

TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH
“FAITH, PRAYER & TRUST — Part 2”
“TRUST”
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GOOD EVENING, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS. I AM BLESSED THAT YOU ARE HERE AND I PRAY THAT YOU WILL BE BLESSED WITH OUR ATTENTION TONIGHT ON “TRUST”, THE SECOND CORE FOUNDATION OF OUR CHRISTIAN BELIEF.

JUST TO REMIND YOU, THIS MORNING, WE DEFINED THE FAITH AS:

- 1. SOMETHING THAT IS BELIEVED WITH A STRONG CONVICTION; ESPECIALLY A SYSTEM OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND;**
- 2. A FIRM BELIEF IN SOMETHING FOR WHICH THERE IS NO PROOF.**

AND TRUST AS:

- 1. THE ASSURED RELIANCE ON THE CHARACTER, ABILITY, STRENGTH, OR TRUTH OF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING AND,**
- 2. THE ONE IN WHICH CONFIDENCE IS PLACED.**

AND WE SAID THAT FAITH IS AN INTERNAL CONDITION — WHAT WE BELIEVE IN, WHILE TRUST IS EXTERNAL — WHO WE BELIEVE IN.

BUT BEFORE WE DELVE FURTHER INTO THE SUBJECT OF FAITH, I WANT TO DEFINE FOUR ADDITIONAL CRITICAL WORDS FOR YOU SO THAT WE ALL CAN BE ON THE SAME PAGE. THE FIRST IS INTEGRITY:

INTEGRITY IS:

- 1. THE FIRM ADHERENCE TO A CODE OF ESPECIALLY MORAL VALUES;**
- 2. INCORRUPTIBILITY, AND;**
- 3. THE QUALITY OR STATE OF BEING COMPLETE.**

SIMPLY STATED, ONE WHO HAS INTEGRITY SAYS WHAT HE MEANS AND MEANS WHAT HE SAYS — WITH NO IF’S, AND’S OR BUT’S! AS JAMES INSTRUCTS US: “LET YOUR “YES” BE YES, AND YOUR “NO,” NO.”

THE SECOND WORD IS, FAITHFUL, WHICH MEANS:

- 1. STEADFAST IN AFFECTION OR ALLEGIANCE;**
- 2. FIRM IN ADHERENCE TO PROMISES OR IN OBSERVANCE OF DUTY, AND;**
- 4. GIVEN WITH STRONG AND BINDING ASSURANCE.**

AND CLOSELY ALLIED WITH FAITHFUL IS FAITHFULNESS, WHICH IS DEFINED AS BEING FAITHFUL ON A CONSTANT, AND STEADFAST BASIS;

AND THE FOURTH IS TRUSTWORTHINESS — WORTHY OF ONE’S TRUST.

LET ME EXPLAIN WHY THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO UNDERSTANDING THIS MESSAGE.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS CREDITED WITH THIS SAYING:

“YOU CAN FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME, AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME, BUT YOU CANNOT FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME.”

WELL, I PROPOSE TO YOU THAT THIS SAYING ALSO APPLIES TO TRUSTING MAN AND HIS WORD! I SAY, “YOU CAN TRUST SOME OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME, AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME, BUT YOU CANNOT TRUST ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME.”

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY THE PROMISES OF MAN? HOW MANY TIMES HAS SOMEONE FAILED TO FULFILL SOMETHING THAT HE OR SHE HAS PROMISED? IT HAS HAPPENED TO ALL OF US, HASN’T IT? SOMETIMES IT WAS SIMPLE FORGETFULNESS, BUT OFTEN TIMES IT WAS THAT SOMETHING BETTER CAME ALONG AND THE PROMISE TO YOU BECAME SECONDARY OR DISMISSED, ENTIRELY.

SIMPLY STATED, MAN AND HIS WORD CANNOT BE CONTINUALLY AND CONSISTENTLY TRUSTED AND THEREFORE, NOT ENTIRELY WORTHY OF OUR TRUST. MANKIND BY ITS NATURE IS NOT ALWAYS FAITHFUL NOR POSSESSES THE INTEGRITY THAT IS REQUIRED FOR OUR ETERNAL FAITH.

LET’S PRAY!

WITHOUT QUESTION, BELIEVING IN GOD’S PROMISES IS CRITICAL TO OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE!! BUT WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE POWER IS NOT IN THE PROMISE — IT IS IN THE PROMISOR — THE ONE WHO HAS MADE THE PROMISE! THE QUESTION THEN IS, “CAN GOD BE TRUSTED TO FULFILL HIS PROMISES?”

I WOULD SUGGEST TO YOU THAT IT IS INCOMPLETE TO SIMPLY BELIEVE THAT GOD CAN BE TRUSTED WITHOUT KNOWING WHY WE SHOULD PLACE OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM. WE MUST KNOW WHY WE BELIEVE, WHAT WE BELIEVE!

