

## TRUSTING COMPLETELY IN THE LORD

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### 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.

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For our message tomorrow we're going to be looking at a passage of Scripture in **Proverbs 3**, which includes verses 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 shall direct your paths." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) So to get us meditating on God's Word about trusting Him with all of our heart, I decided to revisit a message that we had a little less than a year and a half ago.

### Trusting God Completely

As we were going through the Psalms this past summer we came to realize that the Psalmists, primarily being King David, acknowledged God as their God, as the one and only God, and also as their Lord, as God, the Creator of all things, reigns sovereign over all of His creation, and then also that God alone, through Christ Jesus, is our Savior, for it is only in the Righteousness of God that we can be saved. Also, we are to acknowledge God as our Heavenly Father. The New Testament reveals to us the New Covenant that God has established for all who will believe on Christ Jesus and receive Him, so as to become as Jesus said, born-again, that is, by receiving the Holy Spirit to become a child of God AND to then have life eternal in Christ, that begins at that moment that you receive the Spirit of Christ in your heart. As the Apostle John tells us, "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." (**John 1:12-13**)

Jesus stated, as recorded in **John 3:16-17**, "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." How many have believed on Christ and have received His Holy Spirit? Once we believe that God Almighty sent His only begotten Son Jesus, to die on a cross for our sins, taking our sins upon Himself to the grave, and then raising from the dead on the third day, conquering death and evil, and then making it possible for us too to overcome the sting of death and have eternal life in Christ, what happens next?

Once we have believed on Christ and have received Him we have then become a child of God to where the Holy Spirit then guides us, as Jesus said, in Him, as He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life". (**John 14:6**) The Holy Spirit guides us in the Truth of the Word through God's inspired Word, the Holy Bible which gives us understanding to life according to His Way. As the Apostle Paul told his spiritual son Timothy, "be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (**2 Timothy 2:15**) and that "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**)

So then, it is imperative, not just meant as a suggestion, that we ALL spend time in God's Word. How can we get to trusting God completely? We have to believe in His promises, which we get from His Word, and by living in the faith that we have in Christ Jesus. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**" (**Hebrews 11:6**) Just prior to that the writer(s) of Hebrews tells us, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for [the promises of God], the evidence of things not seen [His creation, the testimony of many witnesses, the historical evidence, etc]. We are already told that it is in the Word of God that will make us complete in Christ and thoroughly equipped for every good work! We aren't diligently seeking God, as a child of God, to be saved though, we are diligently seeking Him because we are saved and are living in obedience to His Spirit and His Word. The Apostle Paul explains that by saying, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

A part of walking in His good works is spending time in reading and studying His Word so that we can know Him, trust Him, and honor Him.

So let's go to the Word. In Psalm 37 there are five key words that we can see of what God is exhorting us to do, through the inspired Word of God given to us by King David. Those words are delight, trust, commit, rest, and wait. A way to remember those words are "Do take care read [His] Word". D-T-C-R-W. Delight, trust, commit, rest, and wait. How can we then delight in the Lord, trust in the Lord, fully commit ourselves to the Lord, rest in the Lord, and wait on the Lord? We have to believe that He is who He says He is and believe in His Word and His many promises. God spoke through Isaiah, the prophet, saying "Remember the former things of old [studying Scripture], for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'" We are to be putting our trust in His Word. Another important element to our putting our wholehearted trust in God is believing His Word that says that He is perfect in all of His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**). If anything is going wrong around us or in our lives, it is not because of Him. He is perfect in all of His Ways and Works! That means, for us to be trusting God, we have to know Him.

In the book of John we have Jesus recorded as speaking His many I AM statements. Jesus said, "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 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 to Moses, "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 and turning to Him for the forgiveness of sins. Really, those two words are interchangeable. Whether we are struggling in our faith, or not, it IS imperative that we study God's Word, so as 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, and to believe in Him as being who He says He is. The Apostle Paul speaks of four key things that God is working in us through Christ Jesus, through His Spirit, in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and our Redemption. He is also working in us His fruit of the Spirit of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

I'm going to read for you again 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. 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."

That all sounds like an active faith that we have in Christ, doesn't it? We don't just believe on Christ Jesus and then just go about our merry way and wait to ushered into spiritual bliss. Our life in Christ Jesus begins when we believe on Christ Jesus and receive His Spirit, to which we have become a child of God, to which God is now our Heavenly Father that works in us His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, His fruit of the Spirit of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Lastly, we are told by Jesus, our Lord and Savior, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:43-45) We have no way of knowing who truly is our enemy, who is going to make into heaven, who is going to overcome in this world, and then who is not. Likewise we are told by the Apostle Paul, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)

"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." "Do take care read [His] Word". D-T-C-R-W. Delight, trust, commit, rest, and wait.