

STUDY #4 - TRUST

Reflecting the Heart of Christ

BE TRANSFORMED

JOHN R. MURPHY

Theme Verse

Romans 8:29 AMP

“For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness],...”

Study Verses:

Hebrews 13:5-6 AMP

“Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?”

1 Peter 5:7 AMP

Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.

Key Concepts

God knows what we need and is trustworthy to provide it. Not trusting God causes fear and leads us to exert control to get what we think we need. The pressure of total self-dependency will tempt us to trust in worldly possessions and lies for our peace, which dishonors God and perpetuates our anxiety.

God calls upon us as members of His kingdom to trust in His Son for our inner peace, joy, abundance and all else we require -- without limit. Peace about our needs being met comes from faithful trust, not from obtaining the thing we think we need.

One day, the bills were ganging up on me in predictable monthly fashion,

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God for my provision regardless of my situation or how bleak things might look. The message was clear that when I operate out of a need to control and not trust God at His word, I will suffer fear and uncertainty.

The Hebrews 13:5-6 scripture provided above powerfully confirms God's commitment to provide, and emphasizes my need to trust in Him for my provision. It brought me under conviction that I had dishonored Him by rejecting His offer.

Jesus was the first to give up everything that is universally valued in order to trust the Father. The test of His trust was leaving the presence of the Father, on a rescue mission that would lead Him through God-forsakenness and ultimately require a descent into Hell. When Jesus agreed to be separated from the Father, He trusted Him for restoration. There is no record of Jesus having ever been separated from the Father before He decided to allow a sin-filled world to have its momentary victory over Him by crucifixion. He suffered an isolation and separation that could only be endured by the hope of restoration. The only rational basis for that hope was the fact that God is worthy of trust.

The faith to believe that Jesus is the one true Son of God is about deciding whether or not to believe a fact, a fact that is not even disputed by Satan. Trusting Jesus to be Lord of your existence is not built into believing the fact of who Jesus is. This is again confirmed in that Satan and his minions, although they know perfectly well who Jesus is, obviously have not chosen to rely on Him or trust Him in any way. Our belief is no different. Affirming who Jesus is does not necessitate a decision to trust in Him. That is an important and additional exercise in faith.

Taken in context and in the fullness of the meaning, the word "faith" means belief that Jesus is the Son of God, as well as total reliance on Him. Not just a partial trust in Him but a complete, unreserved, fall-backward-and-He-will-catch-you confidence. This kind of faith necessarily entails a rejection of faith in this tangible, chaotic world where we temporarily dwell. As Scripture tells us, God's wisdom will make the wisdom of the world foolish. This kind of faith, which proclaims that "I will be at peace in the midst of suffering", is insanity to the world. Just as "walking through the valley of the shadow of death and fearing no evil" is impossible if your faith is in the

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tangible world.

These are the words Scripture uses to describe the full meaning of faith in Jesus:

- Depend on
- Cleave to
- Adhere to
- Cling to
- Rely on
- Trust in
- Confide in
- Be steadfast to

In 1 Peter 5:7 AMP, God invites you to trust Him and receive the peace that surpasses anything available anywhere else in existence.

Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.

This was the offer made in effect to the rich young ruler who was not able to trust Jesus as the sole source of all his needs. Money had become his comfort, his security, his identity, his assurance, his idol. He was not able to see that wealth is a blessing of stewardship and that only Jesus was trustworthy for his peace, provision and security.

Peace is available now by trusting God. It is not available by praying for God to give you what you have decided will give you peace. Pray and ask God to show you the things in your life that you trust for your peace other than God. Pray a prayer of repentance for each of the thing(s) He reveals to you. Pray about each one by inserting it the blank below.

Trusting God Prayer

Heavenly Father, I proclaim that only You are trustworthy. Please forgive me for trusting in the world and being satisfied with counterfeit well-being. Forgive me for trusting in myself and trying to control my circumstances in a vain attempt to acquire Your promises through my strength. Specifically forgive me for depending on _____ to reach a place of peace that only You can give me. Father, I proclaim that You are the only true God, and I ask You to give me the faith and the courage to disregard

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I pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus.

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