

In God We Trust

Introduction: Psalm 118:5-7 'The Lord is for me among those who help me.' This psalm presents a fact about God. I'm sure we know that God is with us and God is for us. Do you ever have times where you don't feel that way? It is easy to trust that God is there when life is easy, when surrounded by our brethren, when in the comfort and safety of family and friends, or life is just going really well. Sometimes, even when we haven't drawn closer to God, the good times can mask that and we fail to feel or realize that we've wandered from God. But when life begins to fall apart, when God feels so far away, how can you trust Him? How can you fix your eyes upon Jesus when they're filled with tears? How can you worship Him when you're in the valley? I want to spend a few moments this evening considering how we can continue to trust God even when life seems so hard.

I. You're Not Alone:

- A. The biggest difficulty is we tend to beat ourselves up when life gets hard. We begin to wonder, we begin to question, and then we struggle because 'Christians aren't supposed to think that way.'
- B. God's people have often wrestled with this. You are not unique for feeling this way:
 - 1. Job struggled with the feeling of abandonment: Job 29:2-6
 - 2. Elijah grew discouraged, perhaps even depressed at times: 1 Kings 19:4
 - 3. David certainly felt times where He was not close to God: Psalm 10:1, 13:1-2
- C. It is not unusual for us to feel like God is distant. The question becomes, what do we do at that time?

II. Separating Fact and Feeling:

- A. We first need to realize that our feelings can be wrong:
 - 1. Our feelings aren't always an accurate depiction of the reality of any circumstance. Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 28:26
 - 2. Elijah felt like he was alone, but God had 7000 who had not bowed to Baal: 1 Kings 19:18
 - 3. When we begin to feel that God is distant, we need to rely on the facts. We walk by the facts when the feelings aren't there.
- B. Trusting in the facts, not my feelings:
 - 1. While Job struggled to understand his circumstances, he relied on the facts: Job 23:8-10, 19:25-26
 - 2. David felt forsaken by God but trusted in the facts: Psalm 22:1, 24, 37:25
- C. The facts that we can lean on:
 - 1. God cares for you: Psalm 34:15-18, 1 Peter 5:7
 - 2. God will not forsake you: Hebrews 13:5-6
 - 3. God is still there, even when He feels so far away.
- D. Trust is a Choice:
 - 1. In any relationship, we get to a point where we trust them. We can choose to trust others and we can choose to stop trusting others.
 - 2. It is the same with God. We must choose to trust Him: Hebrews 2:13

III. Fixing Your Eyes Upon God When He Seems So Far Away:

- A. Tell God how you feel:
 - 1. Job spoke exactly how he felt: Job 7:11
 - 2. It seems we feel we have to 'sanitize' what we say before God. Almost as if God can't handle our raw emotions. But God already knows how you feel.
 - 3. God is a friend with whom we can bare our soul: 1 Peter 5:7
- B. Focus on His unchanging nature:
 - 1. Job trusted in what He knew about God: Job 19:25
 - 2. When our life is filled with darkness, trust in what you know:
 - a. God is good.
 - b. God loves you.
 - c. God knows what you're going through.
 - d. God cares.
 - 3. Years ago, there was a short poem found carved into a cellar wall in Germany. It was a cellar where many Jews had hidden during the holocaust. The poem reads,
'I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.
I believe in God even when He is silent.'
- C. Trust God to keep His promises:
 - 1. When we are in the valley, sometimes all we have are the promises of God.
 - 2. God has given us promises to keep us going in the difficult times: 2 Peter 1:4, Hebrews 6:17-19
 - 3. When life gets dark, stand on the promises of God.
- D. Remember what God has done for you already
 - 1. Regardless of what our circumstances may be, God has done so much for us: Psalm 13:5-6
 - 2. We need to focus on all that God has already done for us: Ephesians 1, Philippians 4:6-7
 - 3. When we focus on the cross, it begins to put our sufferings in perspective.

Conclusion: Life is hard and some days it gets even harder. God doesn't always feel close by. Let us learn to trust in God even when we don't feel like it. Let us learn, in all points of life, to say 'I know that my redeemer lives and ever cares for me.'