

GRACE MINI-BOOK

How Do I

TRUST

God?

CREFLO DOLLAR

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How Do I Trust God

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Published by:

Creflo Dollar Ministries

PO Box 490124

College Park, Georgia 30349

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LESSON 1

THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF TRUST

Trusting God is something that all Believers must develop in as they go through life. It is not always easy at first, but when we are able to strike a balance between faith and grace, we learn that trust is the currency of the kingdom of God. This trust teaches us that God is faithful, and He will do exactly what He says He will do. When we examine the word “trust,” it must go beyond the simple cliché that most people utter when they say they trust God. For many, it is just a word, but it actually boils down to what we practice beyond the cliché. As Believers, we must take the steps to ensure that we are leaning on God completely, in every area of our lives.

Trusting God has so many benefits that come with it—the first being that it leads to peace. Have you ever experienced the stress and anxiety that comes from not trusting God? When you are in fear, your trust in God is minimal, and it opens the door to a host of negative emotions that actually push you further away from God and the things you would like to see happen in your life. On the other hand, trusting God opens the door to blessings and a sense of peace and well-being because you know that God loves you, and He will always take care of you in the best way possible.

Trusting God also leads to a variety of blessings manifesting in your life. When you trust God, you are expressing your faith in Him, which eliminates doubt and worry as you remain in a posture of trust. A great way to look at trusting God by thinking about a chair. When you sit in a chair, you do not think twice about whether that chair is going to hold you. You simply have a seat! Somehow we have it in our minds that a chair will hold us, no matter what. We don't doubt it, and we don't second-guess its ability to support our weight. Why don't we approach God in this way? The Creator of the universe, the One who knew us before we were even in our mothers' wombs, is well able to take care of us. We have to learn to trust Him, having absolute assurance in His ability to take care of everything concerning us. We must have the same conviction about Him that we have about a chair's ability to hold us when we sit on it.

Proverbs 3:5 says to trust God with your whole heart and lean not to your own understanding. In every situation, there will be things we do not understand in the natural realm, and this is when we must trust God all the more. Thankfully, the Word of God provides us with the blueprint for assurance that we can rely on. While leaning on our own understanding will produce double-mindedness, leaning on the truth of God's Word will produce single-mindedness on the promises of God.

God keeps us in perfect peace when our minds are fixed on Him (Isaiah 26:3). The blessing of perfect peace is another benefit of trusting God. Keeping our minds on the Word of God when the enemy attacks is especially important. This is easier to do when we find something of faith that we can verbally confess when the enemy hits our minds with fiery darts of doubt, unbelief, and fear.

David wrote about his trust in God and about his life and times being in God's hand. He verbally confessed that God was his God (Psalm 31:14, 15). We must be mindful not to make religious confessions out of tradition and repetition. And we shouldn't make declarations that don't line up with the Word of God. When we trust God and commit our way to Him, He will bring to pass the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:5). If we put this into practice, it will be evident in our lives.

EVERYTHING BY FAITH

When we decide to trust God, we have to walk by faith. It is the only way that a Believer is supposed to live! The Word of God promises that blessing comes to those who trust God (Psalm 40:4). We are empowered to prosper when we resist the temptation to be moved by the things of the world and choose to trust God instead. The Bible tells us that we are to labor to enter into God's rest; otherwise, we can fall into unbelief (Hebrews 4:11). The work of the Believer

does not involve trying to achieve blessings through our own actions; the labor involves fighting against the temptation not to trust God. The rest that the Scriptures talk about is trust, and confident reliance on God. Our trust and rest will apprehend our healing, deliverance, and prosperity. It is a guarantee.

When we are facing temptations, tests, and trials, it is especially difficult to remain focused on trusting God, but it is particularly during these times that our faith in Him is put to the test and proven. We have to make a quality decision to trust God and not allow what we see and feel to cause us to waver. You may be facing a financial situation that looks impossible, or an issue in your body that requires healing. No matter what the situation is, trusting God is your answer.