PETER TELLS US THE REASON WE NEED TO KNOW THIS IN 1 PETER 3:15. HE WRITES; "SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD IN YOUR HEARTS, ALWAYS BEING READY TO MAKE A DEFENSE TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU, YET WITH GENTLENESS AND REVERENCE". CONSEQUENTLY, NOT ONLY MUST WE KNOW FOR OUR OWN SAKE, BUT AS CHRISTIANS, IT IS OUR DUTY TO SHARE OUR BELIEFS AND THE BASIS FOR OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS.

MARK 11:22-24 SAYS: "AND JESUS ANSWERED SAYING TO THEM, "HAVE FAITH IN GOD. "TRULY I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'BE TAKEN UP AND CAST INTO THE SEA,' AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS GOING TO HAPPEN, IT SHALL BE GRANTED HIM. "THEREFORE I SAY TO YOU, ALL THINGS FOR WHICH YOU PRAY AND ASK, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THEM, AND THEY SHALL BE GRANTED YOU."

ANSWER TO PRAYER IS ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING LESSONS IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE. IN MANY HEARTS IT MUST RAISE THE QUESTION, "HOW CAN I EVER ATTAIN THE FAITH TO KNOW THAT I CAN RECEIVE EVERYTHING FOR WHICH I ASK?"

THE KEY WORDS OF VERSE 22 ARE: "HAVE FAITH IN GOD." — AND HAVING "FAITH IN GOD" IS A PREREQUISITE TO RECEIVING THE PROMISE OF AN ANSWER TO PRAYER. THE POWER TO BELIEVE A PROMISE DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON FAITH IN THE PROMISOR. AND TRUST IN THE PERSON OF GOD IS A PREREQUISITE FOR TRUSTING IN WHAT HE SAYS. WE MUST LIVE AND ASSOCIATE WITH GOD IN A PERSONAL WAY, WITH LOVING COMMUNICATION. GOD HIMSELF SHOULD BE EVERYTHING TO US. HIS HOLY PRESENCE IS REVEALED WHERE OUR WHOLE BEING IS OPENED AND EXPOSED TO HIS MIGHTY INFLUENCE. THERE THE CAPACITY FOR BELIEVING HIS PROMISES WILL BE DEVELOPED.

BUT WHY SHOULD WE PUT OUR BELIEVE OR TRUST IN GOD? WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR OUR TRUST IN GOD?

I WOULD SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THERE ARE FIVE ELEMENTS OR QUALITIES THAT ONE MUST POSSESS TO BE WORTHY OF TRUST. AND I FURTHER SUBMIT TO YOU THAT ONLY GOD POSSESS' THE ATTRIBUTES THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO WARRANT TRUST IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR LIFE.

THE FIRST ESSENTIAL IS THAT THE ONE WE TRUST MUST HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OUR NEEDS.

HE MUST ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY, THE RESOURCES AND THE DESIRE TO FULFILL EVERY PROMISE THAT HE HAS MADE TO US. AND LASTLY, THE ONE WE TRUST MUST FULFILL HIS PROMISES WITH FAITHFULNESS.

CLEARLY, OUR GOD HAS THE AUTHORITY, AS HE IS SOVEREIGN. 1 TIM 6:15B SAYS: "HE WHO IS THE BLESSED AND ONLY SOVEREIGN, THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, AND 1CH 29:11-13 TELLS US "YOURS, O LORD, IS THE GREATNESS AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY AND THE VICTORY AND THE MAJESTY, INDEED EVERYTHING THAT IS IN THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH; YOURS IS THE DOMINION, O LORD, AND YOU EXALT YOURSELF AS HEAD OVER ALL."

AND HE HAS THE ABILITY — HE IS OMNIPOTENT. HIS POWER IS MADE CLEAR IN MATT 19:26: "AND LOOKING AT THEM JESUS SAID TO THEM, "WITH PEOPLE THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE." AND JOB 42:2 "I KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS, AND THAT NO PURPOSE OF YOURS CAN BE THWARTED."

THROUGH PAUL, WE ARE REMINDED OF GOD'S RESOURCES AS HE WRITES IN PHIL 4:19 THAT "MY GOD WILL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS".

AND IN EPH 3:16 THAT "HE WOULD GRANT YOU, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY, TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN" AND THE GREATEST EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE FOR IS THAT HE "DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US", ROMANS 5:8.

