

Trust!

Have you ever been in a difficult circumstance in your walk with the Lord and as you share your concerns with your brother or sister in Christ they say to you, "Just trust in the Lord"?

It is very easy for one who stands outside your trial to tell you to "trust in the Lord"; quite another matter when they are in the midst of a trial.

What does it really mean to "trust" and why is it that so many talk about it but so few really practice complete "trust"?

As we look at God's Word we find that the word "trust" is most used in the book of Psalms. The various meanings of "trust" in the Hebrew give us some insight into why David used the word so much. Protection, hope, refuge, confidence, security are all variations of the word "trust".

Trust in the New Testament takes on a somewhat different meaning: to yield and believe. This seems to speak to "trusting" in the completed work of Christ.

In the book of Job we find that there is yet another facet to this often used word. At the end of himself Job makes this often quoted statement; "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). Here the word takes on a different meaning: be patient, wait, stay!

If we put all these meanings together we can come up with a statement about trust somewhat like this:

To trust in the Lord is to have hope and confidence in Him; to know that He is our protector and refuge; that we must believe in Him and yield to His way and further to be patient, wait on Him and stay!

Considering all of this we may find new light shed on the portion of scripture that we most turn to when we are having difficulty "trusting" (Proverbs 3:5). "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding."

In looking at this verse we come very quickly to our main stumbling block in "trusting" the Lord; our own understanding or our natural tendency to look at or consider the circumstances we are faced with. One of the most practical applications of this tendency is in the story of Jesus, Peter and "walking on the water". (Matthew 14:28-31). The disciples see Jesus walking on the water and become afraid.

Jesus assures them that He is the one they see and admonishes them to "Take courage, I Am; stop being afraid!"

Peter then expresses his desire to walk on the water to Jesus and he does fine until he makes the big mistake of looking at the wind and waves. When he observes the circumstances he cries out "Lord, save me." As Jesus reaches out to him He says "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

How like Peter we all are, able to trust when our eyes are on Him, filled with fear and sinking when we consider our circumstances!

So, our real problem in "trust" seems to be focus, or as Colossians 3:2 so aptly puts it: "Set your minds and keep them set on what is above -- the higher things -- not on the things that are on the earth."

Whenever I am having difficulty trusting the Lord one passage of scripture sets me straight: Whom have I in Heaven but you: And I have no delight or desire on earth but You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the rock and firm strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25, 26)

This says to me that there is no one in Heaven or on earth that I can trust in except God and though I may be weak and fail, God is rock firm; I can "trust" in Him.

God often speaks to me from Isaiah 41:10 "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

My circumstances may not change. The way before me may be covered by clouds but one thing I am sure of: God is a trustworthy God. He is the firm strength of my heart and my portion forever. I will daily fix my eyes on Him, the Author and Finisher of my faith.