



STEVE MAGILL

Our Present Age

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Trust in the Lord? with all your heart?

IN OUR PRESENT AGE, THE AGE OF the Antichrist, Scripture informs us that deception among God's people will be great and takes place because those claiming the name of Christ go through the motions of being a Christian without the power of the Holy Spirit to actually be Christian (2 Tim. 3:1, 5; Rev. 2 & 3; Rom. 8:9). In many ways the twenty-first century Christian is much like a sleep walker going through the motions of living without really living.

Trusting in the Lord Without Trusting in the Lord

One of the ways this deception reveals itself is in this notion of *trusting in the Lord*. We claim to trust in the Lord without really trusting in the Lord.

Consider the council given to others when they are going through difficult times. Statements such as the following are often spoken:

"Don't give up, you'll get through this too."

"Hold on Honey, God is stronger than your problem."

"Let me pray for you...now hang in there."

Okay, so what are we trusting in here? Many will say, God of course. Now another question has to be asked: How is God being trusted? One lady responded to this

question with a little attitude in her voice, "Just trust Jesus, that's all you gotta' do."

Okay, that's a nice sentiment, but how do we "just trust Jesus?" If I were to answer based on the above statements, I would still not have a clue on how to trust in Jesus.

How Do I Trust in the Lord?

Let's look at that much quoted Proverbs 3:5-6:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths."

Here we are told two things about trusting in Jesus. The first is *it is to be with all our heart*.

The heart is where our thoughts, intentions, spirit, soul, words, and behavior all merge as one to make us the person that we are. Our trust in God requires that our thoughts, intentions, emotions, words, and behavior are all in agreement with God's thoughts, Spirit, and actions.

When encouragements such as the above statements are given, it is because the person is not trusting God and have fallen into a social/psychological

mental/emotional state that has removed their peace and comfort.

Lean Not to Your Own Understanding

How does one get into this mental/emotional state? The second thing we are told about trusting in God is that we are not to *"lean on our own understanding."*

The pressure comes...the hopelessness grabs hold...the peace disappears, all because you are determined to take care of the issue yourself, yet your way doesn't show a way out. To lean not to your own understanding is to make the choice to either trust God or trust yourself...you can't do both. Trust in God will bring peace in the midst of the storm. Trust in yourself will bring the opposite: heavy burdens, and this is where way too many, if not most, Christians find themselves. Look at this statement from Jesus:

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:29-30)

This is the reality of the Christian faith, and it comes through trusting in Jesus by learning of Him and His teachings. Sadly most don't experience this.

To *lean not on your own understanding* is to have knowledge about what God's word says about our situation and how to handle it. Trusting in God is based on a practical knowledge of God's word and conforming our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions to conform to His word. It is His word that is a *"lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Pslm. 119:105). Leaning on God's word is what brings peace: *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee"* (Isa. 26:3).

The heavy burdens that too many Christians find themselves in is also because they trust in Jesus as they would an aspirin: take it when the pressure comes. However, trusting in Jesus is not a panacea at the time of pressure. It is not medication, it is a preventative

lifestyle to be lived out when we wake-up, throughout the day, and when we lie upon our bed, 24/7 365. His word is to be grafted into our minds, emotions, words, and behavior (Jam. 1:21).

The Result of Truly Trusting in Jesus

Take a look at these words from the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9:

"We are troubled on every side, yet *NOT* distressed; we are perplexed, but *NOT* in despair; Persecuted, but *NOT* forsaken; cast down, but *NOT* destroyed"

Also take a look at these words in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18:

"For which cause *WE FAINT NOT*; but though our outward man perish, yet the *INWARD MAN IS RENEWED DAY BY DAY*. For our *LIGHT AFFLICTION*, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

The Apostle had a much different understanding about pressure and troubles that most Christians don't have today. He was following the example of Jesus in order to gain the eternal life with God by dying to the things belonging to the earth. Because of the reality of eternal life he could not see, but knew to be real, he viewed the pressures and troubles of this world to be of great benefit in helping him to receive his eternal reward (2 Cor. 2:10-15).

The key here is to not focus on the pressure, circumstance, or situation, but on the things which we cannot see and are eternal.

In this age of deception we really need to examine ourselves to make sure we are really trusting God before the pressures increase.