

# **Trusting in the Goodness of God**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

## Introduction:

### A. We are in control of our world

1. We don't get sick; our family members never get old and pass on; our jobs are completely secure, and inflation never outgrows our income; our children and grandchildren always grow up healthy and strong, and never get in accidents; they always get good jobs nearby and never have financial setbacks; our marriages are always loving and our neighbors are thoughtful; our homes are comfortable and our cars never need repairs; natural disasters never occur in our neighborhoods and crime happens in other places; all of the members of the church get along and everyone loves the sermons and singing. And all of this happens because we are in complete control of the world around us.

2. We are not in control of our world, and since this an absolute truth, we need to learn Who is in charge and put our confidence in the One who created both the world and all of the people in it. The One Whose perfect design and flawless creation is an eternal source of wonder.

3. This is our Father's world, and we will learn to trust Him.

### B. Faith into trust; trust into peace; peace into heaven.

1. "Faith doesn't come in a bushel basket. It comes one step at a time. Decide to trust Him for one little thing today, and before you know it, you find out He's so trustworthy that you will be putting your whole life in His hands."

2. "If you're wrestling with some sort of decision, reflect for a moment and ask yourself, 'Am I being brave, or am I being safe?' In the end, it depends on whether you think God can be trusted.

3. "When faith grows up, it becomes trust."

### C. Trust must have a visible form

1. "When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off the train; you trust the engineer and wait until the train comes out of the tunnel and the light returns. Trust God no matter how dark the situation; He will bring you out of the darkness."

2. "The Bible never tells us to figure everything out; it tells us to trust God; He already has it all figured out."

## **I. WE CAN TRUST IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

A. In the midst of difficulties, hardship, and confusion, we can trust that God is up to something good - John 11:1-6

1. It is important that we bring our difficulties to Jesus and discover what He has to say about them - John 11:2-4; 1Peter 5:7

2. When the Lord's timing doesn't match our own, we need to trust in His goodness - John 11:5-6; Psalm 27:14; Isa. 40:31

a. Instead of making assumptions about Jesus based on our feelings and experiences, we need to let His word and His works sustain us.

3. The Lord's love for us is never in question, and we should beware of the trap of trying to finish this sentence when we think of God: "If You really loved me, then You would..."
  4. Trusting in Christ's leadership means setting aside our human expectations and regularly surrendering our limited understandings to His Lordship, especially when He moves in directions that are different from what we would choose - John 11:7-10; Isa. 44:6-8
- B. In the Lord's own timing, He reveals what He wants to do in our midst and invites us to meditate on the possibilities with Him - John 11:11
1. To see what God is really intending, we have to let go of our preconceived ideas - John 11:12
  2. What God is able to do and wants to do is greater than we can imagine John 11:13-15; Eph. 3:20; 1Cor. 2:9
  3. In the end, it is not our understanding that honors the Lord, but rather our loyalty and the determination to follow Him no matter what we think we understand - John 11:16
- C. All things are possible when we believe - John 11:17-43
1. All too often, believers say the right words, but fail to see what God is doing or what He is saying in the moment - John 11:21-27; Matt. 17:1-6
  2. In the midst of heartache, we need to be careful not to isolate ourselves from Christ, but rather purpose to draw closer to Him - John 11:28-36
  3. We can trust that the Lord knows our hearts and feels what we feel. That is why He was born into this world in a body, to feel with us.
  4. We have the choice to either trust in the Lord's goodness or to become cynical and accusatory - John 11:37
  5. There are always so called "reasonable" excuses to discount what the Lord says and do other than what He asks.
- D. Great possibilities are opened to those who will take Him at His Word and follow His instructions - John 11:38-40
1. The Father delights in revealing His goodness and glory to strengthen our faith and increase our trust in Him - John 11:41-43
- E. Reactions to the goodness of God
1. In view of the goodness of God, it is time to leave behind everything associated with our stubborn will and our foolish belief that we are in control of the world around us - John 11:44
  2. Some will see the goodness of God and trust - John 11:45; Gal. 6:14
  3. Others will see the will of God and try to assert their control over Him - John 11:46-50