

## Blessing is More than a #Hastag

**Jeremiah 17:7-8: 7**"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord And whose trust is the Lord. **8**"For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.

1. You are blessed when you trust the Lord.
2. When you trust the Lord, you will be like a tree planted by water.
3. When you trust the Lord, you will be like a tree that isn't afraid of the heat.
4. When you trust the Lord, you will be like a tree that isn't anxious or fruitless in a drought.

"Trust is not a passive state of mind. It is a vigorous act of the soul by which we choose to lay hold on the promises of God and cling to them despite the adversity that at times seeks to overwhelm us." ~Jerry Bridges<sup>1</sup>

"The cedars of Lebanon are not dependent upon man for their watering; they stand on the lofty rock, unmoistened by human irrigation; and yet our heavenly Father supplieth them. Thus, it is with the Christian who has learned to live by faith. He is independent of man, even in temporal things; for his continued maintenance he looks to the Lord his God, and to him alone. The dew of heaven is his portion, and the God of heaven is his fountain.

"Again, the cedars of Lebanon are not protected by any mortal power. They owe nothing to man for their preservation from stormy wind and tempest. They are God's trees, kept and preserved by him, and by him alone. It is precisely the same with the Christian. He is not a hot-house plant, sheltered from temptation; he stands in the most exposed position; he has no shelter, no protection, except this, that the broad wings of the eternal God always

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<sup>1</sup> Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God* reprinted in *Be Still my Soul* by Nancy Guthrie (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010) 111-112.

cover the cedars which he himself has planted. Like cedars, believers are full of sap, having vitality enough to be ever green, even amid winter's snows." ~Charles Spurgeon<sup>2</sup>

## Questions for Reflection

1. How can we tell if we've fallen into this trap of trusting in anything other than the Lord?
  - a. What are some ways you've seen lack of trust and unbelief show up in your life?
  - b. What circumstances seem to trip you up the most?
  
2. Why can't we get to the place where we trust the Lord all the time?
  - a. Why must we be in a continual process of trusting the Lord throughout our lives?
  - b. How can you keep your heart humble and trusting in the Lord regularly?
  
3. How can you attain God's blessing according to our text?
  - a. What are some ways you could describe what trust is?
  - b. What does trusting the Lord look like in your life?
  
4. Our text tells us that a person who trusts the Lord will be like a tree planted by the water. Trees know they need water for survival and thriving, yet sometimes we don't seek out our source of strength and growth like a tree would. What are some ways you can seek the Lord to gain strength and thrive spiritually?

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<sup>2</sup> C. H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1896) August 13.

- a. What things must you think, choose, and do to live near the Lord and enjoy His life-giving, soul-refreshing, heart-reviving Word?
5. Jeremiah 17:7-8 tells us that a person who trusts the Lord will not be afraid when heat comes, nor will they dry up in trial. How is this possible according to our text?
- a. How does fear lead to us drying up in our trials and times of testing?
  - b. What are some ways you have learned to move from fear to faith when life heats up?
6. Our text tells us that a person who trusts the Lord will not be anxious or quit bearing fruit even during a drought time in their lives. What are some "droughts" we might experience?
- a. What are some characteristics of a person who bears fruit during the dry and difficult times of their lives?
  - b. What do you need to remember so you "will not be anxious in a year of drought?"
  - c. What are your "rescue yourself" temptations and how can you recognize them when they crop up?
  - d. What truths put to death your "rescue yourself" temptations?