AND EVEN THOUGH GOD POSSESS' THESE ATTRIBUTES, THEY ARE MEANINGLESS TO US IF GOD DOES NOT HAVE THE DESIRE TO EXERCISE THEM FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY. BECAUSE HE LOVES US AND CARES FOR US, IT IS HIS WILL FOR HIS CHILDREN TO SPEND THEIR ETERNITY IN HIS PRESENCE. GOD'S FERVENT DESIRE IS CLEARLY MANIFESTED FROM THESE PASSAGES:

PAUL WRITES IN 1 TIM 2: 3-4:

"THIS IS GOOD, AND PLEASES GOD OUR SAVIOR, WHO WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH." AND PETER SAYS: "THE LORD IS NOT SLOW IN KEEPING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOWNESS. HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE." (2 PETER 3:9).

AND THE PROPHET, EZEKIEL, IN CHAPTER 18 AND VERSE 32 TELLS US: "FOR I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF ANYONE, DECLARES THE SOVEREIGN LORD. REPENT AND LIVE!"

HIS DESIRE FOR US TO BE SAVED WAS DEMONSTRATED ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY. AMEN?

THE FIFTH ELEMENT THAT IS VITAL FOR US TO PLACE OUR TRUST IN GOD IS HIS FAITHFULNESS. CAN GOD BE TRUSTED TO ADMINISTER THESE QUALITIES ON A CONSISTENT BASIS — WITHOUT EXCEPTION? THE ANSWER, OF COURSE, IS YES! LET'S LOOK AT SCRIPTURE TO VALIDATE GOD'S WORTHINESS!

"GOD, WHO HAS CALLED YOU INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, IS FAITHFUL." (1 COR 1:9).

"MAY GOD HIMSELF, THE GOD OF PEACE, SANCTIFY YOU THROUGH AND THROUGH. MAY YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY BE KEPT BLAMELESS AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. THE ONE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL AND HE WILL DO IT." (1TH 5:23-24).

AND PAUL WRITES IN 2 TI 2:13: "IF WE ARE FAITHLESS, HE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL, FOR HE CANNOT DISOWN HIMSELF."

AND LASTLY, A VERY WELL KNOWN PASSAGE FROM 1 JOHN 1:9: "IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST AND WILL FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND PURIFY US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." AMEN?

BUT I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING ABOUT GOD'S WORD. WHEN NOTHING ELSE WORKS IN LIFE, GOD'S WORD WORKS! AND IT WORKS BECAUSE HIS INTEGRITY LIES WITHIN EVERY PROMISE. GOD'S WORD CAN NO MORE FAIL THAN HE CAN FAIL! PSALM 145:13 SAYS, "THE LORD IS FAITHFUL TO ALL HIS PROMISES AND LOVING TOWARD ALL HE HAS MADE."

HAVING NOW FULLY ESTABLISHED THE HEART OF OUR TRUST IN GOD, WE CAN NOW BE CONFIDENT THAT THE PROMISES OF GOD WILL BE FULFILLED AS WRITTEN. SO LET'S GO BACK TO OUR STARTING VERSE, FROM MARK 11 AND VERSES 22-24:

"AND JESUS ANSWERED SAYING TO THEM, "HAVE FAITH IN GOD. "TRULY I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'BE TAKEN UP AND CAST INTO THE SEA,' AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT HE SAYS IS GOING TO HAPPEN, IT SHALL BE GRANTED HIM. "THEREFORE I SAY TO YOU, ALL THINGS FOR WHICH YOU PRAY AND ASK, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THEM, AND THEY SHALL BE GRANTED YOU."

AND WE ARE REMINDED THAT WE ARE TO "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, AND DO NOT LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING." (PROVERBS 3:5). AND AS JESUS, HIMSELF, SAID IN JOHN 14:1: "DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED. TRUST IN GOD; TRUST ALSO IN ME."

NOT ONLY CAN WE PLACE OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN THIS PROMISE, BUT IN EACH AND EVERY OTHER COVENANT OF GOD.

BECAUSE WE CAN EXPLICITLY TRUST IN GOD, WE CAN UNEQUIVOCALLY TRUST IN HIS PROMISES. BUT WHAT KIND OF PROMISES DOES GOD MAKE TO US?

HIS PROMISES CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO THREE DISTINCT GROUPS:

1. UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES — THOSE PROMISES OR COVENANTS THAT ARE A BINDING AND SOLEMN AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOD AND MANKIND WHERE NO CONDITIONS ARE IMPOSED ON MANKIND ITSELF. GOD ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTCOME AS HE BINDS HIMSELF, BY A SOLEMN OATH, TO KEEP THE COVENANT. AND THEY ARE TIMELESS FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE PROMISE.

