

Joke: Three engineers and three accountants are traveling by train to a conference. At the station, the three accountants each buy a ticket and watch as the three engineers only buy one ticket.

"How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks an accountant.

"Watch and you'll see," answered an engineer.

They all board the train. The accountants take their respective seats but all three engineers cram into a rest room and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, "Tickets, please!" The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The accountants see this and agree it is a clever idea. So after the conference, the accountants decide to copy the engineers on the return trip and save some money.

When they get to the station, they buy one ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the engineers don't buy a ticket at all.

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed accountant.

"Just watch and you'll see," answered an engineer.

When they board the train all three accountants cram into a restroom and the three engineers cram into another one nearby.

The train departs and shortly afterward, one of the engineers leaves his restroom and walks over to the restroom where the accountants are hiding.

He knocks on the door and says, "Tickets, please!"

Do you ever feel like life is just one long ongoing battle? Where you just feel like, when you get over one thing, there's another thing right behind it?

I've heard people say, "that you're either in the middle of a battle, coming out of a battle, or you're about to go into a battle."

It seems like there's always some kind of fight.

You're fighting to pay the bills, you're fighting some addiction that you can't seem to overcome, you're fighting to keep your kids on track, or you're fighting to hold your marriage together.

Maybe you're fighting to stay sane with all the crazy in the world today.

Some are fighting doubt, discouragement, or depression.

And if you're in a battle right now, I want to share with you a scripture from Psalm 20, when King David was actually preparing for a battle.

And, maybe just maybe, his words could become your words.

Ultimately, my prayer today is that these words would build your faith in your fight.

David said in Psalm 20 verse 7, right before the battle, he said, "Some," say that with me. . .some.

Psalm 20:7 (NIV): Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

Let me read that once more from The Passion Translation.

Psalm 20:7 (TPT): Some find their strength in their weapons and wisdom, but my miracle deliverance can never be won by men. Our boast is in the Lord our God, who makes us strong and gives us victory!

Now I would love to stand up here and tell you that I always trust in the name of the Lord our God. That I have never had a doubt, or been discouraged, or distressed. And I would love to tell you that I never try to find my strength in my own weapons or wisdom.

But truth is for me, and I'm pretty sure I'm not alone in this, sometimes I'm one of the some.

Some trust in chariots. Some trust in horses.

I'm at times one of the some, because I can find myself trusting in what I can see, rather than what is not seen.

Oh, and listen church I'm well aware that we are told that we walk by faith and not by sight. But truth is. . .sometimes I struggle in the battle to do just that.

I'm I the only one or do you do struggle with that as well?

See, the truth is if I'm going into a battle, it's often times easier to trust a war horse I can see than the God who I may not see, feel or hear in the midst of it all.

Sometimes, it's easier as the Passion Translation said, it's easier putting our trust in our knowledge, our wisdom, and our weapons.

And truth is some trust in their experiences, others may trust in the money in their bank account.

And if I'm being honest there are times I'm part of the some where I trust in what I can see more than I trust in the God that I can't.

And what encourages me about David isn't just his faith where he says with boldness and confidence, "We trust in the Lord our God."

What encourages me about David isn't just his faith, but it's his faith after his doubt.

Think about it, the same guy who said, "Some trust in horses and some trust in chariots, but we trust in the Lord."

Was also the guy who asked some questions like these in Psalm 13.

Psalm 13:1–2 (NIV): How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

And it seems like in these Scriptures David is saying I'm in the battle and right now and I'm having difficulty trusting in You God.

But then something shifts and he finishes up this Psalm like this. . .

Psalm 13:5–6 (NIV): But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. 6 I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.

David along the way in the midst of the battle remembered that God has been good to him. I we need to remember that as well.

So, today, I want to share about how we grow from the, "I'm not sure I can really trust God," to saying, "With all my heart, I know that I know, that I know that I do."

How do you grow from going to where, "I'm not sure I can trust God," to, "I know I can trust him."

The answer is simple. Yet not easy. Three things, I'm sure there's more but let me focus on three. You question, you pray, and you surrender.

The first thing is, you question. And what I mean by this is you let God know you have some questions.

I'm not talking about questioning God on His ideas, or your thoughts about how you believe He is handling the circumstance's you find yourself in.

After all He is God and knows what's best for His kids. Amen.

But I think God is ok with our questions. I know I've had a few, ask a few. God can handle our question. James even tells us if anyone lacks wisdom to ask God.

And we just read where David, a man whom the Scripture calls a man after God's own heart asked some questions as well. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus asked how can all these things be when given the news she would give birth to Jesus.

