

Will We Trust Our Father and His Son?

Rick Railston

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Here we are on the Last Great Day and soon we are going to be heading home. It's no secret that as we head home, we're in a time of the year where the daylight is getting shorter and shorter and the night is getting longer and longer. We're heading back—it's no secret—into a world that has far more darkness than it has light, physically and spiritually. We are going back to a world where God Almighty is being shut out; systematically shut out, from all aspects of life in the United States, Canada, Australia and all around the world frankly.

On our U.S. coins and bills, we have the quotation, "In God We Trust" but it's ironic that most Americans trust in the coins and they trust in the bills, but they don't trust in God Almighty. Let's notice what God says to Israel in Hosea 10:13, by way of introduction. Hosea is speaking the words of Yehovah's instruction and he is condemning Israel. These could just as easily apply to all the nations where all of us come from.

Hoses 10:13 *Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: [we're eating the fruit of lies right now] because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men [Human beings]. (KJV)*

It's so true today that we trust in men to take care of us. There's a big argument about which men should take care of us and which we should listen to, but people trust in men to take care of them. That's depressing because most Americans, Canadians, Australians, certainly most of the world, do not know God Almighty, much less trust in Him. They don't even know Him. They don't know who He is, who His Son is, so they are not able to trust in God at all.

There's an effort in the western world of removing Yehovah, God Almighty, Most High God, from our society. What we see today, that started a number of years ago and it's accelerating more rapidly as we've seen over the last months and year or so, is that Governments—those in power—promote false religion. When they do promote a religion, it's a false one, whether it's Christianity or Islam, it's still false. They promote Atheism; that God doesn't exist, that we evolved and there is no Creator. They are even persecuting true religion because they are trying to do away with religious exemptions, due to our cherished and long held beliefs. Because of this, as we look to the future, in this increasingly dysfunctional world—our Father and trust in God Almighty is going to be tested as never before.

Since I had to move my Last Great Day sermon up to yesterday, I was thinking early this morning, I had done a sermon yesterday evening and I always ask God to show me, "What do You want said?" I just wasn't comfortable with what I worked up yesterday and the thought came in that here we are, going back to home and asking God, what do we need—I was speaking to myself, what do I need—what do all of us need as we go

back home. What is the prime thing that You want us to carry back home and You want us to put into practice when we get back home? The question came into my mind, are we going to trust our Father and His Son? That's the title of the sermon.

Will We Trust our Father and His Son?

Not just say the words, but completely trust the Father and the Son. We're going to have four points today. First, we want to define our terms, as Rich mentioned yesterday. What is the definition of "trust"?

I have a Webster's 1828 dictionary and that takes us within twenty years of being half way back to 1611 when the King James was translated. So, I had this definition and it is both a noun or a verb. As a noun, it means 'confidence'. As a verb, it means 'to place confidence in'. So, we are going to go through this whole idea of trust today—trust in the Father and trust in His Son and we will cover the various Hebrew and Greek definitions as we go through. But it comes back to our having confidence that God Almighty is going to take care of us. Some of us are going back to uncertainty; about jobs, health, world conditions, whether we are going to have a place to live. People are going into this darkness of this time of year with a great deal of uncertainty in their lives, and we are all going to be tested in this matter of trust.

1. We get the picture that trusting God means putting our total confidence in Him.

That's the first point. We have to be able to get to the point that we have total confidence that He is going to take care of us and His Son will do what is necessary to provide for us and to take care of us, no matter the circumstances. The first point—just the definition of what we mean by "trust".

The second thing we want to look at today is:

2. Let's look at our Father's promises to those who trust Him.

The Bible is full of promises. There are two big promises our Father gives us, if we will just simply trust in Him. If you like to outline, this would be A—the first promise.

2A. He will shield and defend those who trust in Him.

Let's go to Proverbs 30:5, out of the King James. The Bible states things very plainly and the concepts are very simple. We don't have to be a master of Greek or Hebrew, we don't have to have an IQ high on the charts to understand the basic truths in God's Word.

