

TRUST AND OBEY

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Introduction

- Welcome to the Early Church Night teaching on “Trust & Obey!” Tonight we are going to challenge ourselves in answering one question: Do I really, really trust God? Trust is the fundamental element in ANY relationship. I daresay, we all have trust issues on some level with the Lord. Let’s see where we stand!

Objectives

- Tonight we are going to learn about trust and obedience. Specifically trusting and obeying the Lord.
 - What does trust mean?
 - What causes distrust?
 - Trust & the Father
 - Examine Yourself: Do I Trust Him?
 - Getting Healed of the Past
 - A Whole New World
 - Establishing A Trusting Relationship with God
 - Obedience: Can God Trust You?

What Does “Trust” Mean?

What does it mean to trust someone?

- Trust is the ability to totally be yourself with someone.
- Trust is when it never occurs to you that someone will betray you.
- Trust is being fully confident that someone has your best interests at heart.
- Trust is being able to totally depend on someone.
- Trust is ability to be honest with someone and know they won’t hold it against you.
- Trust is the knowledge that even when you are dead wrong, someone is always on your side.

What Causes Distrust?

What causes distrust? It's a laundry list:

- Pain
- Betrayal
- Abandonment
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Dismissive Attitudes
- Rejection

Pain Causes Distrust

- Pain is one of the most basic motivators known to man. Pain is how we train our children. When it hurts, they won't do it. Pain is a favorite tool of the enemy to destroy our relationship with God the Father. Hateful and hurtful words, physical abuse, sexual abuse and humiliation leave scars that only God can heal.

Betrayal Causes Distrust

- Betrayal is a devastating thing in a person's life simply because they don't see it coming. The betrayal of a parent or a spouse can cause a person to put up walls that block out God the Father and hinder His plan for their life.

Abandonment Causes Distrust

- Abandonment by a parent or spouse causes feelings of insecurity, anxiety and fear to come in. Like betrayal, a person many times doesn't see it coming and are devastated as a result. Abandonment can cause a person's mind-set to become cynical and warped. The unloving spirit can come in and wreak havoc in their life; blocking them from the love of the Father.

Abuse Can Cause Distrust?

Abuse can come from several quarters:

- Emotional
- Physical
- Sexual
- Mental
- Verbal

The root of each of these abuse elements is CONTROL. The abuser is ruled by a controlling power. What is so devastating about abuse is that the victim gets controlled and stays in the situation for so long it damages them. Sometimes it takes God years to repair the damage and bring them to a place of victory. Each of these elements has its own horrors that torment the victim's mind continually.

Neglect Can Cause Distrust

- Neglect is ignoring another person's being. Ignoring their feelings, ignoring their needs and ignoring even their presence. Neglect is a form of abuse because it makes the person feel so unwanted and unwelcome. That they aren't good enough to even acknowledge they exist. Neglect says "you are so unimportant to me that I don't care if you are hungry or thirsty." Neglect causes the person to believe that God doesn't care either. That they just don't matter.

Dismissive Attitudes Can Cause Distrust

- A dismissive attitude talks down to a person. Similar to neglect, it completely discounts the value of a person. This attitude is found in prideful and controlling people. Narcissistic people also are dismissive of other people's feelings. They can't empathize with anyone. It truly is all about them. A person can feel like God the Father doesn't value them either.

Rejection Can Cause Distrust

- Rejection is a major tool of the enemy to cause people to distrust God the Father. Everyone, at one time or another has experienced rejection. But some people, have faced it their entire lives from people they trusted and loved. Rejection can come from any quarter. Parents, spouse, children, siblings, co-workers, friends. Rejection from a young age causes a person to have a warped view of God the Father; especially if the rejection comes from his or her earthly father.

Trust & The Father

- Religion has taught people that God the Father is an angry God who is just looking for a chance to slap you down. Today's culture of violence and neglect against children by their earthly fathers keeps them from seeing God as a Father at all. This hurts the heart of the Father because He so much wants to be our Father. He longs for that fellowship He created us to have with Him!

Characteristics of a Loving Father

Let's look at the characteristics of a really good father.

- A good father provides for his children. He makes sure they have food, clothes, and a roof over their head.
- A good father makes sure his children get medical care when they need it. He sees to their healing.
- A good father listens to his children's stories and problems. He listens to their dreams.
- A good father loves his children enough to set boundaries and consequences when they disobey. He's not afraid to discipline them.
- A good father goes out of his way to give his children the things they really, really want just so he can watch the joy on their face when they get it.
- A good father confronts his children when they are wrong. A good father will go after his children when they are in trouble, no matter what he may face when he gets there.
- A good father stores up an inheritance for his children so they will be more secure in life after he is gone.
- A good father is involved day by day in his children's lives...their whole lives as long as he lives.

