

Hebrews 11: Can I TRUST God? Can God TRUST me?

Part 1: Beginning with the End in Mind

Hebrews 11 is a portrait gallery of folks whom God Himself calls champions for their **bold trust in Him**.

Our whole series is predicated on one question I predict will be increasingly up close and personal: **CAN I TRUST GOD?** Do I really?

No matter what? With everything? When I have an area of my life I am managing quite well, thank you...and God says: **Give it to ME**, or worse still: **Leave it—and follow Me, and I'll tell you later where I am leading**. What about then?

What about when the worst diagnosis, relational loss or financial set-back occurs and no answer is in sight? What if your best plans are shattered, or even worse—*when they are cruising along quite successfully* and God says: **“This is not what I want for you.”** Who will you listen to then?

1. Can I [*really*] trust God [*with everything*]?
2. *Can God trust me* (you, us) with the life He wants to give us?

My righteous one will live by his/her faith [TRUST in ME].
And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.

Hebrews 10:38

THOUGH the...crops fail and there is no food, yet I will rejoice
in the LORD. I will be JOYFUL in God my Savior.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

This kind of faith is what we are talking about when we say: **TRUST**...

- Job: THOUGH He slay me, yet *I will trust Him*.
- David: THOUGH my enemies surround me and all my friends desert me...Yet *I will trust in God my Savior*.

Do not let your heart be troubled. **TRUST** in God. **TRUST** also in Me.

John 14:1

The single greatest challenge of the Christian life is *not* any tough circumstances that *have* come, or that ever *will* come.

The single greatest challenge is **whether I will trust GOD's will more than I trust my own will**, my own wants or my own immediate urges—and do that in every single part of my (your/our) life.

These were all commended for their TRUST, yet not one of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us, so that only TOGETHER with us would they be made PERFECT.

Hebrews 11:39-40

Because by one sacrifice He has made PERFECT forever
all those who are being made holy!

Hebrews 10:14

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

The weight that so easily hinders us speaks of simplicity as a goal, of traveling light and holding every THING loosely, with open hands—ready to drop it in a moment if needed to stay in the race of TRUST.

Our English translations say: *the sin that so easily entangles*, but the Greek word implies *‘the sin most admired.’* What is the sin that is most admired by us in each other, the sin that most mitigates against TRUST?

It is our exaltation of, and admiration of, and desire to be, the person in control. To be someone who can handle things fine—on our own. A self-made man!

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and PERFECTER of our faith, who for the **JOY** set before Him *endured* the Cross, *scorning* its shame—and sat down at the right hand of GOD!

Hebrews 12:2

The Cross of San Damiano:
“Francis, rise up—and rebuild MY church.”

He did! He lost everything we covet
and gained God's joy.