Proverbs 30:5 *Every word of God is pure [not polluted, not contaminated]: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. (KJV)*

That is a fact, that is a promise. The Hebrew word for *shield* is Strong's #4034. It figuratively means "a protector or protection". but the word comes from "a scaly hide of a crocodile". If you've ever put your hand on a crocodile or a lizard, even a little one, you know there are bumps and scales and it's hard. If you made a shield out of that, it would be pretty tough. If somebody bumps up against that shield, they're not going to find a smooth surface. They are going to find something hard and bumpy that's going to resist them.

The Hebrew word for *trust* is Strong's #2620 and it means "to flee for protection, to have hope or to make a refuge". So, this verse tells us that the Father will be a *shield* to those who look to Him for refuge and for protection. The being we need to be most protected from is the evil one and then secondarily the people—the humans—that the evil one provokes to come after us. We need to be *shielded and protected* from them. Let's go to Psalm 91:1. David tells us here—he of course had experience in trusting God—he was on the run for many years, he had all kinds of people after him, including his own family.

Psalm 91:1 *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (KJV)*

Meaning the Almighty's shadow covers us; that means we are in the presence of the Almighty. We are near the Almighty and if we need help He is right there.

2) I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. (KJV)

Here the Hebrew word for *trust* is Strong's #982 and that is going to recur as we go through today, but it means "to be confident, to be sure or certain, to be secure in that knowledge, in that confidence, in that surety that God is going to take care of us".

Now there is an analogy drawn to a vulnerable bird needing protection and of course, that is us. We are vulnerable and we are weak against a predator like the evil one.

3) Surely, he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4) He shall cover thee with his feathers [remember we are in the shadow of the Almighty], and under his wings shalt thou trust [Strong's #2620]: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. (KJV)

It's interesting that David would say this. He is saying that the truth that is embedded in God Almighty's Word will be a *shield and a buckler*. The Hebrew word for *shield* is Strong's #6793 and it means "a large shield guarded by prickliness". So, it has some bumps or spikes or something on the outside. It's not only a defensive weapon, but it's an offensive weapon. If someone gets near, there are spikes on the outside of that shield and you shove it at them, they are going to feel some pain. So we see that a shield can be defensive and offensive. I went back to Webster's Dictionary again to 1828 and looked up the word *buckler* because we don't use that much here. According

to Webster it's "a kind of shield or a piece of defensive armor". So, we see that God's truth can be both offensive and defensive and now we can say, God is my offense, God is my defense. He provides both and He can go on the offensive to clear the way for us and wipe people out, as we're going to see, or He can just shield us and we just stay here and nothing touches us or gets through to us.

We need to think of Yehovah as the shield and we need to put Him between us and whoever or whatever is attacking us. If that shield and His truth is between us and them, it can't get to us. It can't take us away. It can't cause us to fall and stumble.

That's the first promise. The second big promise is:

2B. He will deliver from evil, those who trust in Him.

Yehovah will deliver from evil, those who trust in Him. Let's go to 1 Chronicles 5:18. This is in the days of Saul. Notice that the tribes called on God Almighty and look what happened.

1 Chronicles 5:18 *The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skillful in war, were four and forty thousand seven hundred and threescore, that went out to the war.*

19) And they made war with the Hagarites, with Jetur, and Nephish, and Nodab.

20) And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he [God Almighty] was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him. (KJV)

That's Strong's #982 that we just read; "confidence, surety, security". During the battle—maybe it was going the wrong way or they were being pushed back and they started screaming to God Almighty and He gave them the victory. Now let's go to Psalm 37:39. These are promises, this is the second big promise, that we will be delivered if we trust in Him.

Psalm 37:39 *But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. (KJV)*

That's who we go to. We don't trust in men, we don't trust in things, we trust in God Almighty.

40) And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him. (KJV)

Strong's #2620 that we just read, meaning "to flee to for protection". God promises us that He will shield and defend and deliver us, if we trust in Him and we're going to need to trust in Him more and more as we go forward and leave here into this increasingly dark, dangerous and uncertain world. Toby and I were talking before services and he

made the comment, “Nothing is certain anymore”. Given how fast things are changing and what can come upon God’s people, what can come upon the world, nothing is certain anymore, other than God Almighty and His promises.

That leads us to the third point. There are three keys that can help us trust in God Almighty. If you are like me, you’ve had trials and tribulations in the past and there are some times when your trust wavered or the evil one would put doubts in your mind. Is He really going to help me this time? Maybe I’m so sinful maybe He won’t bother with me or listen to me. Satan plants all of those thoughts.