There are seven steps we can take to ensure that we are truly leaning on God. First, we do not depend on ourselves. The human tendency is to rely on our own ability or strength to endure circumstances, but God doesn't want us to do this. He wants us to rely on Him by trusting in His Word and then releasing our faith for the manifestation. His Word never returns void, so we can be certain that, if He said it, He will do it.

Second, leaning on God means crying out to Him in our time of need. Proverbs 3:6 says to acknowledge God in all your ways, and He will direct your paths. Crying out to God

is basically acknowledging Him and putting Him first in your life so that you can receive instructions from Him. Your faith becomes effectual when you acknowledge Him and also acknowledge every good thing that is in you because of what Jesus has done for you. When you pray and cry out to God, He hears you.

Third, run from evil. Trusting God means trusting in His system and His way of doing things, not the world's way of doing things. We are instructed in the Word not to be wise in our own eyes and to depart from evil (Proverbs 3:7). Follow righteousness faith, love, and peace with those who call on the name of the Lord with a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:22). When you turn away from the world's way of doing things, its patterns and ways of thinking, you are exalting God and making room for Him to overtake your life, which always leads to a good outcome.

Fourth, put God first in your life. God must be the center of your world and the focus of all that you do. When you put God first, you are giving Him a position of authority in your life, and you position yourself for blessings.

Fifth, check yourself by His Word. Is the way you are thinking, speaking, and behaving in line with the instructions He has given in His Word? Or, are you acting out of your flesh and un-renewed mind? When you are positioning yourself to

trust God, you must check your life, thoughts, words, and actions against the standard of His Word. This will ensure that you are aligned with His way of doing things.

The sixth step to ensuring that you are leaning on God is to listen to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to every Believer to lead and guide us into the truth. He is our helper and teacher. By listening to His instructions, you can gain the wisdom you need to be victorious in any situation. Paying attention to the Holy Spirit's promptings and allowing them to lead you is a demonstration of trust, which will direct you right into God's blessings for your life.

Finally, you must learn how to rest in God's love. God loves you, and He desires the best for your life. Sometimes we move ahead of God or allow our own desires or thoughts to govern our decisions. We often don't trust in His love for us or believe that He has amazing things in store for us, so we try to make things happen ourselves. Self-effort will only backfire. Trusting God means resting in His love and allowing Him to take control of our lives so that we can fulfill His plans for us.

LESSON 2 THE SECRET TO BEING FULLY PERSUADED

Faith is a necessary component of experiencing the finished works of Jesus in life. It is necessary to be highly developed in our faith because faith is responsible for taking possession of what grace has made available. Whatever we could ever want in our lives was reserved for us when Jesus shed His blood on the cross, and there is nothing we can do ourselves to get God to move. Everything we have been praying about is already done—the issue is knowing what to do to see those manifestations. Grace, by itself, produces a passive Christian, and faith, by itself, produces a legalistic Christian. However, we begin seeing mighty things when we put the two together. Faith and grace are equal parts of the equation, in that our faith connects us to God’s grace.

There are those who try to exalt faith or grace above the other, but the truth is that faith and grace are just as important under the old covenant as they are now. And they both work together to bring the promises of God into manifestation. Abraham had strong faith, and he was fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised. Inheriting the promise is the outcome of faith (Romans 4:16-21, *AMP*). God calls those things that be not as though they are, and, so likewise, we must call the things into our lives that are not, as though they are. Faith and its promises are directly tied

into the words we are speaking because words release faith. God commanded the people not to let the book of the Law depart from their mouths but to meditate on it constantly and to do what it said. The promise was that prosperity and success would become a reality if they stuck with this formula (Joshua 1:8).

Through the finished works of Jesus, we have the ability to make the promises manifest in our lives. Grace and peace are multiplied through the knowledge of God, and Jesus has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness. We can't believe something if we have no knowledge of it, which is why we have to continually study, meditate, and feed on the Word of God so that we can grow in the knowledge of God and receive the revelation we need to live successfully in the kingdom of God.

