Trusting And Embracing God
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

What Happens When We Don't Trust God with Our Lives?

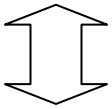
Unbelief

(Hebrews 3:7-19)

There is the idea that God is not doing enough for us, or that God is not enough for us

(We reject the truth about God)

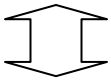
(We believe a lie about God)



Selfish Ambition

(James 3:13-16)

We live as if all things are for us (God is nonexistent)
We live as if all things are about us (God is nonexistent)
We live as if everything revolves around us (God is nonexistent)
We become preoccupied with what we want in place of obedience to God;
We are consumed with pleasures of this life; use people as avenues for our satisfaction
(I want need, I demand, I must have, I can't do without)

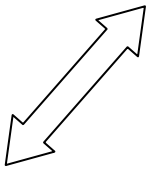


Discontentment

(Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)

We are never satisfied with anything or anyone and never seem to have enough of either

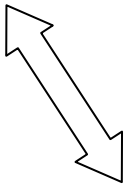
(If Only I had, I should have, Why don't I have, Life would be better if, I deserve)



Anger

(James 1:19-20)

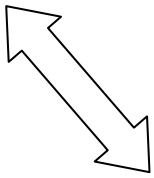
Negative reaction to not getting our way

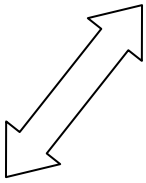


Worry

(Matthew 6:25-34)

Fear of what we may lose or not receive





Despair

(Ecclesiastes 2:17)

Sorrow with no hope because we view life without a proper view of God

(Chart Adapted from Taking Time to Quiet Your Noisy Soul (Workbook) by Jim Berg)

I. The Premise of Trusting God (v5)

A. Trusting God means to rely on and place confidence in who He is

1. It is not a mental assent of what you understand.

2. It is an act of the mind, will, desires, and emotion responding to who He is.

3. It is an act of submission to Yahweh, who is faithful and unchanging in character.

B. Trusting God must start from the inside out

1. It starts with taking every thought captive to His Word.

2. It moves to setting your desires and emotions on His Will, His Way, His Promises, and adjusting your will to following Him accordingly.

3. It ends with a sense of well-being, knowing God has everything under control, even when things look and feel out of control

C. Therefore, it is important that we rely on and place confidence in the fact that God is:

1. ***Supreme***-God is above all things, reigning over every power, authority, and created being. He alone is worthy of ultimate worship and allegiance (Psalm 97:9).

2. ***Sovereign***- God controls all things, and nothing happens apart from His will (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14).

3. ***Provident*** -God's continual, wise, and holy governance of all things, by which He sustains creation, directs history, and orders every event according to His eternal purpose in Christ, for His glory and the good of His people (Colossians 1:16–17).

4. ***Wise-*** God always knows and chooses the best course of action to accomplish His perfect purposes (Romans 11:33).

5. ***Holy***- God is completely pure, morally perfect, uniquely set apart from all creation, and devoted to His glory (Isaiah 6:3).

6. ***Faithful***-God always keeps His Word and fulfills His promises (Lamentations 3:22–23).

7. ***Loving-*** God seeks the highest good of others sacrificially according to His perfect character and sovereign purposes (1 John 4:9–10).

8. **Good**- perfect and unchanging disposition to do what is right, beneficial, wise, and loving according to His holy character.

D. Therefore, trusting God requires exclusive and comprehensive dependence upon Him

1. Because God is **Supreme**, **Holy**, and **Wise,** trusting Him demands wholehearted allegiance and the rejection of all rival authorities, including self, emotions, and human wisdom.

2. Because God is **Sovereign** and **Provident,** trusting Him requires surrendering self-reliance and the attempt to control outcomes, and submitting instead to His wise governance over all circumstances.

3. Because God is **Faithful**, **Loving**, and **Good**, trusting Him produces a settled confidence and well-being grounded in His unchanging character rather than in changing conditions.

II. The Pitfall to Trusting God (v5)

A. The pitfall to trusting God is relying on your own insight.

B. Relying on your own insight is having a human observation apart from a biblical interpretation (Ps 73).

1. You ask questions like why did God let this happen to me instead of How is God using what happened to me to make me more like Christ?

2. You ask questions like why didn't God do anything for me then instead of What was God doing then to His Glory and my benefit now?

3. You view life according to how things make you happy or unhappy instead of how things make you Holy or Unholy.

4. You interpret life according to your feelings and passions instead of from God's precepts and promises.

C. Relying on your own insight alone leads to self-deception, self-protection, self-centeredness, and self-promotion (Prov.14:12)

D. Here are some signs that you are leaning on your own understanding:

1. Inflexible /your way or no way in almost every aspect of life.

2. Preoccupied with making things happen to you, for you, through you, as you desire, instead of submission to the Power, Presence, and Provision of God as He has ordained and allowed.

3. Thoughts, words, and actions are predicated on the response of people/ outcome of events, not the will of God.

4. Thinking/speaking/living as if the outcome of your life depends on you.

III. The Process of Trusting God (v6)

A. We must acknowledge God in every aspect of life.

B. To acknowledge God means to acquire God's instruction for every aspect of life (Matt.6:33).

1. We must begin to examine every aspect of life from a Biblical perspective.

2. We must be willing to accept His perspective above man's opinion and our personal preferences and desires.

3. We must identify what God's Word has to say about marriage, dating, entertainment, money, children, employers, employees, evangelism, discipleship, etc., and begin to govern ourselves accordingly.