WHILE TIME DOES NOT ALLOW A COMPLETE STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD, THE FOLLOWING SIX COVENANTS ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY:

- 1. THE EDENIC PROMISE — GOD'S PROMISE OF REDEMPTION FROM GEN 3:15;**
- 2. THE NOACHIAN PROMISE — GOD'S PROMISE TO PRESERVE THE HUMAN RACE — GEN 9:11;**
- 3. THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE — GOD'S PROMISE OF BLESSINGS THROUGH ABRAM'S FAMILY FROM GEN 15:18;**
- 4. THE SINAITIC PROMISE — GOD'S DESIGNATION OF ISRAEL AS HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE — EXOD 19:5, 6;**
- 5. THE LEVITICAL PROMISE — GOD'S PROMISE FOR RECONCILIATION THROUGH PRIESTLY ATONEMENT FROM NUM 25:12,13) AND;**
- 6. THE DAVIDIC PROMISE — GOD'S PROMISE OF MESSIANIC SALVATION THROUGH DAVID'S DYNASTY — 2 SAM 23:5.**

AND THE NEW TESTAMENT ALSO CONTAINS SEVERAL OF THESE TYPES OF PROMISES. HERE ARE JUST A FEW:

IN JOHN 14:3, JESUS SAID, "I WILL COME AGAIN" AND IN HEBREWS 13:5, GOD SAYS, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU." AND IN MATTHEW 17:23, JESUS SAID THAT "ON THE THIRD DAY AFTER HIS DEATH HE WOULD RISE AGAIN."

PEOPLE OUR FAITH IS PREDICATED ON THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE PROMISES!

THEN WE HAVE, WHAT I CALL, CONDITIONALLY, UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES. FOR THE MOST PART, GOD'S PROMISES, AS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE, FALL INTO THIS GROUP. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE LITTLE WORD, "IF". GOD PROMISES TO DO SOMETHING IF MAN FIRST DOES SOMETHING. GOD WILL DO HIS PART IF MAN DOES HIS PART. THESE TYPES OF PROMISES ARE DEPENDENT UPON A SPECIFIC ACTION BY MAN AND WHEN MAN FULFILLS HIS PORTION OF THE COVENANT, THEN AND ONLY THEN, WILL GOD UNCONDITIONALLY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO FULFILL HIS END OF THE BARGAIN.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THESE PROMISES FOUND FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT:

1. ACTS 16:31 SAYS; "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU SHALL BE SAVED, YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD." — YOU SHALL BE SAVED IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS! THAT'S THE CONDITION.

2. ROMANS 10:9 SAYS; "IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH JESUS AS LORD, AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU SHALL BE SAVED!" — SALVATION IS DEPENDENT UPON CONFESSION AND BELIEF. GOD WILL NOT SAVE THOSE WHO REJECT HIM.

3. JAMES WRITES IN CHAPTER 4 AND VERSES 7B, 8A AND 10; "RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU." "DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU." AND "HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, AND HE WILL EXALT YOU."

IN EACH OF THESE PASSAGES, JAMES IS TELLING US THAT BEFORE GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISE, WE MUST BE IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM! WE MUST FIRST DO OUR PART AND THEN, AND ONLY THEN, WILL GOD LIVE UP TO HIS WORD.

4. PAUL WRITES IN ROMANS 8:28: "AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAUSES ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." — NOTICE THE CONDITION — THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE!

AND LASTLY IN THIS CATEGORY, THE MOST WIDELY KNOWN PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE — JOHN 3:16: "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." — CLEARLY, THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS EXPLICITLY CONDITIONAL UPON "BELIEVING IN HIM."

LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU, AS YOU ARE READING GOD'S PROMISES, TO SEE IF GOD HAS PLACED A CONDITION ON YOU THAT YOU MUST FULFILL.

REMEMBER THAT ONCE YOU SATISFY THAT REQUIREMENT, THEN AND ONLY THEN, WILL GOD UNCONDITIONALLY COMPLETE HIS END OF THE BARGAIN.

AND LASTLY, THERE ARE CONDITIONAL PROMISES — PROMISES THAT SOLELY DEPEND ON THE ACTION OF MEN. IT IS THE BENEFIT THAT MANKIND DERIVES FROM GODLY CHOICES.

THESE INCLUDE:

“DO NOT CONFORM ANY LONGER TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS--HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.” (ROMANS 12:2). DO YOU SEE THE “IF, THEN” OF THIS PROMISE?

AND FINALLY, DEUTERONOMY SAYS IN 4 AND 29; “BUT IF FROM THERE YOU SEEK THE LORD YOUR GOD, YOU WILL FIND HIM IF YOU LOOK FOR HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL.”

FRIENDS, I KNOW THAT THIS IS A LOT TO ABSORB, SO LET ME QUICKLY SUMMARIZE THIS TEACHING.

WE CAN COUNT ON THE PROMISES OF GOD BECAUSE WE CAN TRUST GOD! IT IS ONLY BY TRUSTING THE PROMISOR THAT WE CAN PLACE OUR FAITH IN HIS PROMISES. AND IT IS HIS COVENANTS TO US THAT GIVE US PEACE AND REST IN THE LORD AND THE FUTURE HOPE OF GLORY! AMEN?

LET'S PRAY!