Placing our trust in God allows us to ask questions.

Here's some more from David. . .

Psalm 10:1 (NIV): Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Job he too had some questions. . .

Job 3:11 (NIV): 11 "Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?

The apostle Paul yep him too.

So many times in Scriptures we see people who simply had some questions and were looking for some answers.

But let me just say this before we move on. Even with the questions we have, we need to just trust God. And that's what I'm sharing with you today.

We are in the series, Ever wonder why? . .

And today if I could place a title on this message it would be Ever wonder why you struggle to trust God?

And honestly, like last week, I may not be able to give you a definitive answer but I hope to help you trust Him more in the middle of the battle.

And if you find yourself in one right now. Trust Him. If you think you are about to be in one. Trust Him. If you believe your on your way out of one. Thank Him but then still trust Him. Because I'm pretty confident that this too shall pass.

So, let's begin with a question, can you take your questions to God? And the answer is without a shadow of a doubt, yes.

He can handle your questions.

Someone said, that, "We're closer to God when we're asking questions than when we think we hold all the answers."

So, what do you do if you're wondering why? Ask God.

If you don't know what to do, ask God for wisdom. If you're hurting, cast your cares upon him. Because he cares for you.

I promise you, God would rather that you run to him with your questions than run from him with your doubts.

Let me say that again, that was good. . . God would rather that you run to him with your questions than run from him with your doubts.

He can handle your questions.

And after you pose your questions to God, the second thing you need to do is pray.

Let me go back to a story I shared last week in Mark chapter 9 about the dad whose son had an evil spirit.

The dad wonders if Jesus can do something, look again at the Scripture. . .

Mark 9:21–22 (NIV): Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. 22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

And in that moment I can picture Jesus saying, "Really, bro? "If you can?" And then Jesus says, "Everything is possible for one who believes."

So dad asks Jesus a question in the form of a statement, "if you can. . ." Now here's the prayer. . .

Mark 9:24 (NIV): Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

The dad is struggling. He had gone to the disciples and they couldn't help. . .

So, he asks a question, then he prays, Help me. I want to believe. I sort of do, I'm struggling to, but help me trust you more. Help me overcome my unbelief.

The dad questioned, then he prayed, and what does Jesus do? How did Jesus respond? He looks at him and says, "Dude, come back to me when you trust me more." No. He doesn't say that.

He says to him, "I need you to come back to me when you have at least a mustard seed of faith."

No, not the either. . .

Jesus acknowledges the dad's struggle. And He heard the dad's prayer. And then he cast out the demon and I have to believe that it increased the dad's faith.

What do you do when you find it difficult to trust God? When you face a problem that you don't understand? You ask your questions, you pray, and lastly you surrender.

You surrender to Him.

And maybe your thinking surrender sounds like giving up. But that's not what surrender actually means.

It means that you choose to trust God, even when you don't understand.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV): Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

It's that part in the middle we struggle with. The part that says. . .lean not on your own understanding. Because so often we think we have the better idea, the better solution, the better answer to our prayer.

What's the problem with your understanding? The problem with your understanding is that your understanding, my understanding is limited.

Listen to how the Passion Translation says it. . .

Proverbs 3:5–6 (TPT): Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.
6 Become intimate with him in whatever you do, and he will lead you wherever you go. Don't think for a moment that you know it all,

That last part. . .Don't think for a moment that you know it all. That's just not our nature. There are a lot of people that think they know more than they know.

But the truth is you only have a limited amount of understanding.

Let me illustrate it this way. Have you ever done something that you were sure in the moment was a good idea, but it turned out to be a really stupid looking back? You know that 20-20 is hindsight thing?

There are things I did when I was younger that sounded like a great idea at the time. . .until I actually did it. Let me give you one. Have you ever played cowboys and Indian's with real BB guns. Well it sounded fun at the time. (Talk about how the gun worked).

Really dumb wouldn't you agree. And I wish I could tell you that's the only dumb thing I ever did.

One more. (Talk about the canons we made from pop cans).

And then you have people that invent some of the dumbest things. Shark Tank had someone that tried to get an investment for a tongue brush for cats. (Talk about it). By the way you can buy it on Amazon.

There's another thing you can buy called The Potty Putter. I think the name says it all. But do I need to explain?

And the Darwin award goes to. . .

And that's the problem with our understanding. It's limited.

So, the scripture tells us don't lean on what's limited. Instead you choose to trust in God even though you don't understand the details.

The Hebrew word for trust here in Proverbs is betach. Not spelled the way your thinking.

