**Who Do You Trust?** By David DeWitt and Joann Petersen

Proverbs 3:5-3:6

Who Do We Trust?

Introduction
in May 1995, Randy Reid, a 34-year-old construction worker, was welding on top of a nearly completed water tower outside Chicago. According to writer Melissa Ramsdell, Reid unhooked his safety gear to reach for some pipes when a metal cage slipped and bumped the scaffolding he stood on. The scaffolding tipped, and Reid lost his balance. He fell 110 feet, landing face down on a pile of dirt, just missing rocks and construction debris. A fellow worker called 911. When paramedics arrived, they found Reid conscious, moving, and complaining of a sore back. Apparently the fall didn’t cost Reid his sense of humor. As paramedics carried him on a backboard to the ambulance, Reid had one request: "Don’t drop me." (Doctors later said Reid came away from the accident with just a bruised lung.)

Q- Who do we trust?

We have trusted many people and many things:
We often trust our families, we have trusted our friend’s
we have trusted our transportation services, We trust our national security services, We trust our military services, banks and financial institutions -

What do all of these things have in common? Sometimes they fail our trust.

We have all felt the disastrous results of failed trust within our families and by our friends. Confidences are shattered, tears are shed, feelings are hurt, trust is damaged and bitterness often grows.

We have witnessed the devastating results of national failures. Security breached, homes foreclosed on – scams in investments and the list goes on –

Q- In times like these, who do we trust?

I. God wants us to trust Him
John 14:1 – Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God, trust also in me.
A. Correct your focus
1. A visit to the eye doctor – often leads to corrective lenses or a change in our prescription – in our look at trust
2. There is a need for corrected focus
Far too often in life we become completely focused on the trials and difficulties of life and we lose our focus on Christ. Like we learned last week - When Peter walked on the water with Jesus he was doing well until he took his eyes off of Jesus and looked at the waves. The same is true of us today. God can get us through the most impossible situations but we must keep our focus and trust on Him. How can we ever expect to find help and healing when we are still focused on our difficulties and not our deliverance
B. We need to check our faith -
1. Jesus calls us to trust God
a.) Meaning of trust
1.) Webster: Basic dependence on someone or something, Belief that something will happen or someone will act in a prescribed way
2.) Trust is found in our unswerving belief that the God of Heaven will indeed work on our behalf to bring His perfect will for our lives into being
b.) Jesus called the disciples to trust God through any and every circumstance of life. He was about to be crucified and they would be scattered. Jesus was telling them to trust even when they did not understand because God was still at work
2.) These words are also true for us today. As we see the horror and feel the terror of things like September 11th; Watching the news we see teens taking their own lives and the lives of others, natural disasters etc we must stand firm in our trust in God
2. Trust can be difficult
If we were to be asked individually, most of us would very quickly say that we trust God but there are times when trust is not so simple
 Trusting God means we believe in that which we cannot see and most times do not understand
 Trusting God is literally against our human nature
 Trusting God means that we have to admit that we are not in control of our lives
b.)We need to place our trust in something or someone and we do it every day. We trust our cars to get us to our destination. We trust our employers to deliver paychecks. We trust our doctors to diagnose and heal our illnesses. How much more should we trust God?
c.) Some examples of trust –

