

# Trust Test Pt 2

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>*

Last week we began a series on the importance of Trust and its effect on our relationships.

Proverbs 3:5-10 provide some clear principles on how to cultivate our Trust (Faith) in God.

**T: Take Personal Inventory.** Pr 3:5 *"Trust (bāṭah: put confidence) in the Lord with all thine heart"*

**R: Recognize God.** Pr. 3:6 *"In all thy ways acknowledge (yada: recognize, perceive, know) Him"*

Dt 8:1 *"All the commandments... shall ye observe to do, that ye may live and multiply and and possess the land ...2 and thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee... in the wilderness"*

In order to facilitate this, God commanded Israel to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot: booths) Fall. (See Lev. 23:39-43) This was their version of our Thanksgiving! God orchestrated this so that future generations would not easily forget Him and His Provision.

This was not to be just a time of celebration, but of recognition and recalibration, so that future generations would remember God's Providence, Protection, & Provision. Ps 78:1-8

Deut. 8:2 *"thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee...3 How He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna..."* Why remember the Hard and Humbling times?

*"... that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live." (Hāyâ: is sustained) (Remember Mt 4:4?)*

The Plymouth Pilgrims knew nothing of the affluent times which you and I enjoy today in this great country of ours. During that first long winter at Plymouth Colony, seven times as many graves were made for the dead as homes for the living. The ship which was to bring food and relief brought 35 more mouths to feed, but little to no provisions. To remember these times, they had a custom of putting 5 kernels of corn upon each empty plate before a dinner of "thanksgiving" was served. Each member of the family would pick up a kernel and tell what they were thankful for. It was to remind them that the first Pilgrims were in such dire straits that their allowance was only 5 kernels of corn per person each day.

Let me suggest five "Kernels" of truth that we should recognize, reflect and be thankful for.

**1. GOD'S POWER** Jer 32:27 *"I am the LORD, is there anything too hard for me?"*

A. The PAST: Deut. 8:2 *"Remember all the way which the LORD ... led thee these 40 years."*

1) Israel and Ebenezer 1 Sam. 4:3 *"fetch the Ark... that it may save us"*

They lost the battle and the Ark!

20 years later: 1 Sam. 7:7 *"cry unto the LORD, that He will save us."*

B. THE PILGRIMS

1) There knew there was A Greater King Than James!

2) God could be trusted to take care of them. Gen. 18:14; Mt. 28:18

C. The PRESENT: *"I am the LORD, I change not"* Mal. 3:6

GOD'S POWER IS STILL AVAILABLE TO US! Eph. 3:20,21; Phil. 4:13 "

**2. GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

A. THE PAST: Deut. 8:4,16; 1 Sam 7:12 *"Ebenezer... Hitherto hath the LORD helped us."*

B. THE PILGRIMS: "Miraculous" coincidences that guided them

1) The failure of the Speedwell, requiring delays.

2) The printing press screw they brought on board that was used to fix the mast at sea.

3) The storm that blew them off course, leading them to Mass. instead of Virginia.

4) The presence of Squanto and Samoset to help them adjust to New England.

C. THE PRESENT: HIS PROVIDENCE IS STILL AT WORK. Ps. 68:19; Mt. 6:33; Ph. 4:19

**3. GOD'S PROVISION**

A. THE PAST: Deut. 8:3,4, 7-10 *"The LORD bringeth thee into a good land..."*

**B. THE PILGRIMS:**

- 1) The Adventurers "Funded" the trip.
- 2) A plague had removed the warring tribes.
- 3) The supplies of corn that the Pilgrims found.
- 4) God provided English Speaking Indians!
- 5) Repeated miraculous interventions/provisions.

C. THE PRESENT: Ps. 68:19; Deut. 8:11,17,18 *"Beware that thou forget not the LORD..."*

**4. GOD'S PRESENCE Ps. 139:7 *"Whither shall I flee from thy presence?"***

A. THE PAST: Deut. 8:2; 15 *"...the LORD led thee... "Who led thee through that great wilderness"*

B. THE PILGRIMS... Recognized God's hand, even in the "trials and storms."

1787 Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation"

**C. THE PRESENT:**

- 1) This is a key ingredient in the fear of the Lord. Pr. 15:3; Pr.16:6
- 2) Does This Truth Bring Comfort Or Concern? Heb. 4:13; Heb. 13:

**5. GOD'S PEACE. (Phil. 4:6-10)**

A. THE PAST: Deut. 8:7-10 *"The LORD bringeth thee into a good land... bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing... then bless the LORD."*

**B. THE PILGRIMS:**

Jamestown was originally settled for profit. Plymouth was originally settled for Peace.

