

Trusting God in Times of Trouble

Welcome back to Step Four!

We've been talking about what to do when our boundaries have been broken. As I said earlier, I'm not going to tell you what step you personally need to take but I will give you a roadmap to figuring it out with God. This lesson is on exactly that- **how do we trust God when trouble arises?**

Trust is part of a loving relationship. To trust God, we must love Him. To love Him, we must know Him. To know Him we must spend time with Him. And that's where we will begin today.

I don't believe following God should become routine. Routine in relationships becomes mundane and that's the *opposite* of what our relationship with God should feel like. I prefer to make it intentional. For example, I have a Bible Study I'm doing right now on leadership. The author of the Bible Study, which is called, "Leaders, Nations and God" by Marla Greenman (in case you're interested), said to do the Bible Study every day. I believe it was meant to be a 40 day Bible Study.

In the beginning, I did it every day. Every morning I got up, made my coffee and sat down to do my Bible Study. After awhile, my dedication started to wane. Not because I wasn't interested, I was! It had just become too much of a routine. Some people thrive on routine but as I said, I don't believe a relationship should be routine.

"Come to Me," God loving calls, *"I miss you"*.

We have to be willing to break our routine and go to Him.

This strengthens our relationship because we learn His voice. We honour God by setting aside what we were planning to do in order to spend time with Him. There is nothing that cannot wait for God. This is how we begin to build trust in Him. When you intentionally dedicate any and all of your time to Him, you will be amazed in the ways you're blessed!

Another way we can turn to Him in times of trouble is to reach out to a fellow believer. Seek a prayer partner and pray for your loved one's salvation. Pray for a softening of their hardened heart. Pray their eyes are opened to their sin and the effects it's having on your relationship. Continuing on from what we were learning from the book of Matthew on how to handle sin, Jesus then said:

"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

-Matthew 18:18-19 (ESV)

Which means when you call your friends to complain about what your loved one is doing- remember that when two agree and ask the Lord for something it will be done for them by God. It's important we agree to *hope, love and forgive.*

"Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"

-Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)

In other words, forgive them- *forever. And ever. **For everything.*** Forgiveness is not saying what happened was okay but that you will no longer allow what happened to hurt you anymore. Let the hurt go, give it to God and trust that He will avenge you (if need be).

My favourite verse for addiction is always one from Exodus which says,

“The Lord will fight for you; You need only to be still”

-Exodus 14:14 (NIV)

Put that one in your “happy box”!

Don't forget your worksheet and I'll see you in the next lesson!