The secret to being fully persuaded means having faith in God, the kind of faith that has been deposited in your spirit when you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. God released His faith through His Word, with Jesus being the Word in human form. When we follow God as children follow their father, we imitate God. Imitating Him means talking and acting like Him, releasing our faith through words. As you do this, you become grounded in faith and persuaded by God's ability. God's Word is forever settled in heaven, and whatever He says is already established. When we imitate God, we speak what He has already said.

When it comes to becoming rooted in your trust in God, there are some specific verbal strategies to follow. Jesus did four things to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. First, He spent much time in prayer, but He always prayed the solution, or answer, and not the problem. When you pray, you want to make sure you are praying from the position of being grounded in the finished works of Jesus and not a position of begging God to do something that has already been accomplished. You want to pray from a place of thanksgiving and gratefulness that it is already done.

Second, Jesus made sure that His speech was accurate, never crooked. His conversations were always consistent with the Word of God. When we are developing our trust in God, we have to make sure that our words are aligned with the Scriptures. When we do this, it reinforces our faith.

Third, Jesus always spoke the end results, never the problem. This is along the lines of always praying the solution and not even mentioning the dilemma. And fourth, Jesus used the written Word to defeat the devil. For example, when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus only responded with the written Word of God. If we want to become fully persuaded in our faith and trust in God, we have to do the same thing—only speak the Word.

God has given some powerfully persuasive promises for

a better life, but those who want to see these things come to pass have to refrain from speaking evil (1 Peter 3:10). Our words are for the purpose of establishing things in the spiritual realm, which ultimately manifests in the natural realm. When we decree something, it will be established in our lives, and the light will shine on our ways (Job 22:28).

The Bible has much to say about the power of words and how they can build things or destroy things. Proverbs 18:7 says that a fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are a snare to his soul. A person will be filled with the fruit of what they say because death and life are in the power of the tongue. When you keep your mouth in check, it keeps your soul from trouble (Proverbs 21:23).

The secret to being fully persuaded is to fill your mouth and heart with the Word of God. Every time you speak the Word, you hear it, and it enters into your heart. Then, when you speak again, you are speaking out of the abundance of your heart, which is filled with the Word of God. As you continue to do this, you build your faith, and your spirit becomes completely saturated with the Word. Your heart will be strengthened and established in the truth of Jesus' finished works that are acquired by grace, through faith.

LESSON 3 DEVELOPING YOUR FAITH VS. USING YOUR FAITH

The Christian walk is a constant developmental process, particularly as it relates to faith. Since faith is necessary to lay hold of the promises of God, it is vital that we understand how to operate in it. There is a distinction between the finished works of Jesus Christ, which were given to us by His grace, and the person of Jesus, Who is Grace. While faith is required to lay hold of those finished works, the person of Grace actually provides the faith we need to do so. Remembering that will keep us from falling into the trap of relying on our own efforts to get the faith to access grace. As Believers, we have already been given all the faith we will ever need. With this in mind, it is important to know the difference between developing our faith and developing our use of faith.

There is a big difference between what religion says about faith and what God tells us in His Word. Jesus told His followers that if someone sinned against them they should rebuke and forgive that person if he or she repents. If the individual sins repeatedly, we are to forgive repeatedly. His followers then asked Him to increase their faith (Luke 17:3-10). Their statement to Jesus to increase their faith reflects the attitude of most Christians today concerning faith. Jesus

tried to explain to them that they did not need more faith; they simply needed to learn to use the faith they already had. As Believers, we have as much faith as Jesus had when He walked the earth. We don't need to ask God for more faith!

