

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 26 Jun 2022

Sermon Title : Trusting In The Father

Speaker : Rev Peter Koh

Text : Proverbs 3:5-6

INTRODUCTION

Trust is a word we use often. Trust which is broken affects relationships. We need trust to have healthy relationships. For example, if one spouse in a marital relationship is unfaithful, this puts a strain on the relationship. Even when the unfaithful spouse repents, asks for forgiveness and turns from his/her ways, it is difficult for the other spouse to trust him or her again.

In our relationship with God, God has always been faithful. It is we who are unfaithful and do not trust God. When we go through trials or difficulties, we call out to God but when God gives us a solution, we often question and ask for a second or third opinion. Trusting God is so important yet we often do not persevere in maintaining our trust relationship with God. God is calling us to put our trust in Him.

In Proverbs 3:5-6, God promises that when we trust Him, He will show us the way. He would lead us in the direction to fulfil our destiny; the purpose which He has designed in and for us. There are 3 conditions needed for us to trust God.

Condition #1: The Heart – Trust in the Lord with all your heart

- God requires 100% of our heart – not half, quarter or even 99%.
- Why is the heart so important?
 - “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)
 - “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (Proverbs 4:23)
 - The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? “I the Lord search the heart, I tested the mind. Even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

The Bible tells us the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Jeremiah 17:9 declares our heart is an obstacle to be overcome and also an enemy to be defeated. We can blindly follow the heart with distorted views and it can trick us into many bad issues in life, usually missing the main issue of God's perfect plan for us.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

God knows we have a heart issue. We have been searching for fulfilment in all the wrong places – in finances, status, popularity. God knows our priorities and what we are struggling with. When we promise our children something but we do not keep our promise, this shows we do not treasure our relationship with them. Similarly, when we choose to skip church in favour of other appointments on Sunday, it reflects our choice to give God our spare time instead of putting Him first. God wants our heart.

Condition #2: The Head – Lean not on your own understanding

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10) The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding (Proverbs 4:7)
- We struggle because our belief system has been distorted. We need to unlearn the world’s values and re-learn God’s values. That is why we attend church services and do Bible study in our small groups. We have a lot of wrong belief systems. We always think our way is better. We do not understand God’s way.
- Belief systems are formed by knowledge and experience. If our knowledge or our experience has been distorted, we would have the wrong belief system. Conversely, if we have the right knowledge and experience, we would have the right belief system. Our belief system can be influenced by our past experiences e.g. of being bullied in school or reading fake news. Our wrong belief system may cause a lot of misunderstandings and problems. Hence we must guard against wrong belief systems. The devil knows this and would try to distort our knowledge or experience.

The way to fight against a wrong belief system is to turn to God’s Word. “...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32) God reveals the truth to us in His Word. Truth hurts but truth also sets us free. We need to check if our knowledge or experience contradicts the Word of God.

- We need to guard our minds (our head) – otherwise our understanding can be “artificial intelligence” – trying to figure out when we have no knowledge, could be wrong, do not have the full picture or are afraid of losing control.

Allow God to renew our minds so that we can live lives pleasing to Him. Wrong belief systems break relationships, break trust while right belief systems maintain a growing relationship.

Understanding is not just about comprehension but in this context follows intelligence, knowledge, experience, wisdom and the promptings from the Holy Spirit. To trust in our Father, we need to check our hearts and our minds.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Condition #3: The Hands (our conduct) – in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.

- Some Bible versions use the word “acknowledge” instead of “submit”. Submission is hard. A common view of submit in this world is ‘kowtowing’ to someone higher and it means you are a failure. This is a wrong mind-set that goes back to a wrong belief system.
- Submission here is talking about a surrendered life – not as a prisoner of war or a person who has no choice. A prisoner of war gives up because he is cornered. God wants us not to give up but to give in. God wants us to trust Him because He knows the way, what is best for us. He will straighten our paths and direct us to our destiny, the purpose for which He has made us.
- “We are God’s handiwork (masterpiece), created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10) God is the master craftsman. Without the Master, we are just a ‘piece’, no longer a ‘masterpiece’.

We use different utensils in the kitchen. If a kettle is used as a frying pan, how can we cook? Similarly, when we try to be someone else, we will never be fulfilled. On the other hand, when we know our destiny or purpose, when we submit to God according to His design, we reach our full potential and find fulfilment in life.

- God’s ways are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:8) We may not understand why God has put us in a situation but remember that He wants the very best for us just like we want the very best for our children. God wants the very best for you in the situation He has placed you in.

Live in total trust in God by following His way in every situation and it will lead to peace and prosperity, safety and security. When God is in charge, He brings good out of every unpleasant situation and makes you victorious

The best ways to accomplish trusting in the Father:

1. Know God intimately - Our church’s focus this year so let’s make this our focus.
2. Live a surrendered life to Christ - Make Him the Master of our lives. When we put our trust in Him, He leads us in a straight path, from strength to strength, glory to glory.

CONCLUSION

Let us trust our Heavenly Father wholeheartedly so that we can align our hearts, our heads and our hands with God’s will, for Him to lead us to be the ‘masterpieces’ He has created us to be.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Take some time to memorize Proverbs 3:5-6. Appoint someone to recite it slowly.

We are called to trust in the Father wholeheartedly, to submit to Him and let Him direct our paths.

- a. How have you chosen the path that you are currently in? What role has God played in your decision?
- b. What would it mean for you to trust the Father wholeheartedly? How would it translate into the way you live your life, spend your resources and use your time?

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

- 3a. What is the priority of your heart? Why?
- 3b. Why is it difficult for you to understand God and so fully trust Him?
- (i) Is it caused by wrong knowledge or bad experience?
 - (ii) How can you address this wrong belief system?
- 3c. Understanding God also involves wisdom which begins with the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10) and the promptings from the Holy Spirit. How can you grow in these areas?
- 4a. (i) Do you see God as your Master?
- (ii) How does seeing God as your master and yourself as His masterpiece created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do (Ephesians 2:10), help you submit to Him by giving in (not giving up) to Him even when the journey is difficult?
- 4b. How can your group members help or encourage you to grow in your trust in God and submit by giving in to Him in the following week(s) until your next meeting?

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

C. Testimonies and Prayer

Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.

5. Share your personal testimony on how the Holy Spirit enabled you to trust the Father fully by not leaning on your own understanding, but instead submit to Him, and He made your difficult path straight in a challenging situation.

OR

Give thanks to God that when you align your heart, head and hands with God's will, He will lead you to be the 'masterpiece' He has created you to be.

6. With a prayer partner, bring all that has been shared to God, asking Him to help you know Him more intimately and live a life surrendered to Him.

Pray for your group and our church to learn to trust God wholeheartedly and for God to enable us all to grow to be His masterpieces for His glory.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Everlasting God – Lincoln Brewster [\(1374\) Everlasting God by Lincoln Brewster - YouTube](#)
2. Trust and Obey – Traditional Hymn [\(1374\) Trust and Obey \(Hymns with Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)
3. I Give You My Heart – Hillsong [\(1374\) I Give You My Heart - Hillsong \(Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7