Our Heavenly Father--Abba

- Our heavenly Father or Abba (daddy) is way more than a "good" father. He is a GREAT Father!
- He is Jehovah Jireh: Our Provider. He has made provisions for us from the foundation of the world. In everything, He has already provided.
- He is Jehovah Rapha: Our Healer. By the stripes of Jesus Christ, He purchased our healing from every disease, every wound, and every scrape known to man.
- He is our Wonderful Counselor. He is just waiting to listen, I mean really listen to our stories, our problems, and our dreams and wipe away our tears when necessary.
- He is the Judge of the Universe. He disciplines us when we need it, but like a good father, He tempers it with mercy and grace. When we simply turn and repent. He casts it all behind His back..and then He blesses us.

- He gives us the desires of our heart. It is His good pleasure to give us the kingdom. He loves to give us dreams we didn't even ask Him for. Why? So He can see the joy in our face! So He can enjoy our gratitude and thankfulness!
- He is not afraid to tell us when we are wrong. The conviction of His Spirit comes when our attitude or our words are wrong. When our decisions are crossways with His will for our lives. He will come after us when we fall into trouble. He will do everything He possibly can to save us and bring us back to Him.
- Our Father has prepared a place for us with Him in heaven. He has reserved for us many, many rewards, gifts and crowns.
- He has deposited bountifully into our heavenly bank account with each prayer we pray, each kind word we speak and each kind deed we do for others. We have a goodly inheritance!
- He is ALWAYS there in our everyday lives. Whether we realize it or not, He is there. Watching over us, helping us in unseen ways. Eternity will show us how much He has been there for us!

Examine Yourself: Do I Trust Him?

Ask yourself this:

- When you think of God the Father, what do you imagine Him to be like?
- Are you more comfortable relating to Jesus than to the Father?
- Do you think when you pray to the Father in Jesus' Name, that He is listening to you?
- Do you think that God the Father is mad at you or is waiting to punish you? Do you believe He loves you specifically?

Getting Healed of the Past

- So many people come into the kingdom of God severely damaged by their earthly fathers. Abandonment, betrayal, molestation, beatings, verbal abuse are all used by the enemy to paint a twisted picture of God the Father and keep people from seeing Him the way He really is...a loving Father. A good Father!
- It is for this reason that inner healing of past wounds from our earthly fathers is so important. You can't relate to God the Father with a warped view of how a father is supposed to act.

- We went into great detail about inner healing in the School of Personal Ministry. I encourage everyone who can't picture Father God as a good and loving father, to go back to the book, or come to us, we'll help you get the inner healing you need to be able to develop the greatest relationship you will ever know...that of a child of our Heavenly Father...Abba.

A Whole New World!

- Once you get healed from the past, a whole new world will open to you as you can see God the Father as that wonderful loving Father you always dreamed of. He wants to be that for you so much more than you can ever imagine! It really is a whole new world! Step through the door and begin to build that relationship...that same relationship that Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden, only more so with the New Covenant in Jesus' Blood!

Establishing a Trusting Relationship with Abba

How do we start building a relationship with Abba Father?

- Relationships are built on two things:
 - Time
 - Knowledge
- Time spent in the Presence of the Father, telling Him your life story, telling Him your dreams, telling Him about your enemies and that one that you are in love with, telling Him of all the problems and mountains you are facing. Time just sitting before Him and listening for His thoughts to come to you.
- Knowledge comes through time spent with Him. Your family knows you, your close friends know you because they are in your life regularly. Conversations take place, good memories take place. They have knowledge of your character, your ways, your faults and good traits.
- The same thing with Abba Father. You will begin to see His character as you spend more and more time in His Presence. Knowledge comes through His Word. Learning from the Word of His character. You will begin to dwell with God according to knowledge as time goes on.

Obedience: Can God Trust You?

- Any Father and child relationship requires obedience to the father. It's the same with Abba Father. He expects us to obey Him: the first time. Trust is a two way street. Can He trust you to be faithful with the money He gives you, with your time and your talents? Can He trust you to follow His commandments to love Him and others?

The Sacrifice of Obedience

- It costs us something to obey God's commandments. We have to put aside our fleshly desires to follow Him. The closer you draw to Him the narrower your path gets. Obedience really does become a sacrifice; an offering of love to Him. How does He feel about it? It is a sweet smelling aroma to Him when we sacrificially obey Him.

Conclusion

- Trust and obey. These two words define your relationship with God. If there is no trust, disobedience will be present because the lack of trust allows the enemy to put rebellious thoughts into your head.
- It all comes back to RELATIONSHIP. Trust has to be earned and established. It doesn't come automatically. Establish that relationship with Him and the scales will fall off your eyes and you will see Him as He really is...a wonderful, loving and good Father—Abba.

The Old Hymn: Trust & Obey

**When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.**

**Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.**

