

Some Verses

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalm 20:7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

Proverbs 3:5; 23:4; 28:26.

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Proverbs 11:28

This is what the LORD says: "Cursed are those who trust in mortals, who depend on flesh for their strength and whose hearts turn away from the LORD. Jeremiah 17:5

In these verses what shouldn't you trust in?

What do you trust in that you shouldn't?

I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; Psalm. 44:6.

Does David really mean this?

Is it wrong to trust in things?

One of the key definitions of an Idol in the First Testament is something you trust instead of trusting God.

But I trust in you, LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. Psalm 31:14-15

What does this verse mean?

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: Psalm. 37:3-5.

What does trusting look like in this verse? What things does it lead to?

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him. Blessed are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Psalm 40:3-4

What is the result of trusting in this verse?

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise-- in God, I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? ... in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere human beings do to me? Psalm 56:11

What do you do when you are afraid?

LORD Almighty, blessed are those who trust in you. Psalm. 84:12

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Isaiah 26:3

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, Nahum 1:7

What happens when you trust?

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26:4

Why can you trust God?

If trust works in the gap between where we are now and where we will, between what we have now and what we will have.

How should we live in the meantime?

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Trust



"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. John 14:1
Across the pages of the Bible, we are told to trust in God.

The Big Questions

What is trust?

Trust is an expectation that something will perform in a certain way. Trust is a positive expectation or the expectation of a good result. It implies that something is reliable or dependable.



What things do we trust in?

What does it mean to trust a bank?

What does it mean to trust a ladder?

What does it mean to trust a policeman?

Do you trust the bank and the ladder with the same thing?

What are you trusting the ladder with?



Trust implies risk and the potential for loss. The moment we talk about trusting a ladder we acknowledge that the ladder has the potential to not hold our weight or not to be as stable as we had hoped. Therefore all of us make risk assessments all the time. Does this ladder or bank look strong enough? Will it do what I expect of it?



Can you live life without trust?

Can you live without trusting people?

On what basis do you choose how to trust a person?

Good criteria? Bad criteria?

What happens when you get it wrong?



We trust different people with different things and different things in different ways. Often the reasons we trust people are flawed. A celebrity may be a great singer or rugby player but that ability does not automatically make them trustworthy in any other area. Yet celebrities are used in advertising just because we will equate ability with reliability. Often we trust people because of perceived similarities to ourselves, conversely, we distrust people who are different from us. A word of warning: most of us think we are better judges of character than we in fact are.



Who do you trust and what with?

Who do you not trust?

What makes something trustworthy?

How do you earn trust?

How do people earn your trust?

When do you trust a ladder before you climb it or when you are up on it?



The answer would have to be both. But generally, trust works in gaps. It bridges the time between where we hope to be and where we are or what we expect and what our current reality is. Time is always a factor in trust.



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Trusting God

The verse at the start of the study told us to trust in God the Father and in Jesus Christ.

The big question: What does it mean to trust God?



To trust God means to consider Him to be reliable with the things we give to Him. It means to have an expectation that God will, bless, protect, heal, forgive, accept, control, and order our lives and our futures. It is an expectation of good from God. It means to believe that God can do a better job of our lives than we can. To believe that He will do the things He has said He will. It also means to commit your life to God. It is an act of surrender.

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.
2 Timothy 1:12



What is the gap in this verse? (time and experience)

What has Paul entrusted?

Why has he taken this risk?

To trust God I need to acknowledge that God is good.
I need to acknowledge that God loves me.

What risks do we take when we trust God? (everything and nothing)

What do we trust God with?

Big things

Future
Life
Afterlife

Detailed things

Finances
health
relationships
Job
Children

Look at this list. What does it mean to trust God with each of these things?



You will notice as the study proceeds that the Bible is rarely specific about trusting God. It does not say trust God with your finances it just says trust God. The implication is that we are to trust God with everything. That is not to say that context gives us no clue as to what we are to trust.



Read John 14 – What are we trusting God with?

What are we trusting God for?

When is it easy to trust God?

When is it hard to trust God?



Experience makes it easy to trust God. The things that make it hard to trust God usually have to do with the size of that we are entrusting and the length of the time we need to wait. i.e. it is easy to trust God with small things for short periods.

What makes God trustworthy?

What will happen if we do not learn to trust God?

If we do not learn to trust God we will end up missing out on 101 things that God has for us or what to give us or do in us. The act of becoming a Christian means to give your life to God. It seems very strange to trust God with your life but then not trust Him with the details of your life. There is no point in not trusting God.

So why do we struggle with this?



To trust God, especially with the details of our lives means to, in part or in whole, relinquish control. We do not trust God to do what we want, we trust God to do what He wants and that in this He is working for our best even when we do not see it or like what God is doing. It is because we usually want to stay in control that we find it so hard to trust.



What is the difference between trust for what I want and trust for what God wants?

Is trusting God for what I want really trust?

(health, Job)

Can you think of some examples that show the difference between the two?



If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up!

Daniel 3:17-18



What are the two outcomes here?

What is trust in this passage?

Can you think of a possible scenario where it might be God's will that they die?

If so what is trust then?

Can you trust God when the outcome is not what you want or expect?

Why?



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans. 8:28

God sees the big picture. He sees the outcomes and the consequences that we do not see. Often what we think is best is not. Trust is for when we do not see and do not understand. God always knows best. God always does best. This is a hard lesson to learn.

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.' Matthew 26:39



Hebrew

The Hebrew word root for trust is bth (be-ta-hak). At its core, it means to be secure. It also means to be confident. Sometimes it means to rely on.

How do these work when God is the object of our trust?

How is trust going to be seen in my life?



Trust and Faith.

What is the difference between trust and faith?

Is there a difference between trust and faith?



Yes. Most obviously, faith is a noun, it is something you have, trust is a verb it is something you do. So while you can grammatically just about substitute trust for faith; (if you have trust as a mustard seed...) you can't substitute faith for trust; (faith in God, faith also in me...)



I have faith; I do trust.

Trust is faith in action

Faith knows; trust believes.



This is subjective as everyone tends to use these words a little differently. Generally, faith tends to see an outcome and aim, pray, work towards it. It is active and a little aggressive. It wants a little more control.

Trust is happier to leave the outcome to God on the basis that He probably knows what He is doing. Trust is more relaxed. Perhaps a little more passive.

Faith is an expression of what we do not see. It is a gift of the Spirit.

Trust is more rational, it is based on experience and does the "risk assessment" talked about above.