

## **“I TRUST IN GOD”**

From the series: ‘Timeless Truths For Troubling Times’

Taught by, “Thomas” C. L. Thomas 2020

The words, “Trust in God” is a phrase that falls into the category of easier said than done! Especially in days like the ones that we have come to live in and see to be growing more dynamic moment by moment. *Add to this season, the personal struggles that are untold, fought in secret, and pregnant with tensions, fears and pain, one is left wondering what will tomorrow bring.* No, “trust” falls a lot easier from the lips than realized in one’s life. For many of us, the tests that come from life, and all its many phases, are often met with a sort of shallow and pseudo sense of trust. Consider the notion that God may be giving you an opportunity to develop your spiritual dimension of trust but, if your foundation of faith is weak, then it makes it difficult to practice trust in the occasions of trial. Therefore, this study, though fundamental and “known,” is necessary for reiteration. The disciple is constant need of the reminder to trust God.

In every stage of our walk, we are challenged to grow deeper and more nuanced in our faith walk by applying the practice of implicit trust, and obedience to God The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As the song of old says,

*“Trust and Obey,  
Trust and Obey,  
For there’s no other way,  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to Trust and Obey.”*

These lyrics have profound import for the believer who would aim a becoming like The Master Teacher, Jesus.

**The purpose of this study is to offer a definition of trust and illustrate it so that we apply trust on every occasion and in any challenge of life.**

Our text of consideration is Proverbs 3:5-7.

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”** (Proverbs 3:5–7, NASB95)

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”** (Proverbs 3:5–7, NLT)

### **I. TRUST DEFINED. “TRUST IN THE LORD”**

- A. *Trust is complete and intense reliance on God that is inclusive of one's*
1. **Relationship** with the Father, [Notice, He is the base and basis for trust. Without having God as the one in whom you place your full weight, nothing else makes any sense at all.]
  2. **Devotion** to His word,
  3. **Remembrance** of His nature.
- B. A close look at the text gives the key to how this is done. Solomon suggests that:
1. **LMUST TRUST GOD ENTIRELY!** The notion of trusting entirely connects to the *Shema* responsibility for the people of Israel. *Shema*. This idea was God's covenant connection with a people that had just been delivered from slavery and are now being reintroduced to the God of Abraham. This God is communicating that He desires an all-in, total devotion. He does not want a fragmented faith.
    - a) **God is interested in your ALL!**
    - b) ""Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NASB
    - c) Complete trust, or giving "all," ***eliminates any space or place for reservation or doubt, any area of wonder, any room for intrusion of negating thoughts or suggestion.***
    - d) ***Complete trust offers the disciple stability of heart. The main reason why we must place our entire mind in trusting and loving is because there is no stability in being doubleminded.***
    - e) ""*The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."* (Matthew 6:22–24, ESV)
    - f) ""*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*" (James 1:5–8, ESV)
  2. **LMUST TRUST GOD EXCLUSIVELY.** The reason I must trust God exclusively is because of the human tendency to be sheepish. Isaiah reminds us that all we like "sheep" have gone astray. **The imagery is that we do what sheep tend to do. *We lean on our limited insight, our***

*impulsive natures, our ignorance about life and people, our love of this life over the one to come and, in time of crisis, we choose the finite over the infinite, and the weaker perspective over the wisdom of God!*

- a) **God warns about the damage of trusting this voice over His voice.**
  - b) Our issues are that we may not be aware of the reality of the fact that there is always a **word**, a **voice**, an **influence** that we listen to. *We can either hear the Words of God or we can trust the weak voice of our heart.* A heart that is desperately wicked (**Jer. 17:9**), a heart that wants to be instinctual (**Jer. 10:23**), a heart that wants its opinions to rule the day (**Prov. 14:12**).
  - c) No wonder God says that trusting in our emotions, feelings, intuition, or anything **other** than Him is foolishness! (**Prov. 28:26**)
3. **LMUST TRUST HIM EXPANSIVELY/EXTENSIVELY.** The reason I must trust God extensively is because trust pervades into every area of my life. **“ALL my ways”** must acknowledge the rule of God. If God has my whole being then He, in turn, has holistic obedience from His will in **my** crisis! All my ways means just that, **“ALL MY WAYS!!”**
- a) When you can't see the outcome of an event,
  - b) When it **hurts** to do what truth demands,
  - c) When it may **stretch** you from a place of comfort to one of despair,
- C. Our decision must always be “I will trust in the Lord!” Remember the definition: Trust is *complete and intense reliance on God* that is inclusive of one's *Relationship* with the Father, *Devotion* to His word and *Remembrance* of His nature.

## II. TRUST ILLUSTRATED. “LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

- A. Trust is truly made reality in one's life when you live it out! Real belief, trust, in what you mentally agree to is actualized in those occasions that one **“acts as if the thing you believe is so.”** Here, I don't mean pretend, I mean do! We truly believe the things we do. *So, it follows that when one applies trust in the everyday aspects of their lives that they will live as if it so, as if it already done, as if The Father has already handled it, The Son has already delivered, The Holy Spirit has already revealed!* You act/do, as if it is SO!
- B. Trust, then, is **ONLY TRUST**, when you live as if the God you say you Trust is who He says He is and what He says is so, is So!
- C. Daniel illustrates the practice of entire, exclusive and expansive trust in God.
1. He illustrates trust in the **Furnace** moments of Life! Daniel 3
  2. He illustrates trust in **Fierce** moments of Life! Daniel 6

3. He illustrates trust in the **Faithless** moments of Life! Daniel 9, 10

### III. TRUST APPLIED. “IN ALL YOUR WAYS, AND HE WILL”

- A. TRUST **GOD**. The reality of this statement alone is a life changing.
  1. When we can practice aligning our reality under the transcendent significance of God being in control, then life is manageable.
  2. This means, see yourself in the plan of God, in the hands of God, in God’s world and God’s activities.
  3. Never forget that God is directly in control of everything.
- B. TRUST GOD’S **WORD!** You cannot put your weight down on what you don’t know.
  1. Therefore, this means, you must be a student. That is what a disciple is after all, a learner. Our learning, especially about God, is NEVER done!
  2. Do those things that are needed and necessary for you to know how God **thinks** about things, how God has **acted** in the past with your brothers and sisters and what He has **promised** to do for you.
  3. This demands that you lay His word up in your heart. This means you that meditate and study the scriptures.
- C. TRUST GOD’S **PROCESS**. When it gets difficult, give God that much more room.
  1. The tendency is to **react**. Don’t!
  2. **Respond** with trust and faith!
  3. Rather than abort what may be THE OCCASION for your faith to grow beyond all you imagined, **give space for your God to move**.
  4. **Remember** its only trust when you trust as if what He says is so, is so!

#### SO WHAT?

*There are three things you can do to take this word and walk it out in the flesh.*

1. **Memorize the definition of Trust.**
2. **Make it your personal aim to identify those places where trust is not active and then overrule it with a trusting heart and mind.**
3. **Minister to others who are challenged by life with a message of trust. Share what God has blessed you with.**