

TRUSTING IN THE LORD AT ALL TIMES

(Sermon notes for Sunday 29th March, 2020)

Though we are living in challenging times at present we can depend on the faithfulness of God now and at ALL times

King David wrote,

“Whenever I am afraid,

I will trust in You.

In God (I will praise His word),

In God I have put my trust;

I will not fear.

What can flesh do to me?”

(Psalm 56:3-4)

The simple fact is that God is sovereign in the affairs of this world including what is currently happening in the world around us

Jesus Himself said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:29-31)

In the book of Proverbs we read, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.” (Proverbs 15:3)

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.” (Proverbs 21:1)

- **God is unchanging**
- **God is always sovereign in the affairs of this world**
- **God has done miracles in the past (parting the Red Sea for Moses and the children of Israel so that they could pass through it on dry ground) See Exodus 14:15-22)**
- **God is ABLE to do miracles today, AND**
- **God is able to perform miracles in the future. “For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)**

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

We can depend upon God’s faithfulness at ALL TIMES

The Apostle Paul knew that he could depend upon God’s faithfulness to deliver him from the trials and persecutions that he went through during his time here on earth

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

In the gospel of Mark we see how God is able to supernaturally help us and to provide for our every need

MARK 8:1-9 “In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.

And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.

Then His disciples answered Him, ‘How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?’ He asked them, ‘How many loaves do you have?’ And they said, ‘Seven.’”

“So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude.”

They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away.”

(Mark 8:1-9)

GOD WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE FOR ALL OF OUR NEEDS EVEN DURING THE WILDERNESS SEASONS OF OUR LIFE

- **As I prayed about today’s message I sensed that God allows things to happen (including what is now happening in the world) so that people come to the place of seeking Him and choosing to fully surrender their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ. (In reality it is *often* people’s poor choices in life that bring them to a place of hopelessness where they finally seek God for help)**

- **That God is most concerned about people's eternal destinies, that none should perish**

- **The simple fact is that true purpose and meaning in life can only be found in Christ and in wholeheartedly living for Him**

- **TOUGH TIMES HELP US TO COME TO THIS CONCLUSION**

Jesus Himself said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (**John 10:10**)

King David (who was a man after God's own heart) wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (**Psalm 16:11**)

- **As Christians we are to be in the world, but not of it**

Jesus Himself said,

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:14-16**)

- **God is now drawing many backslidden Christians back to Himself and causing them to refocus on the eternal things and for the need to share the hope that they have in Christ with others**

- **As Christians we will only ever be truly satisfied from above by maintaining an intimate and ongoing walk with the Lord**
- **When Jesus Christ is truly Lord of our life, the things of this world will no longer have the same attraction as they did before we came to Christ**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

The Apostle John wrote,

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” **(1 John 2:15-17)**

- **As Christians we have a new nature and new desires**
- **The closer we are in our walk with the Lord the less attractive the things of this world become and the more important the things of the Kingdom become**

King David wrote,

“**Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**” **(Psalm 37:4)**

- **TOUGH TIMES (As long as we do not become bitter) simply draw us back to intimacy in our relationship with the Lord and to the fact that all that we NEED in life is found in Christ;**
 - HOPE (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - PROTECTION (Psalm 91) (Psalm 23:4)
 - PROVISION (Philippians 4:19)
 - SECURITY (Hebrews 13:5) (Matthew 28:20)
 - PEACE (John 14:27)
 - JOY (Psalm 16:11)
 - PURPOSE (John 10:10) (Ephesians 2:10)
 - Adoption into God’s family (Ephesians 1:5) (John 1:12) and
 - ETERNAL LIFE (John 3:16) (John 11:25) AND A FUTURE HOME WITH JESUS (John 14:1-3)

- **Tough times simply highlight our need for God’s help in life. We were not meant to do life alone**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-10)

- **Tough times help us to REFOCUS on the eternal things.
What really matters in life**

Jesus Himself said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

Jesus also said, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” **(Matthew 6:24)**

