

# Trusting God in Times of Adversity



**Proverbs 3:5-7**

- We started a Series “Anchored Through Adversity.”
  - Purpose – to teach us how to overcome the tests and trials while remaining anchored in Jesus Christ and His promises.
  - Goal – to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ so that we don’t lose hope in times of adversity.
- The Lessons Learned:
1. One of the greatest misconceptions about being a Christian is that we are exempt from any type of adversity.
    - What does the word “adversity” mean?
    - A state of hardship, difficulty, affliction, misfortune, or tragedy that one deal with in life.
    - It is true that one of the best tests of a believer’s maturity is trials and tribulations. (James 1:2-4)
    - Tests and trials not only reveal if we truly believe and have faith in God.
    - Tests and trials also help strengthen our faith and develop Christian character in us.
  2. The Joy in Times of Adversity (James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:1-3)
    - James use the word “count” or another way to put is to consider is a great joy when you experience various trials...
    - Notice James use of words “all joy” not “all happiness”. (vs. 2)
    - The Greek word for “joy” means joyful, cheerful, gladness, or to rejoice.
    - The joy of the Lord is everlasting (without end), when happiness is temporary. Happiness in the world is determined by what is happening.
    - The joy of knowing Jesus Christ, the Rock of our salvation! Only Jesus Christ can fill our lives with joy and certainty regardless of whatever is going right or wrong in our lives. (Psalm 18:2)

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## Proverbs 3:5-7

- Trust is the single most important factor in any relationship. If you don't have trust you don't have much of a relationship.
  - Trusting in God is more than the words we say, it's about believing who God is and what God says in His Word.
  - It's important that we understand what it means to truly trust in the Lord God Almighty.
- What does it mean to "trust" God?
    1. The Hebrew meaning for the word "trust" means to lie down on or to put your entire weight on something.
    2. The word "trust" means to believe in the reliability, truth, ability and strength of someone or something.
      - It means to be confident in; to depend on, to hope in, be secure, to rely on or the truth of.
      - It means to believe confidently in the ability, character, integrity and trustworthiness of a person.
    3. Trusting God and His Word means believing in His Name, His reliability, His Word, His ability to keep His promises and His presence and power working on my behalf.
      - The Word of God is clear, that God cannot lie. God is perfect in all His ways. He will always keep His promises. (Numbers 23:19)
- A. There are Five Things that Solomon teaches us about Trusting in God. (Proverbs 3:5)
    - (Proverbs 3:5-6) (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
      1. Trusting God is anchored by our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.
      2. Trusting God is a settled confidence that a person holds deep within his heart in God's ability to love him, care for him, and direct him.

3. Trusting God is our willingness to obey the will of God at all costs. It's walking in obedience to God when it's difficult to do so.
4. Trusting God is more than personal feelings or emotions. It's a choice to put our faith in who God is and what He says about our life and circumstances.
5. Trusting God goes beyond the logical, perceived ideas, or the intellectual thinking of a person. It's not based upon what it looks like or whether it makes sense or not.

**B. You and I must learn to calculate the names of God into our very lives.**

- (vs. 6) "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path."
  - (Oswald Chambers quote): "All our fret and worry are caused by calculating without God, and "The one thing that keeps us from the possibility of worrying is bringing God in as the greatest factor in all calculations."
1. Every believer must get in the habit of putting God first and calculating with Him and not without Him.
  2. God is the greatest factor in our lives and He should be considered in all our calculations.
  3. Miscalculation occurs in life when a believer attempts to face the fiery trials of life without God's view and perspective.
  4. With God in our calculations, we shall make it through every test, trial, and tribulations in this life. (Hebrew 4:15-16, Romans 8:37)

**C. Trusting God Requires Eight Things from Believers in Times of Adversity. (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

1. It requires believers to trust God with all their heart. The believer must surrender everything to God.
  2. It requires believers to trust and turn to God who knows all things, controls all things and who is working all things according to His good and perfect will.
- Charles Spurgeon Quote: "When you can't trust His hand, trust His heart."

3. It requires believers to trust and know that their life and future can be trusted in the hands of God. (Jeremiah 29:11, 1 John 5:11,20, John 3:16, 5:24, 6:47)
4. It requires believers to trust and lean on God and not themselves. (Psalm 121:1-8)
5. It requires believers to focus on what you know. (Romans 8:28, Isaiah 54:16-17)
6. It requires believers to focus on who is in control of everything and that is the Lord God Almighty. (Psalm 115:3, Revelation 1:8, Proverbs 16:9, 19:21, Isaiah 41:10)
7. It requires believers to pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16, Philippians 4:6-7, Jeremiah 33:3, Luke 11:9, Ephesians 6:18)
8. It requires believers to know that they can trust the very nature and character of God, regardless of the situation or the circumstances surrounding them.
9. It requires believers to be willing to trust and commit to God for direction in every area of their life. (Psalm 37:5-7)
10. It requires believers to take a moment to reflect on the goodness of God. When you do so, it will bring confidence and assurances of God's reliability. (Psalm 34:8)
  - All you have to do is breathe in and breathe out to know that God has been faithful and true to His Word.
  - All you have to do is look up and look around you and you will see all God's beauty and splendor on display before your eyes.
  - The Bible is the most dependable book that has ever been written. Every time we read and study the Word of God, we gain a much greater understanding and appreciation of our Heavenly Father and His glorious Son Jesus Christ.