By grace we are saved through faith, which is a gift from God. This is not of works, so there is nothing we can do to earn salvation. Salvation came by grace, but faith also came by grace so that we can gain salvation. We can't call on God unless we believe. God's Word carries faith because words are spiritual containers that carry the substance to either destroy us or bless us. The more we hear the Word of God preached, the more faith comes, and the more our faith muscle is strengthened. When this happens, we can easily lay hold of all the promises that grace has made available to us.

Many Believers don't understand how the faith of God operates in their lives, so they struggle to believe and receive from God. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we immediately receive God's perfect and permanent faith. It is actually the same faith that He used to speak the world into existence. Because God never takes back His gifts, He will not change His mind about what He has given us. When we are born again, we are born of incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God that lives forever. We are regenerated in our spirits, and from that point on, the faith from the Word that we heard is deposited in our spirits as a gift. Right away, we have

all the faith we need to believe for anything in God's kingdom.

Through the grace given to us, we receive the measure of faith, which is the same measure every Believer has been given. So many Believers think they do not have enough faith, but the real issue is whether they are using the faith that they already have! We are not justified by works but by the faith of Jesus Christ. We were made righteous when we heard the Word, which tells us that we are justified. Jesus' faith is independent of any evidence derived from our physical senses.

Supernatural faith, the faith of God, goes above and beyond human faith, which can fail us. When Christ is in us, we live by faith in the Son of God (Galatians 2:20). Just like the constant drip of water eventually drills through solid rock, when we use our faith regularly, we can drill through any issue to bring about change. Jesus said that whoever believes on Him will do even greater works than He did. We have enough faith right now to do what He did and more; we have the faith to effect change in this world.

There are many biblical examples of men and women of God who exhibited great faith in the face of challenging and adverse circumstances. For example, when God promised Abraham a son, Abraham did not weaken in faith when he considered his advanced age or that Sarah was barren. His

faith was strong (Romans 4:19-20). His faith wasn't strong because he had more of it than we have. Abraham simply worked his faith.

Similarly, Jesus called Peter out of the boat to walk on the water, and he did! He only began to sink when he saw the storm. Jesus caught him and chided him for his doubt (Matthew 14:28-31). Peter used supernatural faith to walk on water, but switched to human faith when he used his physical senses to pay attention to the storm. Often we do the same thing. God gives us a word or an instruction, but we allow other things to come in and cause us to waver in our faith. If we really believe in the faith of God that resides in us, we won't allow ourselves to be moved.

Developing your faith comes through continuing to hear the Word of God so that it grows. Developing your use of faith happens when you actually exercise faith and believe God for things that seem impossible. Faith is like a muscle that must be "worked out." Think about the development and use of faith as you would a bodybuilder going in the gym. Your muscles have to first be fed the proper nutrients, and then there must be pressure applied to the muscles in order for them to grow stronger and get bigger. The more pressure applied, the more weight the muscle can carry as time goes on. This is how it is when it comes to developing faith and developing the use of faith. When you want to develop your

use of faith, you have to allow the pressure of this life to activate your faith muscle. The more pressure and the bigger faith projects you take on, the more developed your use of faith becomes. Before long you will be proficiently operating in a level of faith that brings about consistent manifestation.

Never shy away from circumstances and situations that challenge your faith, and don't ask God for more of what He has already given to you in full measure for your use. You don't need more faith; you simply need to exercise what you possess. Grace has made the gift of faith available to you, and it was that gift that was released to receive Jesus in the first place. Feed yourself the Word of God so your faith can grow, and put a demand on the supply of faith that is in you so that you can grow in your use of it!

LESSON 4 ANCHORED IN TRUST

Trusting God is a key to the Christian life. While all Believers know the importance of trusting God, when we break this concept down, the issue is really this: how do we know we are truly trusting Him? “I trust God” must be more than a religious phrase that we use to sound spiritual. We know that the enemy will attack our minds to make us question whether we are relying on God. But, as Christians, there are certain things we can do to verify that we are truly depending on Him. Every manifestation we see in our lives is a result of trust. To know for sure that we truly trust God, there is a practical side that we can use to gauge how much we really lean and depend on Him.

