

WELCOME TO THE
GREATER RENO
CHURCH OF CHRIST

S E R M O N O U T L I N E & B U L L E T I N

Sunday, August 21, 2022



Today's Study Focus: Truly Trusting: Learning To Rely On A Much Greater God

Every day challenges can test our trust in God. Fear and anxiety can rob us from faith. The future may seem uncertain right now, and worry keeps occupying too much room in your heart, in your mind, but remember this: God is already in all our tomorrows. The Bible assures us that He knows our way, and He has a plan. And we can trust God's way is the best way for us. God's timing is perfect. We may never know why certain things happen during our lives on earth, but we can trust that God's plan is for our good and that He goes before us. Trusting in God doesn't mean we put on a smile and fake the appearance of faith - sometimes trusting God is crying out to Him in our pain. Our true hope is knowing that we can rejoice in the pain. God never asks us to figure it all out on our own. He just asks us to trust Him, to recognize His leadership and Sovereignty in our lives. biblestudytools.com

Reach Higher For Awe And Wonder Of A Much Greater God ▪ God speaking to Job 'out of a storm' about His greatness.

- 1 Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone - 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? 8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, 9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, 10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, 11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?' Job 38:1-11 NIV

☑ God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of three of them...Not only may you see a tiny fraction of what God is doing in your life; the part you do see may make no sense to you. John Piper

1) STOP SETTLING FOR A LESSER GOD AND START IMAGINING A GREATER ONE (v.4) - "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand."

2) THINK THROUGH THE TRUTH THAT HE CREATED ALL THE EARTH (ROMANS 1:20) - "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

3) THINK THROUGH THE TRUTH THAT HE CREATED YOU AND 'ORDERED' ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE (PSALM 139:13-16) - "13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

4) THINK THROUGH THE TRUTH THAT YOU'RE HERE TODAY BY HIS DESIGN AND INTENTION (ACTS 17:26,27 NIRV) - "26 From one man he made all the people of the world. Now they live all over the earth. He decided exactly when they should live. And he decided exactly where they should live. 27 God did this so that people would seek him. And perhaps they would reach out for him and find him. They would find him even though he is not far from any of us."

When Fear, Worry And Doubt Fade, Trust In A Greater God Will Grow ▪ Jesus preaching at the Sermon On The Mount.

- 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" Matthew 6:25-27 (NIV)

☑ Let your life reflect the faith you have in God. Fear nothing and pray about everything. Be strong, trust God's word, and trust the process. Germany Kent

1) ATTACK YOUR FEAR, WORRY, DOUBT BY PRACTICING AUTHENTIC PRAYER, CONFESSION AND STUDY OF THE WORD (v.27) - "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

Scripture Passages For Further Personal Study: John 10:1-21 I have come for...'life to the full'. Philippians 4:10-20 My God will meet all your needs.



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7 Daily Steps to Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart biblestudytools.com

1. Don't Depend on You

We live in a world where trust must be earned and seems to be in short supply. But Solomon, the famous king who wrote Proverbs, knew that trust is exactly where we must start: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."* (**Proverbs 3:5**) Most of us have faced disappointments, which have taught us that we can only depend upon ourselves. But living the life God has called us to means unlearning that lesson. Instead, we're meant to rest in God's understanding. We may know in our minds that He possesses all wisdom: *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"* (**Romans 11:33**) But sometimes trusting Him completely like that can be tough. So, each day we must consciously lay aside our own plans and expectations—and surrender to His plans.



2. Cry out to God

Surrendering to God begins with our lips and our thoughts. We need more than a commitment to depend on Him; we need to cry out to Him to show that dependence. *"...in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."* (**Proverbs 3:6**) When we pray, we admit that His ways are higher than ours. We show that we're leaving our troubles and burdens and dreams in His capable hands. In fact, the Bible promises that when we reach out to Him in prayer, He hears us: *"Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice."* (**Psalms 55:17**) We handed the keys of our lives to Him, and we know that He's able to lead us.

3. Run from Evil

So much in this world can clutter up our relationship with God. John, the writer of the fourth gospel, describes them as the desires of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride in our lives. (**1 John 2:16**) In other words, our blessings can easily become our stumbling blocks when we think of them as what we deserve or what we need to be happy. Instead, life works best when we remember the true source of our blessings—God—and focus on the things that please Him: *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil."* (**Proverbs 3:7**) Sometimes, the only way to live the life God wants us to live is by separating ourselves from the bad influences that keep dragging us down. That works the best when we start pursuing something else in their place: *"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."* (**2 Timothy 2:22**) Is that easy? Not at all. Fleeing from the evil desires that pull at us means spending a lot of time crying out to God and leaning on Him. But our Creator promises to honor our commitment to Him when we shun evil. *"This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones."* (**Proverbs 3:8**) When we pursue Him, we find life—abundant life. Running from evil and pursuing God doesn't come naturally to most of us. Instead, it means we have to make a serious change.

4. Put God First in Your Life

It's easiest to put ourselves first. When something good happens, we want to congratulate ourselves with a reward. When something bad happens, we want to console ourselves or find someone to blame. In other words, we often have a "me-centric" starting place. And when it comes to money, the struggle is even harder. But Solomon, who had quite a bit of wealth himself, knew that his money didn't belong to him: *"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."* (**Proverbs 3:9-10**) If we can trust God with the first of our wealth, we're truly showing how much we depend on Him. Handing over the first part of our paycheck takes a huge amount of faith, after all. But doing so means being God-centric.

5. Check Yourself by God's Word

Let's be honest. We aren't so good at evaluating ourselves. We will go to great lengths to excuse our behavior, our actions, and our sins. Who needs a defense attorney when we can pretty much find a reason for any bad thing we do? The prophet Jeremiah captures this very well: *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"* (**Jeremiah 17:9**) If we're ever going to truly trust in God and flee evil, we have to know exactly where we stand. We have to find an objective measure that tells us the truth. And that truth comes from God and His Word. Of course, that doesn't mean we'll always like what we see or how we see it: *"My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke."* (**Proverbs 3:11**) That's right. Sometimes it takes something bad happening or seeing ourselves in a bad light before we finally admit that we need to change. And the more we're in the Bible, the more likely this is to happen. *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* (**Psalms 119:11**) When we have Scripture planted firmly in our hearts, God will often use that to deal with us.

6. Listen to the Holy Spirit

When Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the church, He told His disciples that this Counselor would be their spiritual compass or GPS: *"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."* (**John 14:26**) As we go through our day, this same Holy Spirit guides us, too. That means we don't have to go it alone or hope we're getting it right. No, the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth and protects us: *"Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."* (**2 Timothy 1:14**)

7. Rest in God's Love

When we face a difficult world each day, we can sometimes wonder if God even cares. Why do bad things happen? Where is God when I need Him? Solomon reminds us that God never takes a break or leaves us to fend for ourselves: *"...because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."* (**Proverbs 3:12**) Even in the midst of turmoil, God sticks with us and uses those challenges to shape us. When we understand that, our perspective completely flips. No longer do we see our setbacks as failures; we see them as moments when God, as our loving Father, works on us. And that's exactly why we can trust in the Lord with all our hearts. He cares for us each and every day. He gives us what we need to thrive. He pours blessing after blessing upon us. Of course, following each of these daily steps isn't easy. That's why Jesus said we have to deny ourselves and follow Him (**Matthew 16:24**). Trusting God takes a whole-hearted commitment from dawn till dusk. But we're never alone in it: *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (**Matthew 28:20b**)