- **Tough times in life help us to REFOCUS on our relationship with the Lord and what He has called us to do in life**
- **We have one gift of life to leave an eternal legacy in our world. Where our life can help many others to come to Christ and to live for the Lord**
- **We have one life to store up treasures in heaven**
- **What is happening now in Australia (often referred to as being the lucky country) where we are now seeing empty shelves in supermarkets and many losing their jobs is just showing us that nothing is certain in life**
- **HOWEVER as believers we can **DEPEND** on the faithfulness of God **AT ALL TIMES****

I will now finish with six reasons why we need to always put our entire trust in the Lord and to let Him direct our steps in life at ALL times

1) Because God's ways are higher than our ways

God knows what is best for us at all times

Following God's plan for our life is the key to bearing much eternal fruit and to experiencing the fullness of life that Jesus spoke of

In the book of Isaiah we read, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask *or think*, according to the power that works in us," (Ephesians 3:20)

No situation is ever impossible for God. When things seem impossible, the God of the impossible is able to turn things around. We must simply trust God at all times

No matter what may be happening in our world today we have a God who is able to help us and whose ways are higher than our ways and so often different to our ways

The word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jeremiah when he was in prison for His faith, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3)

2) Because as Christians we can build our lives on the promises of God in His word

As Christians we are of a different Kingdom

There is no lack in the Kingdom of God

As Christians we can position ourselves to appropriate all of God's promises in His word for our own lives. For example by tithing we can appropriate God's promise in Malachi 3:10-11

The bible is full of promises for all believers that relate to every area of our life. Promises in relation to:

- Provision
- Health
- Protection
- Guidance
- Favour
- Open doors, and
- Answered prayers, to name just a few

Building our lives on God's promises in His word will help us not to be moved or troubled by our temporary circumstances and what is going on in the world right now

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."

(2 Corinthians 1:20)

I will be looking at some of God's many promises in His word throughout the remainder of this teaching

3) Because when we put Christ and the things of the Kingdom first in our life, ALL that we need in life shall be added to us

This is one of the many wonderful promises that we can position ourselves to appropriate as believers

Over the years I have seen in my own life that there is no better place than being in the will of God for our lives. It is in the centre of God's will for our life that we see every need being met and God connecting us with the right people to help us to fulfil our God given destiny

This is why the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of knowing the will of God for our lives

The Apostle Paul wrote, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Jesus made it clear that if we put Him first and live for the Kingdom Cause, all that we NEED in life shall be added to us

Jesus Himself said, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' Or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:31-33)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

GOD DOES NOT WANT US CONTINUALLY STRESSED ABOUT THE EVERYDAY THINGS OF LIFE

**This is why Jesus continually encouraged us not to worry
about the everyday things of life**

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?” (Matthew 6:25-27)

AS CHRISTIANS WE DO NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE EVERYDAY THINGS OF LIFE

**God promises to meet our every NEED in life when we put
Him first in our life and plans**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

4) Because when our trust is in Christ alone we can maintain our peace at all times

Jesus Himself said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” **(John 14:27)**

In the book of Isaiah we read, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” **(Isaiah 26:3-4)**

As long as we continually trust the Lord and build our lives on God’s promises in His word, we can continually enjoy the peace of God in our lives

Jesus Himself said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **(John 16:33)**

TWO GREAT KEYS TO CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINING GOD’S PEACE IN OUR LIVES ARE:

i. Learning to live one day at a time. God will always give us the grace to handle today’s problems. God is always going ahead of our tomorrows

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” **(Matthew 6:34) AND**

ii. Continually committing our cares and concerns to the Lord in prayer (1 Peter 5:7) (Philippians 4:6-7)

5) Because we have a God Who is both willing and able to help us AND Who answers prayers

One of God's many promises in His word for all believers is that He hears and answers (in His perfect timing) all of our prayers that are in line with His will for our lives

God always knows what is best for us in the LONG RUN

We must refuse to continually focus on the problems in our world and especially at the moment on all of the bad news reports about the coronavirus, but learn to always take care of our concerns and needs to the Lord in prayer

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

WE HAVE A GOD WHO IS BOTH WILLING AND ABLE TO HELP US AT ALL TIME. WE MUST SIMPLY ASK FOR HIS HELP

The Apostle John wrote, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

Jesus Himself said, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:22-24) **AND**

