

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message

October 19, 2025 "Let's Sing!! Finding God in the songs we sing." "I Trust in God"

I Intro.

We're moving through fall. Stay connected to our social media to keep up with everything that's happening. Welcome to our companion devotional to Sunday's message. It's just a part of all we have to offer to you. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey. We don't want you to miss out on anything. We consider you part of our community. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know.

II Recap.

The purpose of this series is to see worship as bigger than just singing. Not only a time to be with God. But to find and experience truths we can apply to our own personal lives that grow us in our regular daily walk with God. The songs we sing grow our ability to be more Christ-like in our walk. So, when you sing the songs we're highlighting, it's not just focusing on what you like or maybe don't like about the songs. It's to help you move past your own preferences, into a place where even if you're not crazy about the song, it can still speak to you. For every song you can find something in the song that helps you meet God and grow closer to God. Praise and worship is such an essential element in worship. We want to help expand your connection to God through worship.

III Sunday.

I'm going to jump into hard questions from the get go. **Ready?**

What do you need for you to be able to trust...ANYTHING?

How do you know, really know for sure, that you can trust something?

These are such important questions, because we tend to center trust in certainty. We're all, at some level, uncomfortable with ambiguity, uncertainty. We want to know specific things, THE answers, and we want to know that what we know is absolutely true. We don't know what to do when we find out something isn't true. It makes us not trust in our own ability to...trust.

How could we have believed that thing, thought that for so long...and be wrong?

We can begin to doubt our own ability to trust the right things. But experiencing everything in life we do, we have to admit certainty is not always possible. Honestly, I'm not even certain about that. So, we're going to establish a different understanding of what trust is that can ground us, hold us in place, and give us some comfort. We want to give you some specifics to help you grow your ability to trust. To do this need to talk about the difference between certainty and assurance. Certainty is standing on your proven current beliefs as THE truth. Often certainty is rooted in certain specific results or outcomes. We want things to be predictable. If I do A, then I can definitely expect B to happen. This is a contractual understanding of trust. If I do these things, then I should be able to expect these things.

How many of you deeply desire this kind of predictability in your world?

The problem is our beliefs work for where we are at a particular moment. I know many of us discovered things we thought we could trust (beliefs, values, truths) but didn't hold up when something knocked us off our feet, or challenged them. Things like death, end of a relationship, significant loss, crisis of faith. The death of certainty is disorienting, terrifying...and you need to know ...it's also freeing. Not only does this apply to everything you do in life. It applies to your relationship with God. Because your journey of walking towards Jesus becomes less dependent on you getting it right. Your dependency shifts from trying to create some artificial structure or construct of how the world works, how life works, just who God is (definition) and towards your relationship WITH Jesus.

Rather than certainty “let’s” talk about ‘seeking’ assurance. To ‘seek’ is both permission towards the real divine nature of something, and removing barriers that hinder us moving towards assurance.

The reason I’m landing on the word assurance is because the song we hit today has the repeated phrase; ***“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.”*** Assurance is what we’re seeking when we want to grow our ability to trust in God. We’re going to make it okay to not be certain. Because we have something better. The key word in assurance and trust is the concept of ‘seeking’.

Trust is the foundation of everything. Our relationships, our work, belonging to a church, living in this world, etc. And our work to grow our ability to trust is to move from a dependence on certainty to a relationship with assurance. I want to help you by encouraging and helping you let go of certainty (which only leads to insecurity and frustration), and to guide you to grab onto assurance.

Let’s go to our song for today, ***“Trust in God”***.

I trust in God, my Savior The one who will never fail

He will never fail I trust in God, my Savior

The one who will never fail He will never fail

But what’s at the heart of trust? What do we need to do to grow trust?

Trust comes from seeking. We’re going to tie the ability to grow assurance with a curiosity to seek. **How does seeking lead to assurance?** This song tells us implicitly and over and over.

I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered

I sought the Lord (and He delivered me from all my fears)

I sought the Lord (from everything)

And He heard and He answered, oh

That’s why I trust Him, that’s why I trust Him

I love the subtlety in this song. God didn’t give answers...he heard us and simply answered.

The telltale sign of humility, an understanding of who we are, and what we’re to be about, is this insatiable curiosity. Curiosity is knowing that you can be assured. You can find comfort, solace, and peace in a world that’s in turmoil without having to have all the answers. You’ll be okay because your assurance is in something more solid.

And even when your own life feels so out of control, you’ll find that peace doesn’t come from getting it right. Life is not *“Let’s Make a Deal”*. It’s not the pressure of picking the right door or you getting the loser prize. But it’s finding assurance, peace, because we’ve got a process in place that’s always looking for new ways to grow our trust.

What is at the heart of trust?

