John 1:9**)

"For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." There is an end to the programming of our lives on this earth but God knows everything about you, how many hairs are on your head, and what you have need of. God's programming of our lives is not like computer games where when we die we just respawn and go again. "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (**Hebrews 9:27**) When God opens your book, what's going to be on it? I like to think that just as we have red letter editions of Jesus' Words in the Bible, for those who are in Christ, all the words that are written in our book will be in red, that is, by the blood of Jesus and then surely our names will be written in the Book of Life. Choose life brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus and let Him work in You His program for your eternal future to where we will be joint-heirs with Jesus (**Romans 8:17**) and we will reign with Him (**2 Timothy 2:12**).