C. To acknowledge God means to obey God's instruction in every aspect of life (Matt. 7:24-27):

1. We must turn away from people, places, things, ideals, and desires that lead us into sin.

2. We must turn to people, places, things, ideals, and desires that lead us into the Righteousness of Jesus Christ.

3. We must begin the hard work of functioning according to God's design in all aspects of life (putting off and putting on).

D. Acknowledging God establishes God as the governing authority over the whole of life:

1. Acknowledging God is not occasional consultation but continual submission to His authority.

2. It means God's Word, not circumstances, emotions, or cultural norms, becomes the final reference point for decisions.

3. This acknowledgment reshapes direction over time, aligning the believer's life increasingly with God's purposes rather than personal preferences.

IV. The Promise of Trusting God (v6)

A. God promised to make our way of life straight if we acknowledge Him.

B. To make our way straight means to guide us into harmony with God's moral order, resulting in being morally upright, productive, and satisfied (Ps 37:6, John 15:1-5, Matt 5:6).

1. We will live a life that is beneficial to others and pleasing to God.

2. We will live a life of satisfaction and contentment apart from the outcome of events and the actions of others.

3. We will have a sense of peace and confidence before God.

C. God did not promise freedom from failure, freedom from trials, freedom from problems; nor did He promise material riches, or realization of all our expectations (Eccl. 7:14,20, John 16:33, Proverbs 13:12).

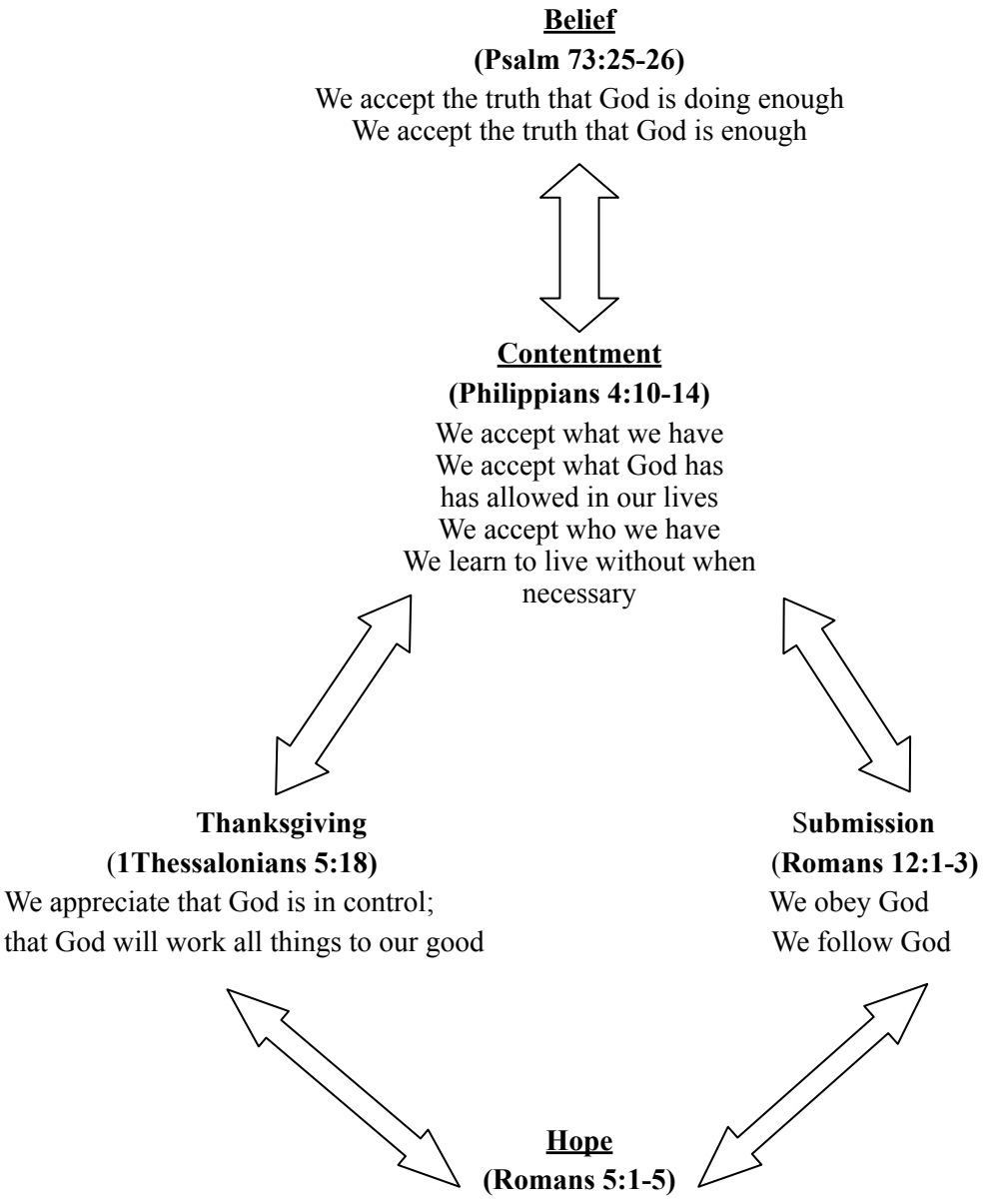
D. God's promise of direction is rooted in His character, not in circumstantial outcomes:

1. God makes paths straight by aligning the believer's life with His moral will, not by removing all difficulty.

2. Divine guidance often unfolds through trials, delays, and limitations that cultivate Christlikeness.

3. Trusting God means believing His promises will be fulfilled even when the path includes suffering.

What Happens When We Trust God With Our Lives?



(Idea adapted from Jim Berg)