



TRUSTING FAITH!

A Topical Message

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Proverbs 3:5-6

Sunday Morning Service

Sermon given on January 26, 2020



Pastor Rick Lancaster

Trusting Faith!

Proverbs 3:5-6

Opening Comments

- I have a question, just to make sure I am talking to the right crowd with this message
- Is there anything in your life that you need to trust God for?
- Something that if God doesn't show up – will be bad!?
- Turn to **2 Corinthians 11**
- Today we will pause the study through 2 Corinthians
- A week ago yesterday I shared a message at the Monthly Men's Breakfast
- Pastor Randy talked to the Board and they agreed that I should share this message with the whole church
- Today we are going to talk about trust – specifically – trusting God
- Almost all Christians would say that they trust God
- But very few truly understand what it means to trust God
- We have been looking at this letter from the Apostle Paul
- He was a man who was well acquainted with difficult times
- **2 Corinthians 11:22-29**
- And these are just the things Paul went through in his ministry sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Turn to **2 Corinthians 1**
- He also had some kind of physical ailment
- Paul endured more than most of us will ever have to in this life
- At the beginning of this letter he spoke about the effect this had upon him
- **2 Corinthians 1:8-11**
- Even with all the terrible stuff that happened in Paul's life; he trusted God
- Paul was remarkable but he wasn't special
- He gave us an example to follow – but not his example **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

- It is my goal this morning to help you to better understand what it means to trust God
- God was able to work powerfully through Paul because Paul trusted God
- God can work powerfully through you too – in your life, your marriage, your family, your health, your finances, your career
- And whether that happens or not will come down to if you can trust God
- Let's pray and then we will get into it
- **Pray**

Teaching

- The title of this morning's message is **Trusting Faith!**
- Let's start with a definition of the word trust
Trust: belief in and reliance on the integrity, strength, ability, surety, etc., of a person or thing. Confident expectation of something; hope.
- You are probably familiar with the verse **Proverbs 3:5-6**
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.
- Over the years I have counseled many people and it is not uncommon that I am encouraging them to trust God for something
- It is also very common for those people to tell me they do trust God
- But as I look into their lives and hear what they are saying I can tell that there is a problem with how they are trusting God
- There is a disconnect to what they think trusting God looks like and what it actually is
- Who is familiar with the teambuilding exercise of the Trust Fall?
- Someone stands with their back to a group of people, closes their eyes and falls backward – they trust the people to catch them as they fall
- Two things are going on – they believe the people are able to catch them and that they are willing to catch them
- They also rely upon them to do it – which they prove by falling backward – that is the evidence of what they believe
- Trusting God works the same way – it begins with faith **Hebrews 11:6**

...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*.

- What you believe about God is what you can trust Him for
- What do you believe God can do in your life? Any answer other than absolutely anything is weak faith! Jesus said **Luke 18:27**

“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

- We might say we believe it, but do we truly believe it?
- If I were to ask a few of you to come up here to catch me in a trust fall, if you said you could and would catch me – I would do it
- If my four-year old granddaughter said she would catch me I wouldn't do it. Why? I don't believe she could catch me
- Listen, God's Word is filled with His promises to catch us **Isaiah 58:9**

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’

- Is that true! Do you believe it! Prove it! Or **Deuteronomy 31:8**
And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.

- Is that true! Do you believe it! Prove it! Or **John 14:1-3**

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- Is that true! Do you believe it! Prove it!
- And there are so many more – You cannot trust the God you do not know - And you cannot know God apart from His Word
- So, the first step to trusting God more is getting to know Him better
- Read the Bible, get into a Life Group – several happening every week
- Listen/Watch the Word being taught
- God's Word tells us what God has promised and repeatedly tells us that He is able to do whatever He promises
- So then, why do we struggle to trust Him
- For most it is not that God is not able to catch them
- For some it is trusting whether or not God is willing to act on our behalf
- It is not if He can, but if He is willing – like the leper in **Luke 5:12**

And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on *his* face and implored Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

- He believed that Jesus could do it, just not certain He was willing to heal him
- This leper had a lifetime of experience with human rejection and disappointment – transferred all that experience into his faith – caused him to doubt God’s willingness
- We do the same thing – we take our experiences from the past and then project those things onto our relationship with God
- Jesus’ response to the leper – “I am willing!”
- Truly trusting God; first, takes God at His Word and believes in His promises – believe that He can because He can! He can catch you!
- Second, believe that God is willing to act on your behalf – God will catch you!
- The third part may be the hardest part – you have to let go and fall!
- The trust fall exercise is pointless if someone doesn’t lean back and fall into the arms of those behind them
- There are two aspects to the trust fall that are important for us to note
- The person doing the trust fall is helpless and blind
- The only time you need to trust God is when you are helpless to catch yourself and blind to the outcome of your circumstance
- A couple of weeks ago, our three-week old great-grandson Hendrix was taken to hospital – ended up getting a spinal tap – weren’t sure what was going on with him
- Kelly and I are three thousand miles away – we were helpless
- We were blind to how it was going to turn out – needed to trust God
- Compare that to my four-year-old granddaughter Aurora smashed her finger playing with a door – I knew what to do and have a pretty good idea how it is going to turn out
- Have to trust God with Hendrix but not so much with Aurora’s finger
- So, how do we trust God with Hendrix
- I believe God can heal him or use the doctors to heal him
- And I believe that He is willing to do that
- And then I choose what my next actions are

- First, confess that we are helpless to do anything about Hendrix – only God is able
 - Second, I remind myself that I am blind to how it is going to turn out
 - This is where the real work of trusting God happens
 - You see, we tend to project our current circumstances and imagine the outcome
 - Little Hendrix was in serious danger
 - One of the possible outcomes was that he could die
 - That is a terrifying thought – but was it going to happen?
 - We didn't know – we were blind to the outcome
 - In 2 Corinthians 10, Paul tells us that we have everything we need to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ
 - When you find yourself in a circumstance where you need to trust God
 - First, remind yourself that God is with you – that God is for you – His thoughts toward are only good always – never evil – because He is good
 - Remind yourself that he is able to act on your behalf – He is able to catch you – ask Him to do something – not how to do it, just to do it
 - For the last few days we have had to do that with Kelly's mother
 - She has pneumonia - They have had a hard time maintaining an IV
 - Second, remind yourself that God is willing to act on your behalf
- Romans 8:32**
- **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?**
 - If you are in Christ, there is no reason for God to deny you anything
 - God is sovereign and so He determines what we get or don't get, but His reason for acting or not acting are found in Him alone
 - Third, remind yourself that you are helpless and blind – only God is able and only God can see the outcome that He intends
 - And then finally, ask God what He wants you to do
 - In the case of Hendrix, all we could do was pray and to invite others to join us in prayer
 - The result of trusting God is peace of mind **Isaiah 26:3-4**

You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on You*, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, *is everlasting strength*.

- Friends, to experience more of God's power in our lives we need to be more trusting
- God is worthy of trust – in everything and about everything
- God is able and willing to catch you – believe and fall into His strong, loving arms
- That doesn't mean everything is going to turn out the way you want them to, but when we trust God, we can accept whatever He brings into our lives
- Knowing that He loves us enough to give us His Son
- Trust God with your whole life
- **Let's pray!**