1. Abraham was tested in Genesis 22 – When Abraham was told to take Isaac – the son they had waited for all those years and sacrifice him – They walked up to the place Isaac was concerned they had the wood and the fire but no lamb to offer- Abraham spoke words of trust in verse 8 – Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. For once in Abraham’s life he didn’t try to get ahead of God – He went right up to the point of being ready to sacrifice Isaac – still trusting that a sacrifice would be provided – other than Isaac. His trust was rewarded with the ram in the bushes. Who do we trust in?
2. Moses at the Red Sea – The story of the Israelites leaving Egypt the plagues and when the first born are killed that is it Pharaoh lets the Israelites go but In Exodus 14 – Pharaoh’s heart is hardened and the Egyptian army pursues the Israelites catching up with them at the Red Sea – The people are terrified when they see all these chariots and soldiers approaching and cry out - Moses states the trust he has in God in Exodus 14:13-14 – Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” And as Paul Harvey would have said we know the rest of the story – the Israelites walked over on dry ground and the Egyptians drown – The trust Moses had in God was not misplaced – Who do we trust in?
3. When we consider Ruth and her trust in God – Naomi had lost her family all she had in a foreign country was her daughters-in-law – Opal and Ruth - Naomi had heard the famine was over in Bethlehem – she decides to go back-along with her daughters-in-law – Naomi realized it would not be fair to take them away from their country and families – Opal turned back but Ruth was not put off and expressed her trust in God – Ruth 1:16 - But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. – Ruth was willing to give up her country and her family, as we know Ruth’s trust was rewarded – God lead her to the field of Boaz, they later married and their son was Obed – who ended up the grandfather of David – all in the lineage of Jesus – We never know where trust in God will lead – Who do we trust in?

We could go on with many other stories in the Bible of people who trusted God and were delivered – such as:
3. Joseph in the Pharaoh’s prison
4. David facing down Goliath
5. Jonah in the belly of the whale
6. Peter & John before the Sanhedrin

Hopefully we can each add a story where we trusted God and were not disappointed – I can and it is very recent that there was no other avenue open – the life of a family member was out of control and God was the only one that could change the course the situation was headed in – my watchwords were trust in God and the trust was rewarded with a change that needed to be made for all involved – thanks to God. Which leads to the next point -

II. God blesses those who trust Him
Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6
A. We must confess our reliance on God when
1. Life is beyond us
Disasters strike and tragedies happen in our lives. Life can indeed be hard. Life can be uncertain. Life is beyond our control. In times like this, life is beyond our understanding. We are left with raw emotions and tough questions. Answers are beyond us as we struggle with the question of why.
In times like these, who do we trust?

2. Life is never beyond God
Nothing and I mean nothing that we go through in life is beyond God. The truth is that we can and must rely on God in every situation in life. Times that just don’t make any sense in human terms; we need to trust in God. The more senseless life becomes the greater our need to trust in God.

B. Our resources must be committed to the Lord
1. God wants all of our trust -
The writer of Proverbs states it simply and clearly that God wants your full and complete trust. Trust God with all of your heart. We must hold nothing back and surrender to Him all that we are, all that we have, all that we may become because without the presence and guidance of God we will go nowhere.
2. This is trust in all situations
God wants us to trust even when we don’t understand. When life just doesn’t make sense. God wants us to follow Him when the future seems uncertain. It is only when we completely trust God that He to give us the power of His direction and the power of His presence.

III. God is worthy of trust
The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:9-10
1. God is our source of strength
When we feel weak, God is our strength. When we are pressured by life, God is our relief. When we need security, God is our refuge. The full resources of God are at our disposal when we place our trust in Him
2. The key is trust
If we do not place our trust in God; there is no access to His power, His mercy or His love. When trials arise and we go through difficulty; it is then that we must place our trust in God. Without trust in God there is no comfort, no peace, no strength and no relief.

Once my hands were always trying; Trying hard to do my best;
Now my heart is sweetly trusting, And my soul is all at rest.
Once my brain was always planning, And my heart, with cares oppressed;
Now I trust the Lord to lead me, And my life is all at rest.
Once my life was full of effort, Now ’tis full of joy and zest;
Since I took His yoke upon me, Jesus gives to me His rest.
-- A.B. Simpson

The promise of God -
God has made a promise that He will never forsake those who seek Him. The promise that God made so long ago is still valid today because God has never broken a promise yet. He is true and faithful to His people.

If we trust in God, we have the treasure of love, grace and peace from the God who created love and the God of all comfort. A treasure of security, protection and provision from an all powerful never changing God. We have the treasure of acceptance and eternal salvation from an all knowing God who sacrificed His own Son so we could gain eternal life.

God is asking only one question this morning, who do you trust? Who do I trust? What is our answer?

Pray –

Benediction: As we are put through the fire or the flood and sometimes great sorrow - Do we just believe in Jesus or do we also put our trust in Him? Who do you trust?