



I

VOLUME 74 JANUARY 2013
TRUST IN THE LORD

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord!

We hope everyone is blessed beyond measure and marveling at the goodness and grace of our God! We certainly have!

God has been doing some wonderful things in our family's life recently. We have been seeing an abundance of blessings in everything from natural provision to the picking up of momentum in our ministry. We are so thankful to the Lord for all that He has been doing because, I can assure you, there have been times over the past several years that we had temptations to doubt when and if these things would ever come to pass. But we can attest to the truth that God is faithful! He will complete the good work He began in us if we just don't quit and keep our trust in Him.

And I can assure, friends, if you are going through one of those seasons where questions abound and you do not see the light at the end of the tunnel, this edition of the Living Logos is for you! We believe the message we have for this month will provide you with the faith that you need to walk through any valley of the shadow of death that you might be walking through.

Speaking of faith, recently in our Sunday Fellowship the Lord has led us into a study on that very subject. Of course, I have always laced my messages with truths concerning believing in God, but I have never been led to specifically teach on this subject. So when the Lord laid it on my heart for us to spend some time establishing our hearts in the area of faith, I was super excited. Why was I so excited, you ask? It is because, in my experience, whenever faith is emphasized God manifests Himself in power, the atmosphere is changed, and His pleasure is felt. Therefore, I believe faith is one of those subjects that you should not go too long without emphasizing.

Another reason I believe faith is such an important topic for us to talk about is because it was one of the first things the Lord established me in when I became a follower of Christ... You see, when I was born again close to 13 years ago, the Lord began to establish me in the subject of faith. He led me to read books from authors such as Kenneth Hagin, Charles Capps, etc. and deposited into me what I call a "spirit of faith." And I am so thankful today for the word of faith that God taught me in the beginning of my walk.

But faith is not just something we need to be taught one time and then we got it; we need to revisit it constantly because we keep our heart sensitive to the things we keep in front of us. In

II

other words, as Romans 10:14 makes the point of, whatever we allow ourselves to continuously hear is what we will have faith in. So it should be understood that if we want to become stronger in faith, then we need to continuously hear the word of faith.

So what I have on my heart to exhort you with this month is along these lines, but I want us to look more at the companion of faith called “trust” in order to encourage those out there who might find themselves in a similar situation as Shannon and I have been in. So let’s dive right in!

FAITH VERSUS TRUST

It is important to understand that faith and trust is not the same thing. If they were, then the Bible would have used the same term. They are distinctly different in that faith is believing God based on a specific promise that He has made and trust is more of our belief in God’s faithfulness in general. Let me put it this way: Faith is to believe when you do know and trust is to believe when you do not know. Allow me explain what I mean by that statement...

Faith is needed when you know what the answer is and you believe God to bring that specific promise to pass in your life. Take healing for instance: You do not trust God for healing; you believe in faith for healing. Why? Because healing is specifically promised and His will is known concerning it. Therefore, we can have faith for God’s will to heal us.

Trust, however, is when you do not know the specific answer to your problem, you do not have the understanding that you need, or God’s specific will in your situation is unknown. This is when you believe God to provide His best in your life even though you do not know what that might be. For example, say you were laid off from your job: You can have faith that God will provide for your needs to be met, but concerning the specifics, you will need to trust Him to order your steps and direct your path concerning the logistics of how He will provide.

You see, this is why it is so important to understand the difference between faith and trust. It is because there will be circumstances that will occur in our lives that will require us to simply trust in the Lord. We will not always have all the answers. We will not always be able to figure out the why’s, how’s, where’s, what’s, etc. of life. It is during those times that we must simply put our trust in God.

WHAT IS TRUST?

So let’s take a moment to define the word “trust” so that it can make a deeper impact on us...

