

My Thoughts for Sunday, 21 August 2016

“What is This Trust?”

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5

Back in November of last year, I presented an article stating that anxiety and trust could not reside in the same heart. Being that they are diametrically opposite conditions of the heart, this made perfect sense. Now that we have, hopefully, removed anxiety from our heart and lives, we should have only trust remaining of these two attributes. Are we prepared to live with that trust our text above speaks of? Have we actually and completely put aside our anxieties and own ideas of solving our problems and turned them over to our Lord? If you are at all like me, this is a work in progress! I am sorry to say, I am not there yet. I am still facing issues in my life that I sometimes believe I need to take the lead in rectifying.

In recent posts I have made public much of my past life. But not all. I have six children from previous marriages and, at last count, twenty-two grand-children. Most of my children I have not seen in upwards of 12 years due in part to some serious mistakes I made many years ago. I also have not been able to visit them as I am on a limited budget, retired on SSI. Some of my grand-children and my great grand-children I have never seen, due to logistics and the lack of traveling expenses. I have finally resolved myself to that trust in my Lord to bring me some resolution in these matters. I recently posted a new sign on our electronic message board in front of our church that I am doing my best to live by. It states, “Trust Is Believing In God’s Timing.” I know that when His time is right I will be reunited with my family. My prayers go out regularly for their wellbeing and their continued faith and trust in that same Lord and that our reunion will soon become a reality.

But how does one develop that trust? That sure knowledge and firm belief that our Lord will actually fulfill these requests we place at His feet in supplication. I have often asked myself that same question, “How can I really expect the Holy and Almighty God to forgive the things I had done and make it all right?” The answer to these questions is written and re-written over and over again in His Word! He is a God of love. He rewards those who repent of their sins and turn to His instruction and guidance. Look at that promise, unimaginable to our carnal minds, that He made to His first human creation. Here was Adam and Eve, who virtually, had it all. But all was not good enough for them. With a little tempting from the serpent they entertained his lies that they could be just like God. God kept His promise that if they broke His one command they would surely die. An die they did. Eventually through the results of sin they came, as we all must, to the end of their days. So you see that although God is a loving God, He is also a just God. Like any father, even our earthly fathers, if we do not follow the rules and obey authority we can expect to reap our just reward.

However, God did something that should totally boggle one’s mind. Here was His disobedient creation, being justly punished with the final outcome of death, instead of life forever with Him in the garden He had created for them. God, after pronouncing righteous judgement on them did an about face and promised that through their descendants He would

produce a Savior, one who would redeem all of fallen mankind to a right and forgiven position in His sight! *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."* (Genesis 3:15) No one other than a truly loving God would ever do such a thing for a creation that continually, throughout the ages, turned their backs on Him and showed disrespect and hatred for their Creator. Look around yourself today. We can see the majority of peoples turning their backs on Him to the extent that they disavow any belief that God is even in existence. How can He and why should He remember, much less keep, that promise given to His first ungrateful creation? But He does! And He promises that He does not change. He gave His Word and He will keep His Word.

Centuries later, when mankind had become so vile that God destroyed all life on land and in the air He did, however, choose eight people from all mankind and His allotment of birds and animals, sufficient to maintain His creation and design for His earth. As time progressed God began to disclose His plan of salvation spoken of in Genesis. He chose a man, Abraham, to be the father of many nations. Beginning with Abraham and his wife Sarah, God would, over the years, disclose those descendants that would eventually produce the Savior of all fallen mankind. This was another mind-boggling occurrence, to our finite minds. Here was Abraham, one-hundred years old with his wife, barren at ninety years, promised, by God to have a son who would be the recipient of an everlasting covenant with God. *"Then God said, 'Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.'"* (Genesis 17:19) Here we can, by His promise, see that all things are possible for God. We could, through Scripture, follow this line of descent down through the years, directly to that promised Savior. But let's look at a couple more events that might cause some question.

First, let's look a bit closer at this chosen man, Abraham. We find that during his delayed wait for God to fulfill His promise of a son, Abraham took matters into his own hands, so to speak. As they were getting way past child-bearing age, Sarah gave her maid servant to Abraham that they might, on their own, produce this promised seed of the covenant. Ooops! Was this a sign of a lack of faith on the part of Abraham? The Bible states that because of Abraham's faith, God credited it to him as righteousness. I am compelled to look at it rather as I see myself today. I have great faith in the promises of God but often I display a lingering trait of my sinful nature, called impatience. I feel the need to, as I look at it, give God a little nudge, just a bit of a helping hand.

We move on a few years later in this line of descent and look at the great King David whom God set up on a throne that would last forever. He said that He would raise up a king who would reign on David's throne in righteousness for all time. *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."* (Jeremiah 23:5) We need to take a closer look at King David. Here was another sinful man, chosen by God to be in the line of our Savior. But David was an adulterer and eventually a murderer to cover up his adulterous act. Yet, through repentance suffering the consequence for his crimes, David was blessed by God to be established on that throne of great importance.

There are many more examples of, in our eyes, less than favorable people to have had the opportunity of perpetuating the line of descent to our perfect, sinless Savior. I guess if we were to be the decision makers in this plan of God, no one would or could have been found worthy of this honor. And we would be right! This is not about the worthiness of fallen man to fulfill God's promises. God is the authority. He is the only one able to justify fallen mankind. He is in control and in His love uses even the sinful to bring about His ultimate purpose for our redemption.

So, after all these centuries of waiting, we come to the fulfillment of that promise of God, made so long ago to our first parents. *"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."* (Galatians 4:4-6) The whole world should shout and rejoice. We have been saved, redeemed, made holy in the eyes of our God. Yes, we have it all. We are, in God's eyes, by the blood of our Savior, sinless and acceptable. We can be welcomed into the gates of heaven to live forever with our Creator. We look throughout Scripture at all the promises God has made to those who believe and realize He has and will continue to keep them all. God cannot lie.

This, my friends, is why I have no difficulty in placing my trust in my God. I know in my heart that He will, in the fullness of His time, give me the reuniting I so eagerly await. Keep your faith, my children, you too will receive the healing by His loving hands.