

4. Trusting God

In order to trust God, we must know Him in an intimate, personal way. David said in Ps. 9:10, "Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you." To know God's name is to know Him intimately. It is more than just knowing facts about God. It is coming into a deeper personal relationship with Him as a result of seeking Him in the midst of our pain and discovering Him to be trustworthy. Only as we know God in this personal way do we come to trust Him.

In order to trust God, we must always view our adverse circumstances through the eyes of faith, not of sense. Just as saving faith comes through hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17), so also the faith to trust God in adversity comes through the Word of God alone. Only in Scripture do we find an adequate view of God's relationship to and involvement in our painful circumstances. Only from the Scriptures, applied to our hearts by the Holy Spirit, do we receive the grace to trust God when we are afraid.

For many years in my own pilgrimage toward trusting God—I am still far from the end of the journey—I was a prisoner of my feelings. I mistakenly thought I could not trust God unless I *felt* like trusting Him (which I almost never did in times of adversity). Now I am learning that trusting God is a matter of the will; it is not dependent on my feelings. I choose to trust God and my feelings eventually follow.

Trusting God is also a matter of knowledge. We must *know* that God is sovereign, wise, and loving. Having been exposed to the knowledge of the truth, we must then choose whether to believe it or to follow our feelings. We must say to God, "I will trust You, though I do not feel like doing so."

- Jerry Bridges, excerpts from the booklet *You Can Trust God*. © 1989

Trusting God Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 4
11-Jun	Psalm 56:3-4
12-Jun	Psalm 33:21-22
13-Jun	Proverbs 3:5-6
14-Jun	Psalm 37:3-5
15-Jun	Psalm 91:1-2
16-Jun	Romans 4:16-22
17-Jun	Jeremiah 17:5; 48:7

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PART 1

Passage(s) to Study

God assures us that He does indeed have everything under control in our lives. Paul wrote that believers in Christ have been “predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will” (Ephesians 2:11). God is at work behind the scenes in our lives to accomplish His eternal purpose. And He *will* accomplish it, for His own glory (Ephesians 1:12). Even our mistakes, many though they may be, won't thwart His plan.

Read: Romans 8:18-39 and write down 5-10 observations that you make about what God's control over circumstances and His purposes for your life. How might knowing and meditating on God's purposes for your life and His control over your circumstances help you to put your complete trust in Him?

PART 2

Questions to Ponder

[Q] Sometimes we place our trust in the wrong people or things. What inappropriate objects of trust are revealed in the following verses? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from these verses? In which of these are you most tempted to trust?

Read: Prov. 28:26; Is. 31:1; Is. 47:10; Jer. 17:5; Amos 6:1; Lk. 12:16-21

[Q] Isaiah 50:10-11 warns against lighting our own fires when we are in the dark and finding it hard to trust God. What does v. 11 say is the fruit of this decision?

Read: Gen. 15:1-16:16. How did Abraham "light his own fire"? What were the immediate and long-term results of Abraham's lack of faith?

[Q] How do Ps. 62:10 and Habakkuk 3:16-19 provide a model for us to demonstrate our trust in God? Summarize in your own words. What is the biggest hindrance in your life right now that keeps you from trusting God unconditionally?

PART 3

Making it Stick

Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on Trusting God.

Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart that trusts Him for a lifetime. A sample has been provided below:

Prayer: *My Father and my God, knowing that you are sovereign, wise, and loving, I will choose to believe and trust you regardless of my feelings. Help me to trust You, though sometimes I do not feel like doing so. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Recommended resources: “Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts’ by Jerry Bridges