

How to Prayer in Power Part 9: The Power of Trust

November 12, 2023

Matthew 6:19-24, Ps. 28:6-7

Truths about trusting in the Lord:

- 1) Begins with the Gospel: from Luke 18:9, “they trusted in themselves that they were righteous.” Rom. 3: 21-23, states clearly that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. It is God who justifies us through the blood of Christ, Rom. 3:24-26, 8:33.
- 2) Disposition of Confidence: Yahweh is our strength and shield and our hearts trust in Him, Ps. 28:6-7. The result: we give exalted praise and thanksgiving to Him for His goodness to us.
- 3) Genuine Trust is Rooted in the Sovereignty of God: The statement that “God is in control,” can reveal a heart that believes that God responds to us called: process theology. It is a heretical view of God that He is inside time and is changeable and adjusts to our circumstances. Similarly, that we have a choice to choose salvation and God responds to us. Biblical trust in God is accepting that from God comes both calamity and good, Lam. 3:37-38. God commands all that occurs.
- 4) It is not Conjured Up Emotion: the phrases, “Trust the Lord, He has got this,” and, “Trust the Lord to be with you in the greatest time of need.” These statements are the best that cultural Christianity has to offer, a basic idea of God’s presence. But trust is a disposition and belief of confidence of God. There is great comfort knowing that God sovereignly caused my greatest time of need and God will sovereignly work all things together for my good AND all things for His glory. We trust in Him for God to use our trial or test to bring about His glory.
- 5) It is an Expectation of Covenant Loyalty: Manna from heaven was a test to see if Israel would trust the Lord each day, Ex. 16:4. In suffering, we trust our souls to the Lord and do good, as God is a faithful Creator, 1 Peter 4:19. The leaders of Israel didn’t believe Jesus nor John the Baptist, as a result they didn’t obey Him, Matt. 21:24-27.

3 Types of Prayer to Strengthen Your Trust in the Lord

- 1) Pray for Treasure Opportunities: V19-21, the context is money (V24). “do not store up treasures,” means “treasure up treasures,” hoarding for safety and protection. Jesus is not stating that poverty is spirituality. Money is to be used, enjoyed, & given. 1 Tim. 6:17-19, the rich are to be rich in good works. Matt. 6:20, treasures in heaven are impervious to decay. We are to create wealth in heaven. V21, where our heart is that is what we treasure. Don’t rob yourself of joy, pray for opportunities to trust Him. Phil. 4:19, God will supply all our needs.
 - 2) Pray for Clear Vision: V22-23, if your eye is clear, then it is good. If your eye is not clear, it is evil and greedy. A good/clear eye trusts in the Lord. Jesus is speaking here again of a proper view of possessions. Those who won’t look enviously on the wealth of others.
- (4) Spiritual cataracts in believers who make a false separation of sacred vs. secular:**
- 1) Therapeutic View of Bible: this is sentimentalism. That the Bible is full of little life lessons that help us along that give us a feeling but don’t encompass the Bible making us in awe of God.
 - 2) Unorthodox Practice of the Biblical Role of Women: how we raise our children and live life, Prov. 31. Wives submit to your husbands, Eph. 5:22. To be discreet, chaste, homemakers, Titus 2:4-5.
 - 3) A Faulty Practice of Eldership: not primarily decision makers, but shepherds, leaders, those able to teach sound doctrine. They are able to make a Biblical argument from Scripture and trust in the Lord’s Word.
 - 4) The Church as My Servant, Instead of Christ’s Bride: those pastors terrified to stand up to the sin of their members. Elders trying to keep everyone happy rather than praying to the Lord how to shepherd the flock of God properly.

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Having services that try to entertain folks instead of preaching the truth. These are spiritual cataracts that don't give a clear, but rather, an evil eye.

3) **Pray for True Loyalty:** V24, you can't serve two masters. The word "hate," means "love less than," or "thinks less." Matt. 10:37, describes properly placed loyalty in the Lord. We give our total and loyal trust to the Lord. A slave owns nothing, the master gives them what they need. Wealth can distract from loyalty to Jesus. 1 Tim. 6:6-10, godliness with contentment is great gain. Heb. 13:5, be content with what you have.

Further Discussion and Application

Proverbs 11 provides this contrast of trust in yourself or in God. V1 demonstrates the heart of a thief who trusts in themselves. What does a just weight reveal about a heart towards the Lord? Why is an honest businessman blessed in what they do? Why do we focus our efforts on working as unto the Lord and not for men?

Proverbs. 11:4 shows us the value of riches in the light of our coming judgement. What is the believer's only hope on the day of judgement? How do we as believers practice righteousness and prepare ourselves for that Day? See 1 John 2:28-3:3. In 1 John what are the marks of the believer in V1-4? V5-8? V9-2:2? 2:3-11? What are the blessings of being a believer in 2:12-14?

Proverbs 11:16, the strength of two people are described in this proverb. What is the strength of the gracious women? What is a ruthless man's treasure? Which one brings glory to God? V18, the goal is to sow righteousness, what are those seeds that we are sowing?

Proverbs 11:24 demonstrates the results of the generous and stingy. How do we demonstrate our trust in the Lord by how much we give and how much we keep? V25, what are the riches of the generous? What is the blessing for those that are generous towards others? How have you experienced this grace in your life?

Proverbs 11:26 gives us a simple response to how we should use what we have been given. What should we look to do with what God has given us? How can our talents be used for Gospel opportunities? How can we use our wealth to lay up treasures in heaven and prepare a rich reward because we trust in God?

Proverbs 11:28 gives us a picture of flourishing foliage. A small plant flourishes in a small way. A large plant flourishes still more. A mature tree provides an abundance of foliage. How does this picture help us to continue being generous throughout our entire life? What size tree are you? What would be our roots? What would be our nourishment?