Trusting God is the key to the supernatural. When we trust God instead of ourselves, we unleash the forces of Heaven. Proverbs 3:5, 6 says that we are to trust God with all our heart and not lean on our own understanding. To trust God is to rely or lean on Him, having confidence in His integrity, strength, ability, and surety. To trust is to have a confident expectation of something.

The example of the chair is a great way to practically illustrate confident expectation. When you sit on a chair, you don't doubt its ability to hold you. You simply sit down

and rest. This is how we should trust God. We verify our trust in Him when we refuse to rely on what we understand about the situation, relying instead on the promises that God has already made. God promises to keep us in perfect peace when we keep our minds fixed on Him. Your refusal to take your mind off of God and His Word is verification that you trust Him no matter what.

We also demonstrate our trust in God when we verbally confess that He is our God. Our times are in His hands, and He will deliver us out of every troubling situation. What we say, our words, verify whether we trust Him. How are you speaking about your situation? When we commit our way to God and trust Him, only speaking what the Word of God says, He will bring it to pass. This promise is based on trust, not on what we do in our own ability.

Learning to trust God is work, but we are commanded to do so. Psalm 40:4 says that the person who makes the Lord his trust and does not turn aside to lies is blessed, or empowered to prosper. When you trust in God, you are empowered to have success in every area of life. Laboring to enter into God's rest is the responsibility of every Believer. It is labor because it requires fighting against the contrary circumstances that threaten to steal your peace. It means pushing back against negative reports and choosing to remain fixed on God even when your senses tell you something

different. This labor to enter into rest brings blessings of healing, prosperity, deliverance, and wholeness.

The Bible has many stories of people who did not trust in God, and they paid a price for it. Trusting God is the ultimate act of faith. Throughout the Scriptures, we see the nation of Israel complaining against God when things were difficult for them. Time and time again God delivered them out of their troubles, and they still challenged Him. Jesus tells us that those who truly belong to Him know and follow His voice. If you are a child of God, trusting in Him must be your way of life. Sheep follow their shepherd because they trust and depend on Him. We live an abundant life when we look upon God instead of looking at our situation and exalting it in our lives.

There are seven steps to follow to ensure you are leaning on God. First, you must not depend on yourself. Self-reliance is actually a form of pride, and it hinders the flow of God's power in your life. Second, you must cry out to God. Psalm 55:17 says to cry out to God at all times of the day. Calling on God demonstrates trust and a desire for total dependence on Him. It is an act of humility.

The third step to ensuring you are leaning on God is to run from evil. We are instructed to not be wise in our own eyes but to fear God and depart from evil (Proverbs 3:7, 8).

The Believer is to flee youthful lusts, follow righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. Fourth, you must make a quality decision to put God first in your life, giving Him ultimate priority over everything else. Putting Him first also means honoring Him with your finances.

The fifth step is to evaluate yourself by His Word. Christians must determine to make the Word of God the final authority; therefore, every decision we make must be aligned with and checked against the Word of God. When we evaluate our thoughts, words, and actions against the Bible, we ensure that we are leaning on God and trusting His way of doing things above everything else. Sixth, we are to listen to the Holy Spirit, who is our internal GPS system. The Holy Spirit's leadership is a critical component of trusting God. His instructions are always designed to get us to the most prosperous destination and ensure a positive outcome in our lives. Finally, you must rest in God's love. God loves us so much, and His desire is for us to experience His best in our lives. When we rest in his love for us, no matter what is going on in our lives, we demonstrate that we trust Him, knowing that He has our best interests at heart.

Trusting God is part of the Believer's spiritual development and is vital to thriving in the kingdom of God. We are commanded to trust God and depend on Him completely. God has given us the faith necessary to trust

Him with every detail of our lives. Practice trust by applying your faith to your circumstances and relying on His ability to bring to manifestation what He has already accomplished.

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