3. What are three keys that can help us and help me going forward, to trust in God Almighty?

Point A This is the first key. This is something very important.

3A. Do not trust yourself or other human beings.

That is critical; don’t trust yourself and don’t trust other human beings. Paul did say

“Follow me as I follow Christ.”

That is follow me to whatever extent I follow Christ, whatever extent you read in the scriptures and if I’m doing that, then follow me. The implication is, if I drift away from the scriptures, you better not be following me. Humans are humans; sometimes we follow the scriptures and sometimes we don’t follow the scriptures. Let’s look at Proverbs 3:5.

Proverbs 3:5 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; [but notice this] and lean not unto thine own understanding. (KJV)*

As human beings and especially those who teach, “don’t lean to your understanding.”

6) In all thy ways acknowledge him ... (KJV)

Everything comes from God Almighty. Not from a human being, not from the mind of man, but God Almighty. If in all your ways, you acknowledge Him, meaning give Him the honor, the credit and the glory:

6 continued) ... and he shall direct thy paths.

7) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (KJV)

Over the years, I’ve learned to question my first reaction. In many cases, if you’re like me, the first reaction is a carnal reaction. The first reaction is the gut reaction and the gut reaction oftentimes is not a Godly reaction. We have to let God direct and not a human direct or not a human mind direct. It has to be a Godly mind that directs us. Let’s go to Psalm 118:8 and see a truism. As we go forward, there are going to be miracles performed by false prophets, that will deceive many. We have to be prepared for that.

By those miracles they are going to preach false doctrine and we have to be prepared for that. The doctrine has to come from the Bible, not from a false prophet.

Psalm 118:8 *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*
9) *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.* (KJV)

We could say today, politicians—same thing. Is our Father ever teaching that right now? Don't put your confidence in princes, politicians, people who are self-proclaimed experts. Look to God Almighty, don't look to human beings. Now let's go to the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 1:8. Is this theme of not trusting in men carried through in the New Testament? We see it in the Old Testament but is it carried through in the New Testament? Paul is writing, it's actually his third epistle to the church at Corinth, the first one was never recorded, so we are in 2 Corinthians 1:8.

1 Corinthians 1:8 *For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:* (KJV)

He was referring to the incident of Demetrius, the silversmith in Acts 19 and barely escaped death.

9) *But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:* (KJV)

Here the Greek word *trust* is Strong's #3982 and it means "to rely on by inward certainty". Absolute confidence that God Almighty is going to take care of us and when we get into dire straits, He is going to rescue us. This means that we should always be examining and questioning ourselves. What we are believing, what we are saying, what conclusions we are drawing? I do this a lot, because you don't want to get it wrong.

A while back a minister accused me of being weak. Compared to God Almighty, yes, absolutely. Compared to other human beings, even. At almost eighty years old you don't have the strength you used to have. I was accused of being weak when I said, "I don't trust in myself." This fellow said, "That's a weak response". In my mind it's not, because if I don't trust in myself, who's left to trust in? God Almighty—not me. I queried him on that and he said, "I'm the only one I can trust." A giant red flag came up and I thought to myself, "If I am the only one that I can trust, I am in bad, bad shape". I've been wrong so many times. I've been an Elder since 1974 and I am ashamed of some of the things I have done and have said as a minister of God. I was off track or the leaders above me. I was following along with the herd, or whatever—I was carnal that day—and I have just learned, I've been wrong so many times, just be careful, think about it, check it out in scripture, don't trust yourself. That also comes with conflict resolution. When occasionally as a minister, two members are butting heads or within a family there is butting of heads and the problem is, when one party is just cock-sure they are right. Then everything comes to a halt. You can't reason, you can't talk, you can't discuss, so the problem then is not the specific problem they are butting heads

about, the problem is that the one who is cock-sure they are right, is the problem, is certainly a huge part of the problem. Because they haven't examined themselves and are not willing to look at themselves. Going on now in verse 10....

10) Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver [Paul says in confidence, not in himself, but in God Almighty]: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; (KJV)

Here, it's a different Greek word for *trust*, this is Strong's #1679 and it means "to expect or to have hope that God will deliver us". It's looking to the future. We all know, trusting in humans is what? It is idolatry. If we put our trust in humans, then we are putting somebody before God Almighty. If we trust in a human and follow a human, then we are putting that human in front of God and we are getting our focus off God Almighty.

