

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust And Hope

Dan Henderson

Store In My Heart

Exodus 6:7

Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exodus provides for us the story of God taking the children of Abraham as His own people. In doing so, God began the fulfilment of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. While we often associate this book with leaving Egypt, we need to also keep in mind that it tells the story of Moses receiving the Law from God on Mount Sinai. Israel did not become the 'People of God' simply because they left Egypt. Becoming God's people required them to accept and submit to His Law also.

The lesson for us should be obvious, we cannot be a child of God if we do not submit to His Law. The promise is for those who will Obey.

Most of us have suffered loss and difficulty in our journey through life. Several have recently suffered the loss of those we hold dear. Such loss never really goes away even though we function as 'normal' folks most of the time. August has brought back feelings of sorrow that linger through the end of most years for over a decade now and I really don't expect them to ever stay away. Such thoughts are common to all who have lost loved ones. I believe two areas of spiritual interest can help us with these difficulties, Trust and Hope.

If we trust only in the mechanisms of this physical world we will almost always be disappointed. Our friends, family, and brethren certainly mean well, but sometimes fall short of actually helping with our difficulties. This does not mean that we should stop trying to help those who are suffering. It does mean that we need to understand that our help will not bring immediate change to their lives. Platitudes and kind phrases may sound helpful but often they seem empty, especially when they are given by those who quickly return to their own life and expect those in sorrow to do the same. As others have said, sometimes just being there is the best help we can offer.

On the other hand, putting our trust in God will bring healing and relief to those who suffer. God knows more about what we need than any other can know. He literally sees all and is always a "very present help in trouble." The Psalmist filled many a page with thankfulness to God for His watch and care, and pleas to Him for help in times of struggle and suffering. Time and again we read in Scripture of God providing support and comfort to those who were in need. We need to learn to put our trust in God, to know deep within our very being that He will see us through. He will always be ready to lift us up from the depth of sorrow and pain.

This trust is more than a mere expression of belief that He exists. It is putting our whole life in His hands by committing to a life of submission and sacrifice for Him. It is letting go of the world and all its



plans and schemes and committing to follow only the commands and teachings left for us by God's inspired spokesmen. If we want God to be with us we must first be with Him.

Along with this trust, we must have hope. Again, the hope of the world around us is based upon that which will ultimately fail. Often heard are the stories of lost fortunes and broken dreams. Recent storms have demonstrated the frailty of our infrastructure and dwellings. Many plan for decades for a time of retirement and relaxation in their older years only to have those plans crushed by market changes or natural disaster. Hope based upon the things of this world will leave us disappointed at some point.

Yet hope that is based upon God and His Word will never fail. It is a hope that goes beyond the deteriorating world around us to reach into the eternal heaven. Hope in God cannot fail for God cannot fail. He is eternal. His power and glory are beyond even all that we might imagine.

This hope will move us beyond the dangers and suffering of this world. It will set our mind, not on a nice place to spend our final years in peace, but on the eternity that awaits once this world is gone. It anchors our very being in a place that can never be shaken, much less destroyed.

Again this must be a hope that is evidenced in our life. It will guide our decisions and relationships. This hope in God and eternity will not seek after this world's goods, but after good from God's Word. It is this kind of hope that Paul expected from those he instructed in **1Timothy 6** to be *"rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future."*

Such trust and hope puts our life in the hands of The Creator. When He is the anchor of our existence we can weather any storm life may send our way. Pain, persecution, loss, sickness, death, etc. hold no sway over us for we know that they are only temporary and we are all about eternity with God. They will still hurt our physical being, but our spirit will soar above those hurts knowing that they can do no permanent damage. Where is your Trust? Where is your Hope?

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Betty Ragsdale is in ICU in National Park Hospital after hitting her head in a fall yesterday. There were no signs of internal bleeding on scans, but she does have a second fractured vertebrae. She is in a lot of pain.

Shannon Soliday is out of town awaiting a new grandbaby.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are in Quebec after some difficult travel. Let us pray their cruise is much calmer.

Bill Venable leaves tomorrow for a long road trip in the north west.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson will be in Alabama Monday & Tuesday.

Merril and Cyndi Berryhill leave Saturday for a trip to Colorado.

Sunday Evening - **Daniel 3:8**. Wednesday Evening - **1Peter 1:22**.

Keep one another in your prayers each day.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