6) Because it is a key to seeing God's plan for our life being fulfilled and to experiencing God's ongoing favour and blessing upon our lives

King David wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Continually putting our trust in the Lord and allowing Him to direct our steps in life will cause our lives to bear much eternal fruit and enable us to reach our full potential in Christ. GOD HAS MUCH PLANNED FOR EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFE

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Continually trusting in the LORD at ALL times helps us to fulfil God's best plan for our life and to consistently make right choices in life

We will never come second putting God first

Trusting God is also a great key to seeing God's ongoing favour and blessing upon our lives

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

As I prayed about today's message I really sensed that now is the time that we need to wholeheartedly trust the Lord and to break open our lives for the cause of Christ

It is our ongoing trust in the Lord that will give us the confidence to allow Him to fully direct our steps in life

In doing this our lives will make a great eternal difference in the lives of many others as we shine in a world which is now full of much fear and uncertainty

AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN ALWAYS DEPEND UPON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

The Psalmist wrote,

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...” (Psalm 46:1-2)

We have one gift of life to make an impact in the world for eternity

IN A WORLD FULL OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY WE CAN TRULY STAND OUT AS FAITH FILLED BELIEVERS

It is our unshakeable faith and trust in Christ alone that will;

- **Cause us to continually follow God's plan for our life**
- **Cause our lives to bear much fruit in the days to come as we help many others to come to Christ**
- **Cause our lives to leave a great eternal legacy, and**
- **Keep our focus on storing up treasures in heaven**

SO IN CONCLUSION

With all that is happening at present in the world it is truly God's desire that all people would come to Him in true repentance and give their hearts and lives to Him

God has such a great love for all people and truly it is His desire that none would perish. His heart is that all people would have an intimate relationship with Him and lead a life of great purpose and meaning

One positive outcome from the coronavirus has been that multitudes are now coming to the realisation that they need God's help

Nations like Zambia are now coming back wholeheartedly to the Lord and again declaring that they are a Christian nation

When times are good so often many people have little interest in the things of the Kingdom

But it is in the tough times that people so often reach out to God for His help and commit their hearts to Jesus and begin to experience the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of

God is able to resurrect broken lives and dreams

Jesus is the hope for all humanity

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR WHEN JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY LORD OF OUR LIFE

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

Today I would like to encourage you to whole heartedly trust the Lord in every area of your life and to allow Him to use your life to help bring hope to the world around us

That today as you reflect on what is currently happening in the world around us, that you would realise the importance of all Christians sharing the hope that we have in Christ with others who do not yet know Christ

JUST BELIEVE THAT WITH GOD ON YOUR SIDE YOUR LIFE CAN TRULY SHINE IN THE TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN. As you whole heartedly live for the Kingdom Cause you can ALSO be assured that all that you need in life shall be added to you

And finally for those who may not yet have given their life to Jesus Christ, I would like to encourage you that it is the best and most important decision that you will ever make in your life

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of people giving their heart to Him and receiving the gift of eternal life. He also said what it meant to be truly a disciple of His.

Jesus Himself said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost.” (Luke 9:23-25)

It is only when we fully surrender our life to Jesus Christ that we experience the abundant life that Jesus spoke of

This life is fleeting but eternity is forever

We only have one gift of life to make the decision of where we will spend eternity and to live for Christ so that we can store up treasures in heaven

Jesus made it clear that every person must make a personal response to Him if they are to have eternal life and become part of God's eternal Kingdom

Jesus Himself said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **(John 3:3)**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” **(John 3:5)**

Jesus then went on to say, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **He who believes in Him is not condemned;** but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” **(John 3:16-18)**

If you have never yet received Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour today is the best day to do so

Jesus loves you with a passion

He willingly died for each and every one of us on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins

But death could not hold Him down

Three days later He triumphantly arose from the grave and is now back with His Father in Heaven

Today Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart

Today you can open the door of your heart to Him and receive the gift of eternal life by saying the following prayer:

“Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sin to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus Christ died on the cross for all my sins and that He arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite You Jesus Christ to come into my heart and live to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with the Holy Spirit I pray, Amen.”