**If your focus is on profit, you may forfeit peace in the process.** (See 1 Tim. 6:9-11)

**C. THE PRESENT:**

- 1) Peace With God is a bi-product of our FAITH. Ro. 5:1
- 2) The Peace of God is a bi-product of our FOCUS. Phil 4:6,7

**Conclusion:**

**The following is an excerpt from an old journal entry I made in 2004.**

*"This last Tuesday, Mary and Michael had a restless night. Linda had the first watch, and at around 2:30 they were at it again. I finally got Michael settled, but Mary continued to cry. As long as I was standing beside her bed watching her or touching her, she was OK. She would look up at me every few moments to make sure I was watching her. If I tried to leave the room or even "sit down" to rest, she would start crying. It occurred to me that to her, I reflect many of the attributes that I recognize so perfectly fulfilled in my "Heavenly Father."*

**Power:** As long as Dad is watching, no "monster" can get me.

**Providence:** Dad takes care of a whole host of things that Mary doesn't even realize.

**Presence:** As long as I was "watching" she was able to rest.

**Provision:** She doesn't have to worry about where she'll get her food or clothing.

**Peace:** She can rest in the knowledge that Dad will take care of her.

*I realize that I am a poor reflection of these attributes, and as our kids get older, they recognize that also. But a poor reflection is a reflection nevertheless. God is not limited by our own human weaknesses or weariness. Would to God that I can trust him with such a child-like faith."*

**Application:** Ps. 23:1 *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"* If we're following our Shepherd, we will not lack: His Power, Provision, Providential care, Presence or Peace.

**Will you:** *"In all thy ways acknowledge him"* Allowing Him to truly: *"Direct thy steps."* Pr 3:6

*"It has seemed to me fit and proper that [the gifts of God] should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens . . . to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. "*

-Thanksgiving proclamation, 1863 Abraham Lincoln

### **1607 Bartholomew Gosnold formed the Virginia Company to settle in Virginia.**

- They proclaimed their purposes were missionary but their real purpose was Gold.
- Of the 144 men on board, only one (Robert Hunt) was a preacher.  
They landed on May 14, 1607. Most of the men refused to work and by Feb. 1508 only 30 of the men were alive.
- Chief Powhatan gave a large gift of corn but they consumed it and didn't bother planting in the spring because they were consumed by gold. They found that Jamestown was full of "gold", but it was later declared to be "fool's Gold" (Iron Pyrate).
- The Virginia Company sent several other ships with hundreds of men, (including 5 gold specialists) but few supplies.

**1609** 500 new settlers (including women) sailed in 9 ships but met a hurricane. Only 6 made it and 400 new settlers arrived to a starving community. **Only 60 people of the entire colony survived the next winter.**

### **PILGRIMS:**

**In 1606** (Same year as the founding of the Virginia Company) **William Brewster** led a group of Separatists to Leiden, Holand, to escape religious persecution in England. After living in Leiden for more than ten years, some members of the group voted to immigrate to America.

- The voyage was financed by a group of London investors (Thomas Weston) who were promised produce from America in exchange for their assistance. (They agreed to work for 7 years to repay their voyage expenses. Weston later changed it to 20 years) The day of their departure Weston showed up with a new contract requiring them to work 7 days a week and basically turning them into slaves. Brewster refused to sign so Weston refused to pay the remaining fare. They ended up selling some of their supplies to fund the rest of the trip.
- On September 16, 1620, these Separatists were part of a group numbering 102 men, women, and children who left Plymouth, England, for America on the *Mayflower* heading for Virginia. Most of the 7 week trip was spent below decks due to storms.
- They were blown off course and On November 21, the *Mayflower* dropped anchor in the sheltered harbor off the site of present-day **Provincetown**, Massachusetts. They landed on the site of Plymouth Colony December 21, The Pilgrims established a government and created the Mayflower Compact, the first constitution written in America.
- They found 36 ears of corn in a large pot and land that had already been cleared. Their first winter was harsh as they had to build shelter during the winter. 51 or the 102 original settlers died. At one point only 7 people were well enough to care for the others.
- The next Spring Samoset came and introduced himself. He had learned English while acting as a guide for Captain Thomas Dermer. He related Plymouth was the home of the Warlike Patuxets. They were wiped out by a plague 4 years earlier. He then brought a friend named Squanto (a Patuxet who had been kidnapped years before and sold into slavery in Europe.)
- Squanto lived among them and taught them survival methods. A peace treaty was initiated between the Pilgrims and Chief Massasoit and they celebrated a 3 day feast in Oct. with 90 Indians.
- When the Mayflower returned, not one Pilgrim went back to England.

***"Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."*** William Bradford