

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

May 25, 2021

Trusting God

When the man told me what he was planning to do, I plead with him not to. I told him it was unscriptural and foolish. “No,” he said, I’ll just do this and trust the Lord to make it work.” “That is not trusting God,” I responded. “This is doing your own will and thinking that God will be stuck with fixing it once you have done it. This will not work out according to your plan.” This man was my friend, but his plan ended in heartbreak and tragedy.

Somewhere, somehow, the thought that faith is the key to getting God to do what we want him to do, took hold in the church. Such thinking is about as far from true faith as you can get. True faith is simply believing God for who he is and what he says. We trust in him to fulfill his desire and purpose in our lives.

Believing God is not based on certain things God has spoken. It is based upon God himself. Many of us have been taught to search the Bible for promises we can claim as our own. That is good if God gives you the promise, but if not, it can lead you into a fallacy. Many a person who has been faced with a deadly affliction has claimed the words of Jesus concerning Lazarus, *“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God...”* John

11:4. On the other hand, I have never seen anyone lay hold of God's words to Hezekiah, saying, "*Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.*" Isaiah 38:1. Yet, both verses are the word of God! In this same manner people will boldly declare John's words "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...*" I John 1:8, but will disregard the same apostle's words when he wrote, "*...whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*" I John 3:6. This kind of selective believing has led many people into tragedy, some even to the point of damning their own soul.

God is not only true when he speaks what we want to hear. He is also true when he says the opposite. I am reminded of a morning Campmeeting service Bro. Leroy Surface was invited to preach. As the service the night before was closing, a minister (who was unhappy that we were present) stood up saying he had a word from the Lord. He said, "I feel God wants me to tell you that if any minister gets in this pulpit and speaks something negative, you should not listen to him." The next morning as Bro. Surface began to minister, he started with these words. "I want to warn you that I am a negative preacher. If you take the negative cable off your battery you will not have the power to start your car, and if you take the negative out of the gospel you will not have the power to save a soul!" You need to hear the negative in God's word along with the positive.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not know what would happen when they were thrown into the fiery furnace, so they told Nebuchadnezzar,

*“...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”* Daniel 3:17-18. Their faith was not outcome based. Even if they were to burn in the furnace, they determined to trust God. They were like Job, who said, *“Though he (God) slay me, yet will I trust in him...”* Job 13:15

The greatest miracles I have received in my life did not come through “believing,” but through “trusting.” Yes, there have been times I could say, “I know God will do this certain thing,” but in the greatest tests, usually all I could say was “I will trust God.” I did not always know what the outcome would be or what God was going to do, but I did always know that my answer was found in Jesus Christ. I have always believed that he can be touched Hebrews 4:15 and I know that we can trust him!