

The Trust Test Pr. 3:5-10

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 8th

Reflection: We've been discussing the importance of Trust to our Relationships.

T: Take a Personal Inventory. Pr 3:5 Are you trusting Jesus as your Savior? As Lord?

R: Recognize God. Pr 3:6 Are you cultivating an awareness of God's Power (Mt 28:18), Providence (Dt 8,4,16), Provision (Dt. 8); Presence (Ps. 139); and Peace (Phil. 4:6-10; Gen 16:13)

U: Understand Stewardship Pr. 3:9 *"Honor (kābad: Glorify) the Lord with thy substance"*

Are we managing our God given resources (*Time, Talents, Treasures, Testimony*)
in ways that honor Him? Luke 16:10-13

As important as these are, they're useless until we decide to truly

S: Surrender to God's Lordship (Ro. 12:1,2)

Because money and possessions are such an integral part of our society (*and soul*) they become a fairly accurate gauge of the level of our trust/surrender. (Dt 14:22-23)

Pr 3:9 *"Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:"*

1. The Meaning Of Surrender.

A. Although the word "Surrender" doesn't appear in the KJV of our Bibles,
There are some synonyms that occur frequently.

1) Yield. (204x) (Stop fighting) Ro 6:13 *"yield yourselves (paristēmi: stand with) unto God,..."*
Someone can stop fighting(resisting) and still not completely:

2) Submit. (148x) James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves (Hypotassō: to line up under) therefore to God."*
We acknowledge God's authority/right. (See Luke 14:33) *But this doesn't mean we follow!*

3) Obey. (615x) Cooperate, conform Acts 5:29 *"We ought to obey (Peitharche'ō: be persuaded by authority) God rather than men."*

Heb 5:9 *"he became the author of salvation unto all them that obey him;"* (Hypakou'ō: to subordinate)

B. Most try to negotiate a conditional surrender *where they maintain certain rights.*

1) If Jesus isn't Lord of all, *He isn't Lord at All!* (Luke 6:46)

C. God doesn't call us to a conditional surrender, but to a "living sacrifice"!

Ro. 12:1 *"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service!"*
logikos latreia: logical act of worship

1) Jesus used the cross as an illustration of this.

a) The Cross is mentioned 27 times in NT. 16 Times for Jesus' cross, 11 times for ours!

Mt 16:24 *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

2) What's actually being "crucified" on our cross? OUR WILL! Jn 6:38; Gal. 2:20

AW Tozer: *"In every Christian's heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne until he puts himself on the cross; if he refuses the cross, he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among gospel believers today. We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying! No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying."*

We remain king within our little kingdom of Mansoul, and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar; but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility."

2. The Measure Of Surrender. Ro 12:1,2

A. Living sacrifice Involves Submission. James 4:7; Ro. 6:13

- 1) Trust is not tested until the request goes against our natural desires and will. Isa 43:1-4
*"I came to the fast, raging river; and its current there echoed my fear.
I said, "Lord, please carry me over, if you are, as you promised, quite near."
His answer came back in an instant, "My dear child, trust my grace, ever new.
Take my hand, we will cross this together; But the path is not over, but through!"*

B. A Living Sacrifice Implies a cost! Jesus spoke often & clearly about this. Lk 14:26-35

33 *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not (apotasso) all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple"*

1) This includes growing increasingly out of step:

- a) With worldly values. Ro. 12:2 *"Be not conformed to this world."* (1 Jn 2:15,16; Jms 4:4; 2 Pt 2:9)
- b) With Worldly People. (1 John 2:19; 1 Cor 5:6; 2 Cor. 6:17,18) *"come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,"*

2) Growing increasingly "in step" with the Word (of God)! Ro. 12:2

"but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...." (Gal. 5:16; Jn 15:3; Joshua 1:8; Ps. 119:105)

3) Allowing God's will to Guide you. Pr 3:6; Ro 12:2 *"that ye might prove (dokimazo: test/approve) what is that Good (agathos: beneficial) and acceptable (euar'estos: fully agreeable) and perfect (teleios: complete) will of God."*

Surrender → Submission → Success! Joshua 1:8; Ps. 1

C. A Living Sacrifice Implies A Continuous, Unconditional Surrender!

1) "Acknowledging Him" (Pr 3:6) involves:

- a) Recognizing His will
- b) Relinquishing our will
- c) Responding obediently to God.

2) The Bible calls this "walking in the Spirit" (Romans 8; Gal. 5:16) 1 Cor 15:31; Col. 3:1-5

Conclusion:

Jesus isn't looking for people who'll give their spare evenings, Sundays, or retirement years to him. He is not impressed by how much of our time, talent, or treasures we offer to him, after our own wants, needs, and ambitions have been satisfied. He is looking for those who are willing to follow in his steps to Gethsemane and Calvary. (2 Pt 2:21)

He is looking for those who are willing to sacrifice their own desires for His designs.

He is looking for people who will let Him live through them. 2 Cor 5:14,15 *"The love of Christ constrains us because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead. And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again..."*

20 *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ"*

Paul recognized the power and privilege of such a life! Phil 3:7-15 Gal. 2:20 *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace (charis) of God..."*

Application:

What is God's Grace trying to accomplish in you? Through you?

Are you surrendering to His Grace, or sabotaging it? (Eph. 4:30; Mt 26:39; Jn 12:27,28)

"All those who journey, soon or late, Must pass within the garden's gate; Must kneel alone in the darkness there, and battle with some fierce despair. God pity those who cannot say, 'not my will but thine'; who only pray, 'Let this cup pass,' for they fail to see, the Purpose in Gethsemane."

Ella Wilcox