

Worthy Of Our
Trust

Matthew 4:5-7



Trust God
to be
All You Need

Worthy Of Our Trust

- **Genesis 3:4-5 ESV**, 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
 - Read between the lines, what is the serpent saying or implying?
 - “God is holding out on you; there is a greater blessing He is keeping from you”
 - “I’m here to lead you to a more satisfying and fulfilled life”
 - Can you see the question floating around in Eve’s mind?
 - “Can I really trust God?”

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- “Can I really trust God?”
 - She begins to justify her sinfulness, mistrust of God’s command
 - **Genesis 3:5 ESV**, “the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise”
 - **Proverbs 3:5 NIV**, 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding
 - Eve was leaning on her own understanding which was limited and subject to Satan’s influence and they eventually rebelled against God

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- This is where we find Jesus this morning with Satan asking the same question to Him
 - “Can you really trust your Heavenly Father, Jesus?”
 - “How can you be sure?”
 - “You need to test that connection in your relationship to make sure it is solid”
- This is the same question being asked of you this morning
 - Is God worthy of your trust?

Scripture

- **Matthew 4:5-7 NIV**, 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”
 - 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

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- Jesus is being tested for authenticity
 - Does Jesus have the power, stamina, grit to stand up to all Satan will throw at Him?
 - Will Jesus be able to succeed or will He be like Adam/Eve, Nation of Israel, me and stumble along the way?
 - Can I really place every ounce of my trust in Him?

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- Last week the question posed by Satan to Jesus was, “Does your Heavenly Father really love you?”
 - “Take control of your life and just satisfy the screaming need your body is craving”
 - Jesus said, “No, my Heavenly Father is worthy of my love”
- The question this week, “Can you really trust your Heavenly Father Jesus?”
 - “Prove to yourself your Heavenly Father will be there for you”
 - “Test His love for you Jesus”
 - “Maybe you should put out a fleece like Gideon did”

Just like Jesus, your trust in God must be tested and tried to be shown true to you

- It's necessary to have all this head knowledge about God found in Scripture
 - His Promises, His history in the lives of others, His character
 - But until you have depended on God's character, His promises, Scripture it is still just hope
- The testing of your faith is a recurring theme in Scripture, with hardships serving a divine purpose in the life of a Christian
 - **Deuteronomy 8:2 NIV**, 2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

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- The testing of your faith is a recurring theme in Scripture, with hardships serving a divine purpose in the life of a Christian
 - **1st Peter 1:7 TLB**, 7 These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure.
- God tested Abraham's faith continually along the way ultimately commanding Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, the child of promise
 - Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery
 - Job endured immense suffering and loss when Satan tested him
 - Peter publicly denied knowing Jesus three times
 - Paul was tested so many times he probably lost track of the number

Just like Jesus, your trust in God must be tested and tried to be shown true to you

- And we read here where Jesus' trust was tested to see if it was true
 - “Do you really have the trust necessary to fulfill your Heavenly Father's will completely?”
 - “Will your Heavenly Father really protect you from harm?”
 - “God doesn't seem to care for your physical needs, how do you know He will be there for you in times of trouble?”
- **Hebrews 4:15 NIV**, 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Our testing is designed to push our faith deeper into the area of simple trust

- Is there a difference between biblical faith and biblical trust?
 - Biblical faith is a confident belief in something unseen, based on confident hope rather than evidence
 - **Hebrews 11:1 NIV**, Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see
 - Biblical trust is a firm conviction in someone or something's reliability, strength, or ability, built upon evidence and past experiences
 - There is no such thing as blind faith or blind trust relating to God
 - Israel should have trusted God in the wilderness based upon His miracles in Egypt and His provision while in the wilderness

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- Peter had faith in Jesus' abilities
 - **Matthew 14:27-29a NIV**, 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said.
 - Peter moved his faith to trust when he got out of the boat to do the impossible, what Jesus commanded
 - **Matthew 14:29b NIV**, Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

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- **James 1:2-4 TLB**, 2 Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, 3 for when the way is rough, your patience (*faith*) has a chance to grow (*into trust*). 4 So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience (*faith*) is finally in full bloom (*trust*), then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.
- We must mature from confident hope to bold trust because hope alone will not get us out of the boat
 - And because God is worthy of our trust
 - And because confident hope still provides a tempting ground for Satan
 - But confident trust, the battle is over

Our testing is designed to push our faith deeper into the area of simple trust

- To offset Satan's temptation, Jesus simply and accurately quoted another Bible truth found in Psalms
 - Jesus didn't argue with him but said Scripture also says, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
 - It's important we are developing a grasp of the entire Word of God, not just our favorite verses

Once your faith has progressed to trust you will be able to truthfully answer the question, “Is God worthy of your trusted”

- Your answer to this question will determine your peace and joy in this life
 - It’s real hard to have fulfilling peace and joy
 - If you do not trust “God will never leave you nor forsake you”
 - If you hesitate to accept “God will work all things out for good”
 - It is difficult to “count it all joy” when standing at the gravesite of a spouse or a child, staring at divorce papers, hear the word “cancer”, when remembering abuse, addiction screaming at you
 - It’s real hard to grasp the promise, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me” if you unsure about God’s trustworthiness

Once your faith has progressed to trust you will be able to truthfully answer the question, “Is God worthy of your trusted”

- If you can truthfully answer “Yes” to the question of God’s trustworthiness
 - Then all the promises of God bloom before your events of life, even if you have never experienced them, because you simply trust Him

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- One of God's names in Scripture is, "El Emet"
 - The Hebrew word for "trueness" and "faithfulness" + "trustworthiness and dependability"
 - **Numbers 23:19 ESV**, 19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
 - This simply means God does what He says
 - There is no power than can prevent His Word from achieving its purpose
 - There is no timeframe that would allow Him to forget His Word

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- God's will for your life is move from faith to trust
 - It's easy to say, "Lord, you are worthy of my praise"
 - Harder to say and mean, "Lord, you are worthy of my trust"
- **Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**, 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
- Trust all your life experiences to Jesus and allow Him to bring the joy of the Lord into them

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Matthew 4:5-7

A person with long brown hair, wearing a green long-sleeved dress, is sitting on a wooden pier or dock. They are looking out over a vast, calm body of water under a soft, overcast sky. The water has gentle ripples and a blue-grey hue. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

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