

Title: The Trust Test (Part 2)

Text: Proverbs 3:1-10

Date: November 2, 2014

Theme: Trust: The Key to Successful Living

“The man of pseudo faith will fight for his verbal creed but refuse flatly to allow himself to get into a predicament where his future must depend upon that creed being true. He always provides himself with secondary ways of escape so He will have a way out if the roof caves in. What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they know they must do at the last day.”

-A. W. Tozer

Review:

Take an Inventory

Recognize God as Your Source

Understand God’s Principles

Surrender Everything to God

Test God’s Promise

Understand God’s Principles:

1. The “Who’s in Charge” Principle
God’s the Owner – I’m the Manager.
2. The “Give & Grow” Principle
Practicing stewardship produces spiritual growth.
3. The “Do It Now” Principle
Stewardship deals with our present resources.
4. The “I’m in Debt” Principle
From the moment we are born...we are in debt.
5. The “Fountain of Youth” Principle
We live forever through our giving.

6. The “Who Is Number 1” Principle

God deserves the first of everything. (There is a tendency, instead of giving Him our best, to give Him the leftovers.)

Matthew 22:36-38

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

[37] Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment.

*In your sermon section pull out your pen and write down Proverbs 3:9...

Proverbs 3:9

*Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;*

1 Cor. 16:2

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

* In other word, God tells us to give Him the first of everything not the last of everything. Where is God in your life right now?

7. The "Cheerful Attitude" Principle

Stewardship begins with loving, not giving. (Paul said that God loves a cheerful giver.)"

We can give without loving but we cannot love without giving

Love asks: "How much can I give?"

Legalism asks: "How little can I give?"

*Karl Menninger, a great psychologist said that generous people are rarely ill.

When we begin to live beyond our self it begins to change our mindset and helps change us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

8. The “Big Shovel” Principle:

You cannot out give God.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

9. The “River Principle”

Our life is to be like a river, not a reservoir.

*S. D. Gordon, from “Quiet Talks on Prayer” wrote, “There is one inlet of power in the life. Anybody’s life, any kind of power, just one inlet: the Holy Spirit. He is power.

Five Outlets of Power...

1. Through our life – what we are
2. Through our lips – what we say
3. Through our ministry – what we do
4. Through our money – what we give
5. Through our prayer – what we claim in Jesus’ name

We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give.

10. The “Who Has Who” Principle

Until God is in control of my life, I am out of control...

James A Lollis said, “Stewardship is more than the management of things – it is the refusal to let things manage us.

Surrender Everything to God (TRUST)

“If only I had more...I would give more.”

How often we’ve all said that. Saint Luke had something to say about such statements:

Luke 16:10

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

What did Luke mean? "If you aren't giving sacrificially with what you have now, you won't give sacrificially when you have more." Why? Because there is a spiritual principle at work in our lives. That principle has shown time and again that it is not how much we have of the world that dictates our generosity toward God, but how much God has of us.

*Here's the question: Am I going to be a Christian that depends on God or will I depend upon myself? That's the issue! Who do I trust?

The Independent Person

This is what the Lord says:

Jeremiah 17:5-6

This is what the Lord says:

*"Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who depends on flesh for his strength
and whose heart turns away from the Lord.*

*[6] He will be like a bush in the wastelands;
he will not see prosperity when it comes.*

*He will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.*

The Dependent Person**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

*"But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.*

[8] He will be like a tree planted by the water

*that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."*

Test God's Promises (TRUST)

Mother Teresa said, "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle, I just wish that He didn't trust me so much."

"Every great Bible character experienced the trust test.

Bible Characters That Passed the Trust Test

1. Noah – Genesis 7:6 (Building the Ark)
"And Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him."
2. Abraham – Genesis 22:12 (Sacrifice of Isaac)
"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."
3. Joshua – Joshua 5:1 (Crossing the Jordan)
"Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites."
4. David – 1 Samuel 17:37-39 (David and Goliath)
*The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."
Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."
[38] Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his*

head. [39] David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

Observations:

Noah trusted in God, not in the familiar.

Abraham trusted in God, not personal feelings.

Joshua trusted in God, not methods.

David trusted in God, not man's armor.

They all had to take the trust test. We have to take the trust test and here it is.

Promises God Gives His Children When We Tithe:

Malachi 3

1. He will provide for us. (v.10)

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

In the area I obey – God blesses.

In the area I disobey -God disciplines.

2. He will protect us. (V. 11)

Malachi 3:11

I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty.

3. Our lives will be attractive to others. (V. 12)

Malachi 3:12

"Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

Conclusion: In "Run with the Horses", Eugene Peterson tells how he saw a family of birds teaching their young to fly. Three young swallows were perched on a dead branch that stretched out over a lake.

"One adult swallow got alongside the chicks and started shoving them out toward the end of the branch – pushing, pushing, and pushing. The end one fell off. Somewhere between the branch and the water four feet below, the wings started working, and the fledgling was off on his own. Then the second one."

"The third was not to be bullied. At the last possible moment his grip on the branch loosened just enough so that he swung downward, then tightened again, bulldog tenacious. The parent was without sentiment. He pecked at the desperately clinging talons until it was more painful for the poor chick to hang on than risk the insecurities of flying. The rip was released, and the inexperienced wings began pumping. The mature swallow knew what the chick did not – that it would fly – that there was no danger in making it do what it was perfectly designed to do."

"Birds have feet and can walk. Birds have talons and can grasp a branch securely. They can walk; they can cling. But flying is their characteristic action, and not until they fly are they living at their best, gracefully and beautifully."

"Giving is what we do best. It is the air into which we were born. It is the action that was designed into us before our birth...Some of us try desperately to hold on to ourselves, to live for ourselves. We look so bedraggled and pathetic doing it, hanging on to the dead branch of a bank account for dear life, afraid to risk ourselves on the untried wings of giving. We don't think we can live generously because we have never tried. But the sooner we start, the better, for we are going to have to give up our lives finally, and the longer we wait, the less time we have for the soaring and swooping life of grace."

*It was Francois Fenelon that said, “Don’t worry about the future – worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. He is in charge of all things. Never second guess him.”