Here's what this word actually means. It means, to stretch out, to lie face down before God.

Betach represents a servant waiting for the master's will or command.

When you trust, you surrender to the will of the master.

You're waiting. Waiting on what? Your waiting on God to show you the next step, give you the instructions He has for you, waiting for Him to speak to you so that you can take your next step with confidence on the path that he's making straight before you.

You're simply waiting on the Master's command. You're completely surrendered to him.

So how does that look practically? What does it mean to trust God with all our hearts?

First, let me share with you what it's not.

Trusting God doesn't mean that you always get what you want.

"God, give me this. God, bless me in this way. God, do this for me." I mentioned last week He's not your genie in a lamp you rub to get your three wishes.

What you need to understand is God knows what you need more than he cares to give you what you want.

Secondly, it doesn't mean that nothing bad ever happens to you.

Scripture makes it very clear that the rain falls on the just and the unjust. Jesus even said. . .

John 16:33 (NIV): 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Trusting God means that no matter what happens, in the midst of the trouble, in spite of the circumstances, you believe that God loves you, and that He's working all things for your good.

Romans 8:28 (NIV): And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

It's His character. It's His nature. It's His goodness. He is love. So, how do you grow to trust in God? Ask your questions, pray, and surrender.

That is what David did. He questioned, "God, where are you?" He prayed, "One thing I ask is that I would dwell in the house of the Lord forever." And then he surrendered. He chose to trust God, even though he didn't understand. "Some trust in horses and chariots, but we will trust the Lord."

That is what the dad in Mark did. He questioned, "Jesus, can you do anything?" And then he prayed, "Help me in my unbelief. I want to believe." And then he surrendered. He trusted, and God healed his son, and built his faith.

That is what Jesus did. When he was on that cross, he questioned. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing." Then he surrendered and said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." He surrendered his life so that we can have life.

But then three days later, the stone was rolled away, he was not there. He defeated death, hell, and the grave, wiping all our sins away so that we might become the righteousness of God.

So ask your questions, pray, and then surrender. Choose to trust God no matter what.

Even when you don't understand. Even though you don't understand the plan, trust that God has a purpose.

You choose to trust no matter what. You trust in God with all your heart, and you don't lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways, you acknowledge him and he directs your path. He makes your path straight.

And hear me church, I realize that for many of you, you just can't see the path.

But you need to understand that trust isn't something you decide in your heart and it just stays there. Trust is active.

You have to actively trust God. . .It's betach.

It's waiting on the master to give you instructions, so you can take that next step. Waiting on his commands, going where He leads.

Let me show this to you in a very practical way. Let's go back to the question that we started with. How do you grow in trusting God?

Truth is hard.

Can I get real for a moment? You may be hurting, struggling, or questioning God right now. Maybe you're wondering, how do you trust God when you're trying to save your marriage, but you feel like you're the only one fighting.

How do you trust God when you've got way more bills than you have income? You've prayed, persistently prayed, and it seems like nothing is different. Nothing has changed.

Maybe you're just fearful of the world that your kids are growing up in.

And while it's sometimes hard to trust God when you can't see him, I want you to hear this church, if you hear nothing else hear this. . .it's easier to trust God when you know him.

And one of the best way to know him is through his word.

The psalmist writes in scripture, "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path."

When you feel the darkness surround you, you lean on the truth of God's Word to show you your next step of faith.

When you feel like anxiety is making it feel like you can't breathe, Job tells us. . .

Job 33:4 (NIV): The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

When you feel like you're drowning in waves of depression, you go to the Word which reminds us. . .

Isaiah 43:2–3 (NIV): When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;. . .

When you feel all your strength is gone and you're ready to throw in the towel you go to the Word and listen to what Isaiah had to say about that as well when he said. . .

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV): but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

When you feel like the sadness and the sorrow seems to never end, you once again go to the Scripture and they remind you that. . .Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Listen, I don't know what the future holds, but I do know who holds the future.

And I believe there is someone who needs to hear this right now, no matter how dark your paths look, you can step boldly into the future that God has for you.

How do you surrender? How do you choose to trust God?

One step at a time. One truth at a time. One word from God at a time.

Why should you trust in God when you can't see Him, sense Him, feel Him or understand what's happening around you?

Because He's the only one that's faithful. He's the only one that's constant. He's the only one that's steady. And he's working all things for your good. And He will do again what He has done before because He is the same. . .yesterday, today, and forever.

Some may trust in chariots, some may trust in horses, but we, we will, we must, trust in the Lord our God.