

February 2009



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In God We Must Trust

Elder Charles Moore

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

Trust is mentioned over and over again in the Bible. In fact the Psalmist said "For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth." (Psalm 71:5) Isaiah said, "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." (Isaiah 12: 2) Paul said, "... we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the Savior* of all men, especially of those who believe." (I Timothy 4: 10)

The word "trust" (according to the Webster's dictionary) means, "to put in the care of another, or believe." In the opening text above, Solomon is saying to us, "Trust in the Lord." We are to believe in Him but I think more importantly we are to put ourselves in the care of the

Lord, trusting that He will take care of us. I believe one of the hardest things that a person can do is put their trust in someone else. I can't think of any greater or more reliable person to put my trust in, than the Lord. In order for one to be trusted, one must first be found worthy of trust. Thank God that we have his Word to reflect upon. Let us just look at some of the many reasons why God is worthy of our trust.

The first thing that comes to my mind is Noah, who put his trust in God and survived the worst storm ever known to man. Moses put his trust in God and went through the Red Sea on dry land. Abraham trusted God and his son Isaac's life was spared. David trusted God and conquered the lion, the bear, Goliath and all of his enemies. The Apostle Paul trusted in the Lord and survived multiple beatings, stonings and shipwrecks. Jesus trusted God and suffered abuse, beatings, the crown of thorns, and

finally the cross and was resurrected on the third day and rose to heaven to sit at the right hand of God. In fact when Stephen was being stoned, Luke wrote, "**But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'**" (Acts 7:55-56) God proves to us in His word time and time again, that He is worthy of our trust. I could go on and on. Scripture after Scripture proclaims that God is trustworthy. Each person who knows Him can attest to God's faithfulness.

Back to the words of our text, "**Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.**" When we trust in the Lord, we must trust with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Our Lord wants to see our humility. God wants us to know that without Him, we can do nothing. "**I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**" (John 15:5) We can not fully trust in Him, if

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we are not willing to first acknowledge our weakness. We must surrender all effort to Him.

How many times do we try to handle our own situations; not wanting to admit our weaknesses. Just like an independent child, we carry the weight and burden because of our pride, instead of surrendering all effort to Him Who is able to do far above what we ask. We are sometimes like the little boy I heard about. He went to the candy store with his mother, and while he was there, he got his hand caught in the candy jar. He looked to his mother for help, and she told him to let go of the candy and he would be free. After he wrestled with the candy jar, trying to find a better way to be freed, he let go of the candy and his hand was freed.

Sometimes we want to try to find a better way to be free from our cares, and instead of trusting in the Lord, we lean on our own understanding. After wrestling, and analyzing our problem, we become weary and burdened. We must let go of our understanding, and trust in the Lord and His understanding. **"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:" (Proverbs 12:15)** We deceive our own selves, when we try to solve our problems with only our understanding of the problem. God knows the ins and outs of every situation, every circumstance of life. God made us, He knows what makes us work. God desires that we walk in His ways because He knows what is best for us.

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding. (Proverbs 3:13) God's wisdom and understanding is greater than we could ever fathom, but we must trust Him to lead our lives, even when we don't understand.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9) Thanks be to God that He does not leave us to the wisdom of our own minds but to the infinite care of His mind. We can trust in that.

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February brought some sunshine into our lives in a couple of ways—the weather was quite a bit warmer (30's again some-times) and the winter retreat brightened up our lives.

The sun was shining to welcome Roy and Bennie Gee from California. We cannot thank them enough for traveling to Michigan for our winter retreat. They stayed around afterward a couple of days and some of us enjoyed getting to visit with them a little more. Bennie was thrilled to see the ice break up on the River Raisin as she had not seen that before. These California people are easy to please.

Roy and Bennie arrived safely home to Auburn and shortly afterward their granddaughter Joy Gee (6 years old) became really ill with strep pneumonia and had to be put on a ventilator to help her breathe in the hospital. She was taken off the ventilator yesterday and we are so happy to report she is breathing on her own and improving each day. Praise the Lord! Joy's sister Julia (4) also got pneumonia and was briefly in the hospital with Joy. The whole family is so happy with things getting back to normal.

Sonya Pease flew in to lift our spirits also. She is a permanent fixture and we are so glad she did not have any problems getting here.

Laurie Eckles was able to be with us on Friday evening and we were so happy to visit with her. She keeps very busy with her sons, Alex and Michael.

The winter retreat brings us all into the Rob Vaughn and Larry Charles families' neighborhood. Those folks spend time with us there and we love it. They also love our little visit into their lives they tell me.

