

A Measure of Trust
Proverbs 21:20
Isaiah 30:15-16

One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters."

It's all about trust. God trusts us, and we trust God. God's trusting us began as far back as the Garden of Eden. He placed His precious new creation in the care of the man and woman. His trusting continues even today as He entrusts the Good News of Jesus Christ to each of us. The other thing that entrusts to us is His provision.

But God doesn't want the trust relationship to go only one way. God wants us to trust Him, too. Over the next few weeks we are focusing on a biblical understanding of money and how it fits in our lives. If you come to worship and to the Ramsey video series, you will receive important information that can help you in the arena of finance. But all of the good information in the world will do little good if you are not building on a foundation of trust in God. We must trust that he will take care of us on the amount of income He has provided to us. We don't have to understand how...just trust. Living beyond our God-provided resources implies that God cannot care for us properly...we must go into debt to supplement God's provision. Another possible reason for going into debt is that we are not listening to God regarding how He would have us to manage His resources and we overspend. That brings us back to the lesson from Proverbs for today: *The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get. (Prov. 21:20)*

Once we spend all we have, then we must trust in something or someone other than God. The Israelites did something similar. They didn't feel that God was providing in the way they wanted, so they turned toward a resource they could readily see. In the Isaiah passage, God is calling them back to Himself.

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says:

"Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved.

In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.

You said, 'No, we will get our help from Egypt. They will give us swift horses for riding into battle.' But the only swiftness you are going to see is the swiftness of your enemies chasing you! (Isa. 30:15-16)

Over and over the Bible invites us to trust in God, and in Him alone. These days people are very careful about what they do with their money and their life. But trusting in God is not a gamble.

Once when talking about God with a banker, he told me that he had enough religion. More would be too much. I asked him whether he could foresee a time when his bank might make too much money. He could not imagine such a circumstance. Likewise, I said, I do not see how one could have too much of God and his love.

Happiness is everyone's goal. It is also God's wish for our lives. The closer we are to him, the happier we are. The Bible says that joy and peace and happiness come from being very close to God and trusting in him.

Suppose my daughter came to me and said, "Daddy, I love you and will do anything you want me to." To which I reply, "Get rid of all your toys, have no more friends, stay in your room, and very soon you will be the unhappiest child in Holly Springs."

How ridiculous! If she came trusting me with her life, I would try even harder to give enhancing direction to it. God is no different. When we give ourselves completely to him, we come away the better for it.

Psalm 34:10 reminds us, *“even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing.”*

The lion is given strength and ability and is expected to use it. Likewise we are given abilities and intellect and we are expected to use them. However, if we only rely on ourselves then we will undoubtedly fall short.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale tells of meeting a Dutch gentleman who told him a story of God's great providence during a time of suffering. He was just a child when World War II wreaked havoc on his country of Holland. Food was scarce, and the people of his town were in danger of starving. They were so hungry that they dug up tulip bulbs for food.

The pastor of the local church announced a prayer meeting to call upon God for help. For more than an hour, the people prayed fervently for food. As they prayed, the young boy felt the presence of God in the room, and he knew that God was answering their prayers.

The next morning, food aid flights came roaring over the town, dropping packages full of food. Like manna from heaven, the packages of food saved a starving people and renewed their faith in God's love and providence.

The people did what they could do with what resources they had; then they trusted God for the rest. You and I must also trust in the Lord for all we have. He will never fail you, and his provision is always sufficient. You might not be able to see where God is leading you, but He can see and that's all that matters.