



The Good News

August 19th, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 33

Trusting in God

By Michael McCleary

Imagine for a moment what a person who does not fully trust in God might be like. It's not that they don't believe He exists; it's just that, for whatever reason, they cannot fully give their cares and anxieties over to God. What might this person be like? They may easily forget that God has power over all things, such as the kingdoms of men or the weather. They may not pray much, forgetting that God hears and answers all our prayers. They may forget that God always knows what is best in the big picture and thus He might answer some of our requests with a "no". On the other side, imagine a person who claims to have so much trust in God that they are no longer going to do anything, trusting that God will still take care of them. This person may quit their job, stay at home and just wait for God's blessings to come to them. Let us consider both of these extremes as we study concerning trusting in God this morning.

Trusting in God means trusting that God has power over all things – This includes the kingdoms of men. Daniel reminded Belshazzar in **Dan. 5:21** that Nebuchadnezzar had learned this lesson the hard way. God makes sure that His will is done, no matter who is President, senator, or governor. Remembering this will remind us that, no matter how bleak political and national outlooks may get, God is still in charge; nothing happens without His allowing it first.

Trusting in God means trusting that God hears and answers all our prayers – We find in **John 9:30-33** that God does not acknowledge the prayers of sinners, but answers those who fear God and obey Him. We also know from **Mt. 6:5-8** that God knows what we need before we ever pray to Him about our needs. We can read in **James 5:17** that the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much, realizing that God wants us to cast our cares upon Him (**1 Pet. 5:7**). But none of this truly means anything if we don't trust that He is there and listening. We have the assurance of His

word in knowing that He is there, and He is listening, waiting for us to talk to Him.

Trusting in God means trusting that God knows best – We find in **II Cor. 12:7-9** that Paul asked God three times to remove his thorn in the flesh and on the third time God essentially said "no". We have to remind ourselves that "*all things work together for good to them that love the Lord*" (**Rom. 8:28**). This means that while we can only see our little puzzle piece of life, God sees the big picture and will make sure that all things come about in such a way that is best for everyone involved. This may mean that God answers "no" to our prayer. When this happens, we must trust that He knows best and be content with what He has given us.

Trusting in God does not mean that I can do nothing, and God will still take care of me – There are some who are quick to quote **Mt. 6:25-34**, where we are told that God knows our needs and will take care of us as we focus on Him and His righteousness. Some individuals want to make this passage say that, if we are focusing on serving God, God will see to it we are taken care of physically, even if that means we do nothing for ourselves. Some may quit their jobs, even in the name of spirituality, and trust that God will take care of them. Yet, a good thought to remember is that "God helps those who help themselves". While God will certainly take care of us spiritually, we are not guaranteed physical blessings, especially if we do nothing ourselves. In **Phil. 4:12** Paul says that He had learned how to be hungry and suffer need. It is apparent that, despite Paul's service to God, God did not simply hand over physical blessings. Paul had to endure hardship and go hungry at times. This didn't mean that God was not taking care of Paul. On the contrary, it taught Paul how to be content with any state he was in.

As we go through our study today, let's make sure we remind ourselves that God is always in control and that He is worthy of our trust.