The Echoes of Happiness sang for our Sabbath School service and we always enjoy their music. Roy gave three sermons scattered throughout the weekend, and we also got to enjoy a sermon from our own Pastor Moore. It is a wonderful weekend and we arrive home full both spiritually and physically. I also want to thank the men who prepared our brunch on Sunday (which is a terrific retreat tradition), they did a great job as usual.

A few empty spots this year were David and Ruth Charles. David cannot take any chances after his recent heart surgery. We are pleased to report that they are still doing well. Another couple of empty spots were Jim and Deborah Stoner. We missed you and hope that new medication is working to bring Jim's blood pressure into check.

Leslie Miller is working on finding a name for their new baby-boy-to-be. Leslie, we just wish you all the best in bringing that new little boy into this world.

Last month there was a small glitch in my article as sentences got switched around so I thought, "This is a puzzle for everyone to work on!" Hope you figured it out. See you next month.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

February was a strange month in terms of weather. After the bitter cold of January, the month began in a balmy fashion, with all the mountains of snow melting. By the time our winter retreat came, the temperature reached 50 degrees and was - pleasant. Not to fear by the end of the month, winter storm warnings were returning and snow slicked the highways and byways.

Our annual retreat in Howell was wonderful this year (as usual). The Friday program began with people gathered to hear Roy Gee talk about his favorite things in scripture. Several people got to hear Roy speak for the first time this year, among them one of our newest members Richard Brown also a friend who has come to several church events, Vicki Velasco. Both reported great appreciation for Roy's teaching and speaking gifts. Jack Begeman, Mike and Gemma's son and David Fasbender, son of Stephanie Fasbender, happily played together through most of the weekend, with friendly attention and able attendance by Sydney and Katie Begeman. We experienced blessings in abundance: visits, good food, time to do evening jigsaw puzzles, a brief movie featuring Nick Vujicic, a youth evangelist born without arms and legs, the now-annual camp pre-planning meeting, a wonderful service with the Echoes of Happiness, Roy's remaining two talks and Elder Moore's sermon on the two widows who trusted God, all combined to make the weekend special, a bit of a preview of heaven.

We really appreciated the wonderful weekend, but had some unsettling and jarring events following it. We were sorry for the loss experienced by Carrie and Joel DeHaan. They lost their awaited son, Corey, almost five months into Carrie's pregnancy. The parents of Carrie and Joel each were able to be with them in the days that followed and mourned the loss of their first grandchild. Our prayers go out to Carrie and Joel and hopes of the meeting they will some day have with this little one in heaven.

Charlie Moore was returning his sisters to their home following the retreat when their vehicle was rear-ended. Cheryl Lymond was taken by ambulance to the emergency room and released, sore and medicated, later that day. Later in the week, our prayers

turned to David Begeman and Riley Vargas who were ill with strep throat and across the country with Roy and Bennie Gee as their granddaughters Joy and Julia struggled with pneumonia.

The traveling Wednesday night Bible Studies have moved on to Thessalonians. Charlie and I remember years ago spending two years studying the wonderful Thessalonians books, verse by verse, and phrase by phrase, at Joe and Kathy Smeltzer's home. Those were wonderful times of exploring God's word and building friendships.

On the ministry front, my workplace, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, celebrated its 100th year of service to the Detroit community. It provides programs for children and youth and shelter, housing and substance abuse treatment to 1,200 people a day. The mission started when a man named David Stuckey had to move to Detroit to provide special care for his daughter's polio and because of that, the Mission has seen the salvation of untold thousands of people over all these years. Terrie Fedor recently shared a special newsletter from Kevin and Ginette Young who minister in New York City. We love the stories of how he is able to use 'chance' meetings on the bus or subway to tell young people about Jesus Christ. Each evangelistic or Christian worker that is supported by the church sends regular communications which are posted on our bulletin boards. We are grateful for these communications because it allows us to share in their ministries.

Jean Lane will be seeing her grandson Josh much more because he and Jessica will move in with her soon. She had shared the house with Carol Fruchey for the past two years. Carol will now be staying in Monroe at the Frenchtown Place apartments.

Don Daniels recently shared a great pair of stories at variety time about Al Capone's accountant, Easy Eddie, and his son, a brave World War II pilot, Butch, who redeemed the family name for whom Chicago's O'Hare airport is named. Geneva Begeman continues to read and lend great Christian books, even when her borrowers forget to return them or let them get wet. It is because of people like Don and Geneva we get exposed to fictional stories that inspire. With that said, I say to you, may God be with you and you with Him through the coming month.

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