

# February 2002: Trust

by Aaron Greenway

One of my biggest struggles is trusting the Lord with the details of my life. This has been an area of victory at times and a real battle at others. In just three short days, I will be boarding a plane to leave this country. I will be a temporary Peruvian resident for three months. This means that I will be conforming to the Peruvian pace of life, which is much, MUCH slower than it is here. Can you imagine a fast-paced, fast food, microwave American (like me!) trying to “take it easy” in Perú? But, that is what has to happen. I will have to depend on someone to pick me up from the airport. I will have to let someone teach me how to teach the English language based on the school’s system of teaching. I will have to learn how to get around without the security of the Dallas Police Department, my lawyer and President George W. Bush. After 9-11, I am more sure that all three of these “securities” are overrated, because security comes from the Lord.

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**“We will fight!  
We will struggle!  
We will weep!  
And finally, in the end,  
the Holy Spirit will  
ask, “Give up?”  
When we answer,  
“Yes Lord! I  
surrender!”,  
this is when God will  
begin to work.”**  
—————

When it came to trust, even the disciples had problems.

Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying “Lord save us! We are perishing!”

But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm

(Matthew 8:23-26).

One of my professors, Steven Bramer, said to his class recently that it seems that the people who were blind or incapacitated had an easier time trusting Jesus than those who could see and get around just fine. Perhaps, the best way to trust the Lord is when there is nothing left to do,

but to trust Him. Jesus keeps bringing us to the end of ourselves where He becomes the only answer left.

We will fight! We will struggle! We will weep! And finally, in the end, the Holy Spirit will ask, “Give up?” When we answer, “Yes Lord! I surrender!”, this is when God will begin to work. First, our lives will be flooded with peace, because we are now in the center of God’s will. Second, God will be able to steer us in the direction He wants us to go. God is always going to win. It is only a matter of time and how much agony you and I are willing to go through. Better to surrender quickly, huh? But, up until that point, we struggle. The biggest thing that gets in the way of God’s work in our lives is ‘us’, because we think we know better than God. We think that God hasn’t been keeping track of us, so how could He possibly know what we need?

Why does God keep bringing us to the end of ourselves? I believe it is because no one is going to rip away His glory. Time and time again God will bring us to a place where there is no way out of a situation but to give it all to Him, so that when He steps in, we will know without a doubt WHO He is. God is always trying to get us to acknowledge who He is. Jesus for three years of His ministry attempted, time and time again, to convince people about who He was. The response was discouraging, “Uh so Jesus, give us another sign if you are the Messiah.” When we do acknowledge God, somehow, God is able to use us like never before, because now it is real to us. We have something to say. Cliches about “trusting” fade and people then are able to see the genuine article. They can see the peace in our lives. People are more perceptive than we think.

Is God trustworthy? Does He even care about what goes on in our lives? Somewhere along the way, most of us have asked these questions. The answer is a resounding YES! God will not *ever* leave His children. In fact, Jesus had something to say about how the Father takes care of His children, those who ask, seek and knock,...

Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone. Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him

(Matthew 7:9-11).

The thing we often don't realize is that the dark places are where faith shines. Hope can only be birthed out of a situation that seems hopeless. If Jesus can become that hope, how much better off we would be. I pray that God will continue to bring me to that point, where He becomes my only source of strength.