One of my best friends in the church said—we were part of a different group—I'm going to stay here because as long as I follow this man, I have a leg up on the Kingdom of God. A lot of people attend here or there because they feel they've got a leg up on the Kingdom of God. Well that is putting a man between us and God Almighty. Yes, we have to have corporations—if you want a credit for the tithes, we have to have a corporation. Christ said, "render unto Caesar, that which is Caesar's" So if the laws say you have to do this, then we do it. We read earlier, obey those who are government over you as long as it doesn't interfere with God's law. So yes, we go through a stack of very thick papers to be a 501C3 corporation and that is strictly for the purposes of benefitting the brethren and not being foul of the law. But It has nothing to do with putting up a corporation and saying worship the corporation. That's not what we're talking about. Worship God Almighty. If you find ministers or speakers or teachers who preach the truth in the Bible, then what they preach when it's true in the Bible, follow what they say.

Some ministers today say, "Trust in me, I will take you to the place of safety". I can think of four or five groups right off the top of my head that say that publicly. The fact is, only God Almighty and His Son can take us to a place of safety—not a human being. Some ministers today say, "Trust in me because my group, my church, my corporation is the only true church. God is only dealing with us and the rest are rank heretics." So he's saying, "Trust in me in order to be saved." Only God and Christ know who are Theirs. We don't—we don't have a clue. Only God and Christ know the heart and scattered all over the world, they know who belongs to Them and who does not; we don't. The fact is, as we all know, all humans are imperfect, all humans are flawed. Only God and Christ are perfect. Not a man, not a human being, so They must be the ones we follow. We follow humans only when we see God and Christ in them. What comes out of them, the picture we see, if we see God Almighty and Christ in them, okay—then we follow them as Paul said. He said that in 1 Corinthians 11:1. Point A, don't trust in yourself, don't trust in a human.

3B. The key to trusting God Almighty is to pour out your problems to Him in prayer.

Get Him involved. Christ said we are supposed to pray to His Father—that's who we pray to. Let's read Psalm 62:8. Pour out your problems to God Almighty in prayer.

Psalm 62:8 *Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him:*
(KJV)

The Hebrew for *pour out* literally means “to gush out”. Just dump it in God's lap. If we're going to gush it out or pour it out, it has to be in detail. Look at Psalm 141:2. Everything that was done in the temple and the tabernacle has a spiritual meaning or a spiritual component to it. We are going to draw on that to help us better understand our prayers.

Psalm 141:2 [David says] *Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense;*
(KJV)

Now why did he say that? Why is that recorded here? What does it mean? Keep that question in mind and let's go to Leviticus 16:12. We're talking about the Day of Atonement and about what the priest does and we can learn some things about that. We went over this on the Day of Atonement.

Leviticus 16:12 *And he [referring to the high priest] shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense [we just read in Psalm 141 our prayers are like incense] beaten small [it's like taking the incense and putting it in mortar and pestle and grind it up like powder, very, very small], and bring it within the veil:
13) And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat.* (KJV)

Which is symbolic of God's throne so you tie that together—the smoke of the incense beaten small—is like our prayers going before God Almighty on His throne when we pour out our problems to Him in tiny detail. Sometimes we think our problems are too small for God Almighty. But nothing is too small for God Almighty. We lay it out—I've learned over the years—to lay it out in detail, step by step.

“This is what's bothering me, this is what I need to be rescued from, this is where I need to be helped and this happened and that happened and here, I am, come help me.”

With that in mind let's go to Revelation 8:3. The Bible says our prayers have to be beaten small—in detail. Not just one sentence and then rush out the door to do whatever we want to do.

Revelation 8:3 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.* (KJV)

The throne of God Almighty.

4) And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. (KJV)

You put these scriptures together and it tells us that when we are in trouble, we need to go before God Almighty and lay out our problems in detail and take the time to do that—in fine detail.

