

The Power of Trust
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Introduction: We often want to have valuable things without any effort.

A. As a result many settle for “bargains” that are nothing more than mirages.

1. What is trust? (a) Firm reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person or thing. (b) Custody; care. (c) The condition and resulting obligation of having confidence placed in one: *violated a public trust*. (d) One in which confidence is placed.

2. There were many who wanted Jesus to trust Him because of their words.

(Jn 2:23-25)

B. We need to examine our lives and answer some questions about trust!

1. We need to see where we really place our trust. Some have found “bargains” that will fail in the day of testing. (Ex. Dad’s new car) **(Jer 2:13; 14:3)**

2. We need to examine if others can really trust us. We must open our eyes!

I. Our God is worthy of our trust

A. God wants us to know this and then actually place our trust in Him. **(Psa 36:7)**

1. One of the things that breaks our hearts down to trust God is His great goodness.

2. The world laughs at us and would convince us that there is a “better way.”

a. The king of Assyria boldly said this. **(2 Kgs 19:10-12)**

b. He learned a lesson but never learned to trust the true God. **(2 Kgs 19:35-37)**

c. Notice where Sennacherib died! **(2 Chron 32:20-21)**

B. We are blessed if we can build such a trust. We then will have a shield that nothing can break down! **(2 Sam 22:3-4, 31)**

1. There is a big difference between a passing trust and a real one.

2. Peter knew what real trust in the Lord meant. **(Mk 10:28-31)**

3. If you trust in the Lord that trust will be tested. **(Rom 5:3-5)**

4. It is “easier” to the worldly to talk about trusting God and in reality trust something else that does not test you.

5. Our God will tell you the truth and move you to make needed changes. Many find this too demanding and seek a more convenient time. **(Acts 24:25-26)**

a. Notice the elements that go along with trusting God.

b. Where did Felix place his trust?

II. Where do we place our trust?

A. Satan has many “bargains” to make you feel secure.

1. Money seems to provide security. **(Psa 49:6-9; Mk 10:24-25)**

2. Military power and skill. **(Psa 20:7-8; 44:6-7)**

3. Powerful political and business leaders. **(Psa 146:3-4)**

4. Ones own heart. **(Prov 28:26)**

B. Where you place you trust will also affect your trustworthiness.

1. Many placed trust in idols. **(Psa 135:14-18)**

2. There was a social “acceptance” and an “easy” morality that went along with this.

3. Could an idol really help them?
4. These people became like them! They too were untrustworthy. (Ex. The bar scene: “Where everyone is your friend”????)

III. Am I a trustworthy person?

- A. Where do I place my trust? (**Prov 3:5; 11:28**)
 1. I will have a set of priorities and affections that surround it. (Ex. Football)
 2. We become like that we trust.
- B. Trusting God will make us willing servants of others.
 1. If we trust in Jesus then we will want the mind of Jesus. (**Phil 2:1-5**)
 - a. Trusting in another takes time, knowledge and interaction.
 - b. When you come to Jesus He will expose your heart. This is painful but needed.
 - c. Many confess Jesus but do not open their hearts. They really trust something else.
 2. Consider the attitude and actions of Timothy. (**Phil 2:19-22**)
 - a. Trustworthy people become concerned to know others!
 - b. Trustworthy people will make changes in order to help others. (**1 Cor 9:19-23**)
 - c. Many say they trust God but have their own clique that they care about. All others better stay out!
 3. When we have God’s love in our lives then we have a consistent attitude and action towards others. (**1 Cor 13:4-6**)
 - a. We are patient and kind.
 - b. We do not seek to be seen and praised.
 - c. We want good and not evil for others.
 - d. We are optimistic!

IV. Some common trustbusters

- A. Selling one out because of a greater “loyalty.” (**Psa 41:9**)
 1. Judas had a love of money.
 2. Others can be loyal to “friends.”
- B. The love of gossip and tale bearing. (**Jas 3:5**)
 1. Those who do this will find themselves without those they can trust. (**Prov 28:25**) (Ex. Barber shop)
 2. Those who love the Lord know the difference between love and self-exaltation.
- C. An uncontrolled anger and bitterness. (**1 Jn 3:15**)
 1. It is hard to trust God with your vengeance. (**Rom 12:19**)
 2. Some give into bitterness and will pursue another till their death. They will also go to hell.
 3. Even when a church divides over this bitter spirit one will try to reach into other churches to pursue the object of their hatred. (**Heb 12:15**)
 4. We at North Charlottesville need to be on guard to this spirit.

Conclusion: We cannot do the work of the Lord without being trustworthy.

- A. The spread of the gospel and the building up of Christians require others to open their hearts to us.
- B. We must fight to keep that kind of spirit here. (**Phil 1:27-28**)