

The Lord Surrounds His People - Psalm 125 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

“Just trust the Lord.” While this is really good advice, what exactly does it mean to trust the Lord. I hear people give this advice, or make the statement that, “I am just trustin’ the Lord.” I do believe that many in our culture believe that trusting the Lord goes arm in arm with the “Bible passage” that says, “God helps those who help themselves.” By the way, that is not really in the Bible, in fact, it is actually the antithesis of the main point of the story found in Scripture. To trust the Lord is to believe that I have all that I need to make it happen, you know, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” This verse is in the Bible, but is often misquoted out of context. My point is that so many people claim faith in Jesus and that they trust the Lord. Yet their character, values, lifestyles are far from the dependency, ethics, and values that mark authentic faith. So many baptize their own desires and dreams, throwing a prayer of blessing over it, trusting that God will give them all the things they desire.

This is not what those singing Psalm 125 as they march to Jerusalem, to Mount Zion are communicating. “Those who trust the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” This joins myriads of texts and Biblical authors voices calling us to trust in the Lord, to have faith. Once we get to the New Testament we come to realize that faith in Jesus is the path to redemption and eternal life. John writes in the most famous verse, John 3:16, that “Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will not perish, but will have eternal life.” Belief, faith, trust is our entry into eternal life. Paul expounds on this in Romans 3-5 as he makes a clear argument for justification by faith alone. The reality that we are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus alone is echoes in Galatians 2:8-10, as Paul declares clearly that salvation is not a result of works, but is brought about by our trust or faith in Jesus. Yet, if that faith is true, it will result in good works produced from authentic faith. Here is the point I want to make. To trust in the Lord is not a side issue, one virtue among many to be commended among the people of God. Our trust or faith in Jesus is central, the fountain for all of the Christian life. So we need to be clear what the Scriptures intended to communicate when it calls us to trust the Lord. Furthermore, there are multiple passages and stories in the canon of Scripture warning us about inauthentic faith, false belief that left people outside of the Kingdom and redemption (see the life of Judas or the Parable of the Soils in Mark 4). So what is this and the other passages communicating when it calls us to trust in Jesus?

The reformers (Martin Luther, John Calvin among others) helped us by explaining that authentic faith in Jesus had three key components. They referred to these three components as *noticia* (knowledge), *assensus* (assent), and *fiducia* (trust or dependence). A note here, not using the Latin terms to impress, these ideas are still used in much literature. But the meaning here helps us to understand the nature of authentic faith. *Noticia* speaks of accurate information. The Christian faith is a revealed faith, meaning God has chosen to make Himself and the glorious Gospel of His redemption known. Belief begins with our believing the correct information, the right things about the True God. Having strong faith in a generic or false God will not save. Sincerity of belief is not enough, we must know the True and Living God who alone can save and sustain us. The starting point of true belief is having the correct doctrine about God, Jesus, ourselves as revealed in the Scriptures. The second component, *assensus*, speaks of our embracing of the truth, taking it in to the self. It’s one thing to believe the information about Jesus, truly God and truly man, Savior of the World. It’s another thing to come to the conviction that Jesus is my Savior. *Assensus* calls us to take the truths found in Scripture about God, Jesus, and self and reshape our lives around those truths, to believe them in a personal way. Finally,

fiducia, or trust refers to our placing all of life in the hands of the God we have come to know. It involves turning from sin and my own self-salvation experiments and placing myself in the hands of God who saves me. Paul in Romans reminds us that faith is equal to the claim, "Jesus is Lord." To confess Jesus as Lord is to claim He is God, and that Jesus is now the King of my life. This is true faith, to know Jesus, the True and Living God, to receive Him as my God and Savior, and to bow my knee to Him as King, submitting my life to His Will and obeying His commands. To trust in the Lord is to trust in Jesus in this way. And when we trust we will find that this is the way to salvation, to Christian growth, and through the trials and temptations that come at us in life. This is why those who trust in the Lord are blessed. Look at all the blessings in this Psalm alone. So trust the Lord.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Chron icles 8	1 Chron icles 9	1 Chron icles 10	1 Chron icles 11	1 Chron icles 12	1 Chron icles 13	1 Chron icles 14

Reading from this past week: Psalm 125

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 126

Family Worship

Song - *Missions Flame*

<https://youtu.be/7-KQ0KXYLEg?si=7HJXOMroG0ix5JNZ>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church on Mission

Story: We are here to glorify God

Big Picture Question: What is our mission as Christians?

Answer: Our mission is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Romans 15

New City Catechism

Question 25: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Answer: Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Scripture

Psalm 125

- What do you believe the phrase, "trust the Lord" communicates about our lives?
- What are the blessings for those who trust in the Lord shared in Psalm 125?
- Why would we believe that people are saved by faith in Jesus alone, and not by our works?
- What are some ways we can learn to trust in the Lord during the difficult circumstances in our lives?

Prayer

*Pray for our Family Mission Trip to Chicago, and for Renewal Church. You can join us in our daily devotions on Koinonia this week.

*Pray that you would grow in your ability to trust in the Lord in all circumstances, and not lean on your own understanding.,