Let's look at one of the most powerful examples in the Bible of a trusting prayer laid out in detail. Let's go to Isaiah 36:1. It's talking about King Hezekiah. We can read over this and it can be great to read to your children and It's about a potential battle and victory and all that. But put yourself in the position of the average Israelite when your life could cease to exist tomorrow because of what is going on around you that you have no control over.

Isaiah 36:1 *Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the defended cities of Judah, and took them. (KJV)*

We know that Assyria previously took the Northern Ten Tribes.

2) And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem unto king Hezekiah with a great army. [Jerusalem was surrounded] And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field.

3) Then came forth unto him Eliakim, Hilkiah's son, which was over the house, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, Asaph's son, the recorder.

4) And Rabshakeh said unto them, Say ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?

5) I say, sayest thou, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for war: now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? (KJV)

He's goes on to say in verse 6, that you are trusting in Egypt and your trust in Egypt is like trusting in a broken reed and when the reed breaks it will pierce your hand you'll be in trouble.

7) But if thou say to me, We trust in the LORD our God: is it not he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, [that shows you how much he understands. Hezekiah took away the alters of the pagan gods and He was looking to Yehovah] and said to Judah and to Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar?

8) Now therefore give pledges, I pray thee, to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. (KJV)

You guys are defenseless and I have your surrounded.

9) *How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?* (KJV)

Verse 10 I'll read out of the NLT.

10) *What's more, do you think we have invaded your land without the Lord's direction? The Lord himself told us, 'Attack this land and destroy it!'"* (NLT)

11) *Then said Eliakim and Shebna and Joah unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, unto thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it: and speak not to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people that are on the wall.* (KJV)

If they spoke in Hebrew and the people on the wall understood it, they would get scared to death and that wasn't good for Hezekiah or the nation. Rabshakeh understood that.

12) *But Rabshakeh said, Hath my master sent me to thy master and to thee to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?*

13) *Then Rabshakeh stood, and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and said, Hear ye the words of the great king, the king of Assyria. [Put yourself standing on the wall, hearing those words and your children and family are down inside the city and you're worried about them.]*

14) *Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you.*

15) *Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.* (KJV)

Don't say that because it's not true Rabshakeh is saying.

16) *Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me: and eat ye every one of his vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his own cistern;* (KJV)

It's like the government today promising you that if you just follow us, everything is going to work out alright, everything is going to be good, we'll take care of you.

17) *Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards.*

18) *Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?* (KJV)

So far there was no evidence that this guy was wrong.

19) *Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad? [He goes on to list, did they beat us, did they defeat us?] are the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?*

20) *Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?*

21) *But they held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.*

22) *Then came Eliakim, the son of Hilkiyah, that was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, the son of Asaph, the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh. (KJV)*

Now Hezekiah is standing there—put yourself in his place—what do I do? Who do I trust? Who do I listen to?

Isaiah 37:1 *And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. (KJV)*

That's where we should go, into the house of Yehovah where the incense is beaten small over the mercy seat.

2) *And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.*

3) *And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.*

4) *It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.*

5) *So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.*

6) *And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. (KJV)*

God is very sensitive to that—blasphemy.

7) *Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumor, and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land. (KJV)*

Continuing in Verse 14

14) And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. (KJV)

He laid out his problems. He said, “here is the issue, here is the problem, this is what I’m facing”.

*15) And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,
16) O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. (KJV)*

He had a true picture of God Almighty. This is a good way to start a prayer because you set the stage of Who you are addressing. This is exactly what Hezekiah did.

17) Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God. (KJV)

Then he goes on to say in verse 18 that, that it is true, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all their countries. Continuing in verse 19.

*19) And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore, they have destroyed them.
20) Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only. (KJV)*

Only—no other being as Yehovah; Him only.

21) Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, [because, God Almighty told Isaiah, here’s what Hezekiah is doing, he’s before Me right now, he’s laying it all out in detail] Whereas thou hast prayed to me [poured out the problem to me] against Sennacherib king of Assyria:

22) This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; [Now he’s referring to Judah] The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

23) Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel. (KJV)

Continuing in Verse 33.

33) Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, [this is a fact] He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

34) *By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.*

35) *For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.*

36) *Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*

37) *So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed [he has no army now], and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.*

38) *And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; [end of story]. (KJV)*

What an example of pouring out problems before God Almighty that is for us when we face similar situations—maybe not that bad. For us as individuals, we're going to face similar situations in our lives before it's all over and we're going to need to go to God and say,

"I need you to save me. Here's the problem, a, b, c, d and e. Come help me because I need to be rescued".