The word “trust” can best be defined as “to place confidence in.” It also means- “to commit to the care of.” And one of the best ways I found to receive the full impact of what “trust” really is has been to study what a “trustee” is. In our modern society, a trustee is “a person to whom any

III

person, thing, or business is committed, in confidence that he will discharge his duty” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary). To put it in layman’s terms, a trustee is someone that you are confident is able to faithfully manage a particular thing that you own and will govern it as you would yourself. You see, this is how God wants us to see Him- totally worthy of our trust! This is why He says time and time again to trust Him. He wants us to know that we can place all of our confidence in Him because He is able and willing to care for us.

And although these dictionary definitions of trust are helpful, I believe the Bible gives us its own definition of “trust” that perfectly describes it. So let’s look at a very familiar portion of Scripture- Proverbs 3:5...

In the first portion of Proverbs 3:5, King Solomon said, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding.” What we see in this powerful statement is that he was using the terms “trust” and “lean” synonymously. In other words, you could translate this first portion of Proverbs 3:5 like so- “Lean on the Lord with all your heart and trust not in your own understanding.”

You see, when you lean on someone, you essentially trust them to hold you up or else you would not cast all your weight on them, right? Likewise, if you are truly trusting in the Lord - confident that He will uphold you - then you will lean on His everlasting arms! Trust entails a confidence in someone else to care for you. Therefore, you cast yourself upon them- trusting that they will take care of you.

CASTING ALL YOUR CARES

One of the verses that I believe beautifully describes this point is 1 Peter 5:7. In this verse the Apostle Peter says, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” Let’s take a deeper look at its meaning...

The word “casting” is a key word in this verse. It means “to throw upon.” It was used in ancient Greek texts to describe the throwing of a blanket on a mule in order for the rider to have a comfortable seat to ride on. It was actually used this way in the Bible...

In Luke chapter 19 we have the account of Jesus sending two of His disciples into a village to fetch Him a colt to ride into Jerusalem. Well, in verse 35, the disciples brought Jesus the colt and it says, “And they threw their clothes on the colt...” The word for “threw” is the exact same Greek word used for “casting” in 1 Peter 5:7.

So what are we to be casting? We are to throw all of our cares- that is, our anxieties, concerns, and worries. We are to throw off all of that dirty laundry that seems to weigh us down and burden us and then cast it where it belongs- upon Him! The Lord is where those concerns and worries belong, not on us.

IV

But I also want you to notice what Luke 19:35 says that the disciples did after they placed their clothes on the colt: They sat Jesus on their clothes! You see, not only are we to cast our cares away from us, but we are also to sit Jesus on top of them! That is, placing all of our trust in Jesus to ride our cares in a triumphant victory procession! Glory to God!

And why does Peter say we should cast all of our care upon Him?... “for (or, because) He cares for us!” The reason we can put our total trust in God to handle the details of our life is because He cares for us! You see, God cares about what we care about because He loves us so much! He is interested in even the minutest details of our life and He desires to be involved in them. So let Him! Include Him in every decision you make! He longs to help you because He is concerned with everything that concerns you! Does Psalm 138:8 not say that He has promised to “perfect that which concerns you”?

But this is an invaluable lesson that we should learn from 1 Peter 5:7- We must be convinced that He cares for us before we can cast all of our care upon Him. In other words, for us to truly place our trust in the Lord like this we must be established in the truths that God is a good God and that He desires to do good in our lives! If we incorrectly believe that God is the author of all of the destructive and evil things that come into our lives, then we will be apprehensive about giving Him the reins of our life and we certainly will not fall into His arms.

GOD IS GOOD AND THE DEVIL IS BAD

I believe that one of the greatest theological truths we can ever become established in is that God is good and the devil is bad. This might seem like an elementary statement to some, but to many, this is not understood at all.

You see, many denominations teach a very abusive doctrine on the sovereignty of God. And while I certainly believe that God is sovereign in that He is top of the food chain□ and that He can do anything (except fail and lie, of course), I do not believe that He is “sovereign” in the way that many believe it today. Let me explain what I mean...