What helps us break the addiction to certainty and find assurance?

By being curious, asking questions, and out of humility seeking assurance from God.

Remember, seeking is an act of resistance. Seeking keeps us from allowing things of the world- despair, discouragement, struggle, things that destroy certainty, be the tone that describes how we live our life. Seeking is an out in the open admission that we don't know everything. From a place of humility not being afraid of asking ANY question. Seeking is pushing against, looking for a better way to live through God, and not looking for exact answers. Seeking to find something to trust in, when we don't have all the answers or certainty. But we can still be confident. I will hold onto assurance with confidence. Because I don't have to trust in our own ability or effort, but it is within my control.

What does seeking the Lord look like? We're always going to tie seeking with assurance.

Difference between growing a relationship and building doctrine. We want doctrine. (Tell me exactly what to believe) The church has reduced a relationship with God to getting the answers right. Getting all the answers right, finding certainty, is not seeking the Lord. Having the right answers doesn't make a relationship. I can know all the facts about you...and still not know you. Real, deep trust, only comes from doing the real work to grow trust. Spending time doing the work of relationships.

Seeking requires dwelling.

What is at the heart of seeking assurance? Assurance grows with continual familiarity. That takes time and intentional effort. And that "p" word we all hate. Patience.

Psalm 27:4. The one thing I ask of the LORD-the thing I seek most-is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

The key in seeking is dwelling. **What's the best way to learn a new language?** Other than as a kid. It's to move to a place where they speak that language. The idea and practice of immersion. You take the plunge, admit and accept your inadequacy, embarrassment for not knowing. Do the hard work of trudging through it. Importance of 'friction' as a work in learning and growth. It's why we're doing this series. I want you to listen to these songs throughout the month as a way of dwelling. In the Christian world we call it incarnation. That's what makes the story of Jesus so compelling.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.

Dwelling 'with' is what grows assurance. And then in turn grows REAL trust...that you can trust.

Want to grow in trust? Want to seek God?

Take the plunge and find your best way to dwell.

2. Be patient and steady with seeking. Assurance grows from history and experience...over time. When we don't see things happening, we still know it's happening.

Psalm 27:13-14 Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

Trust grows out of the confidence of committing to the process.

Confidence. Confidence is not certainty of the answers...it's assurance in the work. Again, certainty is rooted in your ability to trust yourself to get it right. Confidence here is rooted in who God is, and in his goodness.

How does this confidence grow?

In our being patient in our work and waiting. We're not good at either patience, or the pace of

growing trust. This happens slowly, a little bit at a time, and trust will grow. Don't be upset or bothered if your growth is slow. Or if you hit a wall, a plateau and you can't seem to push past it. We live a life of seasons, there will be noticeable growth, producing new fruit. And then those moments where you just feel dormant, nothing is happening. **Do you know why we have seasons?** Because nothing that lives can exist in only one season all the time. We were created to exist and grow in rhythm. That's why we were given a Sabbath. We were not created to maintain an unbreaking pace. And this is what helps dismantle any addiction or obsession to certainty. Give yourself grace, learn to grow your ability to be patient, because you need dormant seasons of no real growth or production to be able to process what you have learned. And to grow deeper roots.

IV Challenge.

I cannot understate the importance and significance of honest seeking...curiosity. That is at the heart of the song ***"I Trust in God"***. Seeking God is where trust is grown. And that is at the heart of a genuine journey of discovery who God is, and what that means for each of us. It starts with this question; **"What do you want?"** It would be all too easy to take this question lightly. So, push past any quick and simple answers that pop up. And ask yourself...seriously; **"What do you want?"** For yourself, for your ability to live in our crazy world, for your ability to have a close relationship with God. For your desire to be able to deeply place your trust in something. And find deep peace, shalom in what you trust in.

This isn't about getting answers or figuring everything out. Thank God! Most, if not all, of the older, more experienced seekers of God will tell you; the more they discover and learn, the more questions they have. Joy is not in getting all the right answers. Joy is found in the day to day seeking, discovering who God is. Humbly, with loads of grace, patiently waiting. Finding both assurance...may I say *"blessed assurance"*, in this journey of seeking. And letting that assurance grow into real trust. Again reminding us that seeking, true seeking, is an act of resistance. Resistance against despair, discouragement, hopelessness, the need for certainty, a lack of trust. And that's what we need today, what our world needs today. And I want us to return to trust and what's at the heart of it.

Just read this as we wrap up this devotion.

I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered

I sought the Lord (and He delivered me from all my fears)

I sought the Lord (from everything)

And He heard and He answered, oh

That's why I trust Him, that's why I trust Him

Make this your promise today. And I promise you will find what you're really looking for.

What can you do specifically to begin to dwell with and seek the Lord?