

# Trusting God

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The primary problem that we have with trust is that we often place it where God never intended it to be. Our difficulty with trusting is not that we aren't trying hard enough to trust God. Trust is a substance of which you have only a certain quantity. Therefore, the problem is that we have this finite amount of trust, and if we give it all away to ourselves and others, then there is none left over for God. You cannot give to God what you have already given away.

A study of all the trust verses in the Bible reveals that trust verses falls into four categories:

1. Not trusting things or possessions
2. Not trusting in money
3. Not trusting in yourself or others
4. Exclusively trusting in God

In Scripture, God provides us with two reasons why we should not trust anyone or anything but Him: First, no one else is able to handle the burden of our trust; Second, we do not need to trust anyone else if we are truly trusting God.

One example of misplaced trust is found as close to home as marriage. Unfortunately, many people grew up believing that, "Marriage is built on trusting one another!" Interestingly enough, that belief is not to be found in the Bible. Based on that many people would wrongly conclude that, "If I can't trust him, I can't stay married to him!"

Trusting decisions rarely operate on a conscious level. Instead, your past thought patterns are the software that is currently programming how you will decide to respond to the present and future circumstances. Because of this, no matter what, you will choose to either:

1. Fully trust God
2. Attempt to combine trusting God yourself and/or others
3. Fully trust yourself and/or others

One must realize, however, that although these decisions of trust may not be clear and conscious, they still are a continuous and active operation directly impacting your life.

It may help to examine the decomposing process of trusting ourselves and others. First, the primary trouble with trust is not that we trust others --it is that we trust ourselves. As we unknowingly idolize our own ability to determine what to do in life, we turn our backs on God's wise direction and intervention. Second, we get more deeply into trouble by subjectively determining that we can and should trust others.

There are at least five steps that occur in this negative cycle of how trusting ourselves and others leads to sin:

1. First, I believe that I can trust myself and my own judgment. This is analogous to a computer with viruses analyzing itself and determining that it is virus-free.
2. Since by judgment is built on my wrong self-trust, I decide I can trust another person.
3. Because they are not God, they are not able to bear the burden of my trust. Predictably, they violate it by letting me (my trust) down by sinning.

4. Shocked and self-righteous, I pick up and stab myself with an offense against that person, angry with them for not meeting my needs by being perfect.
5. I circularly blame the other person for my Step 2 sin of placing a burden of trust on them that they were never meant to bear. This attempt to slough off my own responsibility results in my increasing sin, guilt, unforgiveness, and bitterness. All of this occurs over and over again, because I foolishly want someone to do something for me that I cannot do for myself--only God can do.

To begin to renew your mind and learn how to trust God, we must see this wrong placement of trust and reverse it. This action is illustrated in the scores of Bible verses that utilize the active verb "put" to describe the activity of placing your trust somewhere. The key to living a godly and bountiful life is consciously determining to put your trust in God alone in every situation.

It is important to correctly understand what trusting God alone means. It does not mean that we should purposely be suspicious and distrusting of people. What it does mean is that when we trust God fully then we have no more trust to give to anyone else. To return to the marriage example, the world has established a false "loop of trust" interdependency. This loop means that if your spouse breaks their part of the trust loop, they have broken you free and now you have no more commitment to them. Yet, God commands the husband to love his wife and the wife to respect her husband, each one-way, independent command. Even within the marriage covenant we are commanded to trust no one but God. This holds equally true for any relationship; spouse, parents, children, siblings, family, boss, employee, counselor, friend, pastor, and acquaintances.

To become free from this bondage of trusting yourself and others consider the following: (1) Trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord for the forgiveness of your sins; (2) Accept full responsibility for your own life; (3) Take back all the trust you have placed on yourself and others, and (4) Place that trust completely in God's trustworthy hands. By beginning to make these decisions, you can be freed up to share a new intimacy with God, and you can even experience new freedom to live with Christ' peace and power in those very relationships that previously caused you such frustration and pain.

## **Trust Verses**

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal." *Isaiah 26:4*

"Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord." *Psalms 4:5*

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." *Psalms 118:8*

"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf." *Proverbs 11:28*

"Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. What he trusts in is fragile; what he relies on is a spider's web. He leans on his web, but it gives way; he clings to it, but it does not hold." *Job 8:13-15*

"Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves, but on God, who raises the dead." *2 Corinthians 1:9*