Pacific has been rescued so many times. I could spend an hour giving you a list, partly, of all the times God Almighty has rescued us.

Point C, this is the hard one.

3C. Relax and let God take care of it.

That is the hard one because we tie ourselves up in little bitty knots. Let's go to Psalm 143:8. Notice what we are told here.

Psalm 143:8 *Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness ... (KJV)*

When we are in dire straits, it's hard to just take a deep breath, relax and say, "God let me hear about your loving kindness."

8 continued) ... in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; (KJV)

We have a dilemma. "Do I go here or do I go here? What do you want me to do? I don't know. Please show me the way." I can't tell you the number of times I have done that. I'm a human, I don't know, I can't see down the road like You can see down the road; show me what to do. That way comes revealed in God's Word. Let's go to Psalm 119:41. We have to go back to God's Word and we have to make it part of us which means at any moment of trial, we have to have a bank of knowledge from God's Word

so we have something to rely on. Or we have to have a trigger where we go back and study a certain part of scripture to give us a clue.

Psalm 119:41 *Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.*

42) *So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I trust in thy word.* (KJV)

That's our rock, that's our foundation. If we are following God's Word and letting God's Word guide us, then we're in good shape. Our Father's Word shows us the way. That way, if we follow His way, He's going to take care of us. If we are doing what He wants, then there's no way He's not going to take care of us. He's not going to leave us 'swinging in the wind'. If you've worked for human beings, you've been left swinging in the wind. Broken promises, abandonment— "Oh it's your problem now", the boss says. We have to remember this fact, let's go to Psalm 34:17. This is a fact; we have to relax and let God Almighty take care of it after we've done what we need to do.

Psalm 34:17 *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

18) *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.* (KJV)

Gail talked about that in his message—humility keeps coming back as the key.

19) *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

20) *He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.*

21) *Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.*

22) *The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.* (KJV)

That is a promise. God has wisdom and power that we cannot comprehend. We can't even touch it. He has wisdom and power and we just need to relax and let the Father do what the Father is going to do.

The fourth and last point.

4. The fruit of trusting in God is peace.

That's where we want to get to, in times of trouble. When we trust that God can take care of us, we can relax and we can be at peace even though there's chaos all around us or suffering and sorrow all around us. Let's go to Exodus 14:13. Moses is standing at the brink of the Red Sea and Israel is getting ready to cross, Pharaoh is in hot pursuit, he has chariots and horseman and implements, weapons of iron and bows and arrows and Israel has nothing.

Exodus 14:13 *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, [you don't have to do a thing] and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.*

14) *The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.* (KJV)

The NIV says, “you need only to be still”. Let God do what He is going to do. Now look at Isaiah 26:3. This is something I’ve gone to so many times when there is an issue, when there are problems and turmoil. This is a promise of peace.

Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.* (KJV)

The Hebrew word for *stayed* means “to lean upon or take hold of”. We have peace if we just grab hold of God, take hold of Him and let Him fight our battles. David said—we won’t turn there for time—you can reference it, Psalms 56:3, he admitted he was afraid and he admitted his weaknesses. He said, “when I’m afraid, I trust in You. I’m not going to fear what flesh does to me because I trust in You and when I trust in You, when I’m afraid, I can have peace.” Our trials today, as bad as some of them are, might be minor compared to what lies ahead as we go out from here. Who knows if it’s going to happen in months or a few years, but it sure is accelerating? We need to take the time now to grow in trust and then grow in peace, as a result of that trust, toward God Almighty.

Remember what Christ said in John 14:27? This was the last night He spent with the disciples and there were some awful things that were going to happen to Him and the disciples were going to be scattered. This is what we need to ask for. I’ve asked many times, please give me the peace that Your Son had when He faced what He had to face that night and the next day.

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace [meaning the peace He had at that moment in time and which He has today of course] I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* (KJV)

We can go through all kinds of physical exercises to relax us. We can have yoga and breathing exercises to relax us and people do that and yes that is physical and temporary. But only God and Christ can give us true peace. We are going to learn that, or we are going to fail. We have to learn it. Remember what **Philippians** says in Chapter 4:7?

