

# The Old Paths

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## “Trust”

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**T**he Biblical subject of trust is something we need to take seriously. In the KJV the actual word “trust” is found 134 times. (We read of “trust” on 50 occasions in the book of Psalms alone!) On 76 of these occasions, we read where man is putting his trust “in” something, whether it be God, self, “uncertain riches,” or anything else. Please read the following thoughts concerning “trust” and let us make application to our lives.

### **What The Bible Says About Trust.**

The Bible consistently teaches that man needs to put his trust in God. This point is taught in both the Old and New Testaments. For instance, Solomon said, “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*” (Prov. 3:5-6). David penned, “*They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever*” (Ps. 125:1). He also said, “*Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us*” (Ps. 62:8).

In the New Testament, we are taught by Paul that trusting in God is not without consequences. He told Timothy, “*...we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe*” (II Tim. 4:10).

He also wrote to Timothy, to remind the rich brethren, “*that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life*” (II Tim. 6:17-19).

Sometimes “trust” is said to be equal to belief in something or someone (Ex: “I believe in you,” or “I trust in you.”). While these can be equivalent terms, sometimes, this simply does not go far enough! Just like “faith” as discussed in the Bible must be respected in light of its context, so also must “trust” be respected in light of its context.

For instance, in Proverbs 3:5-6, one’s “trust in the Lord” is contrasted with leaning on one’s own understanding. Our own understanding can fail us, but God will never fail us. We must therefore learn to trust in Him and not in ourselves! When Paul wrote to Timothy, he showed those rich people (and who in America is NOT “rich” when compared to the rest of the world?) that trusting in God demanded action! They needed to “*do good ... be rich in good works ... ready to give to others,*” etc. Trusting in God means more than mentally believing something, or just giving verbal assent. Paul showed that trusting in God demands doing something as well!

### **Some Did Not Trust In God.**

Sadly, many folks will not trust in the Lord like they should. Whether it is through ignorance, or apathy, they refuse to trust in God. It is quite ironic, and even hypocritical that people will trust in the things they can “see,” “feel,” “taste,” “hear,” and “touch,” but will not trust in the One who made the things they are seeing, hearing, etc.; nor will they trust in the One who made the senses we possess! Folks often do the very thing the apostle Paul said not to do when they “*trust in uncertain riches*” rather than trusting in God. This is a tragic mistake!

Unfortunately, such attitudes are nothing new, even for God’s people. Consider the fact that immediately after Israel’s exodus from Egypt, the Israelites complained to Moses that they had been brought to the region of the Red Sea to die (Ex. 14:10-12). Why did they say this? It is because these folks did not trust in the Lord as they should have. In spite of all that God had done and shown them in Egypt, they now lacked trust in God that He could save them from Egypt’s army. This lack of trust is again apparent when we read of their continual murmuring and complaining when they lacked food or water (Ex. 16-17; Num. 20). The Israelites’ trust waned the day they demanded that Aaron “*...make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him*” (Ex. 32:1).

Later on in their history, God through Isaiah rebuked the people for trusting in the strength of Egypt rather than in Him (Isa. 30:1-3, 31:1). Even at this time, God was wanting these folks to trust in Him. He promised that those who would do so would be blessed (Isa. 57:13b). Jeremiah rebuked folks for trusting in lying words rather than trusting in God (Jer. 7:8, 28:15, 29:31). Isaiah, Jeremiah, and many other

“*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.*” (Jer. 6:16)

prophets were sent to the people to call them back to God. Unfortunately, many refused! Please take note of the fact that these folks were guilty of the very thing we discussed earlier in this article. These folks did not believe God nor were they obedient to Him, and as a result, God said these folks did not trust in Him! Their lack of trust in God, and their trust in lying words, and in the temporal things of this life, resulted in their being destroyed.

### ***Do We Trust In God?***

As we think about our own lives, are we trusting in God like we should? When we see God's standard, and then observe folks falling short of it, do we take a good look at ourselves to see where we are? Is trusting in God ingrained in our lives? It ought to be!

In order to show true trust in God, we must do more than say "I trust in God." While it is a good start, we must have more than a mental or verbal assent if we are going to trust in God. Trust demands action! Do we trust God enough to leave behind worldly wisdom and worldly pursuits to just follow Him (Matt. 4:19-20; Lk. 9:23; Jn. 12:26)? Do we trust in the Lord enough to be persecuted for righteousness' sake because we know there is something better for us in eternity (Matt. 5:10; II Cor. 4:17)? If you answer "yes," then do more than simply say it — live it!!

**David Said:** The blessed man will not associate with evil people, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"

(Ps. 1:1-2).

**Something to Think About...** Is the Bible your delight, or something that is keeping you from doing what you like???

## **"What Ruins A Good Influence?"**

Via "Sound Doctrine", September 26, 1999

- ☞ Inconsistency (Romans 2:21)
- ☞ Appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22)
- ☞ Avoiding people (I Corinthians 7:12,16)
- ☞ Being unreliable (Acts 15:38)
- ☞ Having an uncontrolled tongue (Ecclesiastes 5:3)
- ☞ Being conceited (III John 9-10)
- ☞ Always complaining (Jude 16)
- ☞ Avoiding opportunities to make peace (Romans 14:19)
- ☞ Never admitting when wrong (Proverbs 12:15)

Brethren, what kind of influence are WE having on the world, on our children, and those who love us? (Matthew 5:16)



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

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Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

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## **"Identifying The Lukewarm Member"**

1. He has time to read the newspaper daily, but not the Word of God.
2. He spends more time with the sports page than he does in prayer.
3. He spends as much or more on tobacco as he gives to God.
4. For lack of study, he is not qualified to teach others.
5. He doesn't have enough interest in the souls of the lost to even invite them to attend services.
6. Christian companionship means nothing to him. He would as soon associate with worldly people as he would those who are spiritually minded.
7. He expects the programs of work in the church to be carried on, but he never does any himself. He acts like a visitor when he attends.
8. If he even realizes there are poor and needy people to be cared for, he expects someone else to shoulder the responsibility of supplying their needs.
9. If he thinks about the sick and that they should be visited, he thinks others should do it.
10. Instead of having confidence in the gospel and its power to convict and convert lost souls, often he is ashamed of it and apologizes to his friends for the plain, positive preaching they hear.

***Use This Tool To Teach Others:***

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