

# INCREASE TRUST

Sermon Series : The Increase

Speaker : Mike Tatlock

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2 Pet 1:3

## 1. Trust Increases your Access

2 Cor 1:20ff.

Trust is about accessing... there is a difference between access and possession

Prov 3:5

*Heart:* Everything about you anchored in who He is

*Lean:* That which supports you

Phil 4:6-7

*Transcends:* surpass or go beyond the range or limits

2 Kgs 6:17

Trust knows that Delays will become Displays

## 2. Trust Increases Your Connection

Jas 1:2-4; Pss 125:1; John 11:12-14; Rom 8:28; Pss 34:8; Gen 5:20

The greater the abandon, the greater the abiding

GOOD = GLORY

## 3. Trust Increases Peace

John 16:7, 33; 14:27; Isa 26:3

Peace: freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is trust? How is it cultivated? What happens when it's broken? How is it restored?

Is this any different in our relationship with God?

2. What would we experience/do differently if we were trusting God with ALL our heart. What symptoms are evident in your life that expose where you are not trusting God in some areas?

3. The following pages contain an exercise called *Hearing God in Scripture* which can be done as a Group. It may be helpful for each person to have a copy, though it's not necessary. Nominate someone to facilitate the time by reading the Scripture and instructions out loud.

(Another option is to dedicate some time during your meeting to allow each person to work through it alone)

## **Hearing God in Scripture**

(extract from *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard, p103-105)

Read 2 Kings 6:11-17 aloud slowly.

Prepare yourself to *receive from God*. Close your eyes and breathe out slowly. Ask God to give you an openness to hear whatever the Spirit wishes to bring to you today.

### **Read—*lectio***

Before rereading the Scripture paragraphs about Elisha, consider Dallas Willard's meditation on what happened to Elisha's servant:

*What* did the young man see? Spiritual or personal reality is a type of reality that does not necessarily reveal itself to good eyesight. This is also true in some measure of the spiritual side of you and me. God enabled the young man to see the powers of his realm that totally interpenetrated and upheld all the normal, visible reality around him (even the Syrian army itself). Every working of visible reality is a movement within the encompassing *Logos*, the sustaining Word of God, and it rests on nothing else but God through his Son, who was and is the "reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word" (Heb 1:1-3).

How we need our Elishas today who, by life and teaching as well as by prayer, might open our eyes to see the reality of God's presence all around us, in every bit of matter as well as beyond!

Now reread 2 Kings 6:11-17, allowing yourself to be immersed in the situation. Remember that "those who lived through those experiences felt very much as we would have if we had been in their place".

Also listen with the ear of your heart for

- a word or phrase, a details of the story that shimmers or stands out to you.
- where you find yourself in the passage: one of the Syrian soldiers coming after Elisha (perhaps watching the terrified servant), the servant, Elisha, one of the fiery chariots or horses, a fly on the wall watching it all happen.

In either case, do not choose this yourself. Let the spirit bring it to you.

### **Reflect—*meditatio***

As you reflect on this passage, consider one of the following:

- The word or phrase that stood out to you. Why do you think these words resonated with you?
- Who or what you found yourself to be in the passage. How does it feel to be this person or object? What draws you? What are you thinking or feeling about God?

Give yourself a few minutes to ponder all this.

Then ask God, How does this connect with my life today? What do I need to know or be or do?

### **Respond (Pray)—*oratio***

Read the words in verses 15-17 one last time, preparing yourself for what you want to say to God about what you think the Spirit might have said to you or what came to you.

Pray whatever you need to pray. You might thank God for something or ask God for something.

### **Rest (Contemplation)—*contemplatio***

Do as you are led. You may wish to wait on God—to simply *be with* God. You may wish to pay attention to God, pondering especially, How did God *seem* in the passage to Elisha, to the servant, to you? What about God makes you want to worship him or at least *be with* him? Sit in the companionship of God—the one who shows up and can be seen.