“The peace of God that passes all understanding,”(KJV)

even in chaos, death, destruction, whatever—it passes all understanding and it will keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.”

Let’s go to Colossians 3:15. Final scriptures under this fourth point of having “peace”. This is something that takes effort; it just doesn’t happen automatically.

Colossians 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, [we have to allow it] to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (KJV)*

We see that *peace* is the inevitable fruit of trusting in God. The more we trust, the more peace we have. That's just a spiritual law.

Let's close now. I have a story to tell you in closing. What we've covered today is particularly true for our widows. They are alone. We have scattered widows all over the country. They don't have a family nearby; they don't have church members nearby. So, this is in part to our widows. Jeremiah 49:11, Yehovah says "let the widows trust in Me." That's the only way a widow can have true peace. David said in Psalms that some people trust in chariots, some in horses, but we trust in the name of Yehovah our God—that's where our trust is. When crunch times come, when the rubber meets the road, the question is, do we live our religion or do we just talk about it? As Abraham did with Isaac when he was called upon to sacrifice his son. Talk about a rubber meeting the road moment—that was a moment.

Let me close with a true story. This was written up years and years ago of a cross country airplane flight. This was in the days of piston engines. So, it was in the late '40's or early '50's. This businessman was on a trip and it was a crowded flight and they had some problems on the flight. I'm quoting him now:

The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on, "fasten your seatbelts". Then after a while a calm voice said, "We're not going to be servicing beverages at this time because we're expecting a little turbulence. Please keep your seatbelt fastened." [Those of you who have ever flown know exactly what's happening.] So as this man looked around the aircraft it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming a bit apprehensive. Later the voice of the pilot said, "We are so sorry we are unable to serve a meal at this time; the turbulence is still ahead of us." Then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard, even above the roar of the engines, lightning lit up the darkening skies. Within moments the great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. [I've been in an airplane like that—a commercial plane—and then I was flying a private plane when that happened. Not a pleasant time.] One moment the airplane was lifted up on terrific currents of air, the next it dropped as if it was about to crash. He confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm. I looked out on the wing one time and saw a lightning bolt hit the wing. [That will get your attention.] Then I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently, the storm meant nothing to her. She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on the seat and she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly. Sometimes she closed her eyes and then she would read again. Then she would straighten her

legs but worry and fear were not in her world. When the plane was being buffeted by this terrible storm, when it lurched this way and that and rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid. The man could hardly believe his eyes. It was not surprising therefore that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, this man lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. [He was curious. How could she be so calm?] Having commented about the storm and the behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid. The sweet child replied, "Sir, my dad is the pilot and he is taking me home."

Sorry I get emotional about that, because we are God's kids and we are like this sweet little child and what God says to us is, if you just trust in Me, just trust in Me like this little child trusted in her dad, everything is going to be fine. Everything is going to be just fine. So, we have to remember that God Almighty is our pilot. There was a book written years ago "God Is My Copilot"—no, God is not our copilot, He is our pilot. God is our pilot and He is in complete control and He is taking us home. He's taking us home. So, the message is, we have to completely trust in Him and not worry. Look in Nahum 1:7 [Editor's note, correction to the scripture forthcoming], the last scripture. Sometimes I think of how God looks down upon us and we're old and grey, most of us sitting in this room and we are just still His children. We're just like little children to Him. Compared to eternity, whether we are 60, 70 or 80 or whether we are teenager, we haven't lived squat. We haven't lived anything compared to God Almighty.

Nahum 1:7 *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.* (KJV)

What a concept—He knows us. He knows if we trust in Him. All we've read up to this point, if He knows that we trust in Him, then He will shield us, He will rescue us, He will protect us, He will take care of us. As we go back into this world, we are going to need that. As we head home into the turbulence and the storms that lie ahead, let's be like this little girl, who totally trusted in her father, who was calm throughout all of the turmoil because she knew that her dad was in control of that airplane. Our Dad is in control of the entire universe, so we don't have anything to worry, do we?

Thank you for coming, thank you for being here and making it a wonderful Feast. God bless each one of you and take you home safely, keep you safe during the troubling times and with God Almighty's help, we will get through this together. Have a good year and we hope to see you back here next year.