This distorted doctrine teaches that God is in control of everything to the point that everything that comes into our life passes through the hands of God- whether good or bad. For example, they that believe this believe that even sickness, disease, miscarriages, deformities, etc. are all a part of God’s redemptive plan and are tools that He uses to perfect us. In other words, they believe that God has His hand in everything that happens in our life. This is absolutely ludicrous! God is a good God and He loves us more than we can possibly imagine! Can any of you parents out there imagine ever giving your child cancer to perfect them? If you can, then you are a sick parent! Of course you would never give your kid something that kills, steals, or destroys them

V

because you love them too much to ever bring any harm upon them. As a matter of fact, you love your kids so much you would take their sicknesses upon yourself so that they would not have to suffer, right? So then, how can we believe that we love our children more than God loves His children? We don't! That is why God came to this earth Himself and bore all of our sins and sickness on the cross! He did it because He loves us and does not want to see us suffer in any shape, form, or fashion! Hallelujah! Do you see how twisted religion is?

No, James chapter 1 teaches us that we should not embrace the lie that God is the author of the evil that comes into our lives. Satan is the author of all the things that come to steal, kill, and destroy us! Jesus said, in John 10:10 that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but He came to give life and life more abundantly! Therefore, God is not the one bringing evil into our lives; He is the One who gives us every good and perfect gift! He is the Giver of life, not death!

So this is a very important truth that we must be established in if we are going to be able to biblically trust the Lord- that God is good and that the plans He has for us are plans to do good to us, to give us peace, and to give us a future! If you do not understand this basic theological truth, then you will have a hard time trusting Him to provide you with good things.

No, friends, God is not the author of the problems that come into our lives; He is the solution to those problems! He is our shield and our deliverer! Therefore, we can trust in Him and be safe!

QUE SERA SERA?

Now if we are trusting the Lord, does that mean that we should just have the attitude that says, "Well, whatever comes into my life I am just trusting the Lord"? The answer to that question is both yes and no. The answer is yes, in that we should always place our confidence in Him no matter what occurs in our lives but no, in that we should not say, "Que sera sera" and think that we do not have a part to play in resisting the devil. We have to exercise our authority and take dominion but we need to understand that the battle ultimately belongs to the Lord. "It is not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6). So, although there is a part we have to play in walking in God's will for our life, there will be some circumstances that we will have no control over and we must operate in simple child-like trust!

Let me give you three examples of these types of circumstances... Suppose you were laid off from a job when you did nothing to deserve it. It is during that time, instead of letting anxiety flood your heart, that you must trust God that He has a plan and He will lead you into the perfect source of income for you and your family. Another example is, suppose you lost a loved one who went on to be with the Lord unexpectedly. It is during that time that you must stay on God's side and trust Him that He will work all things together for good- making lemonade out of those

VI

lemons, if you would. And, last but not least... Suppose you have children that are not walking with God. It is during this time that you must simply pray for them and trust God that He will direct their hearts back to Him through whatever means that He sees best.

So in conclusion, do not try and figure out all the questions of life. There are just some things that we will not know until we are in heaven. Just stay on God's side...Know that He loves you and cares for you... And put your trust in Him! He is worthy of your trust!

You know, heaven is what it is all about anyway...and if you have tragedies and disappointments in this life, know that one day you are going to walk on streets of pure gold, live in a mansion beautifully hand-tailored to your heart's desires, bask in the glory of God, and be reunited with loved ones that went ahead of you! Just that promise alone is far better than any good that you can receive in this life! But, Praise God, we do not have to wait for the sweet by and by to experience God's best... We can experience His best in the temporal here and now too!

My friends, I want you to be assured that God is faithful! He will never leave you nor forsake you! He is always well aware of the issues that you are facing. All He needs is a remnant that will put their complete confidence in Him to do what He said He would do. When we learn to fully trust Him like this, we will see His promises of provision manifested in our lives!

Faith is He who promised, who also will do it! Maranatha!

Victoriously,

