

“TRUST THE LORD”

Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Bible is God’s inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word to a fallen world. God used 40 or more authors over a course of 1500 years to produce this amazing book. If I were to condense its message down to one pertinent lesson, this is what it would be—TRUST THE LORD.

Jeremiah, a Jewish priest and prophet, was chosen by God to write two of the books in the Bible—Jeremiah and Lamentations. His ministry lasted for approximately 40 years (626—586 BC). He was heartbroken over the rebellion of Judah, God’s covenant people. As a result of his faithful preaching of God’s Word, he was isolated and persecuted. This man of God constantly challenged the Jewish people to repent and to TRUST THE LORD! This message permeates the Bible...

Psalms 62:8... Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Proverbs 16:20... He who gives attention to the word will find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

Isaiah 26:3–4... “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. 4 “Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

2 Corinthians 1:9... indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

Who are you trusting—*yourself, someone or something else, or the Lord*? I’m going to take up Jeremiah’s challenge and bring it into the 21st century...

TRUST THE LORD!

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 17. Let me read verses 5-8. I want you to see the distinct contrast the Lord presents through His faithful prophet. In this contrast, we are presented with the same two options every human being has had to choose from...

1. TRUST IN PEOPLE

Jeremiah 17:5–6... Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. **6** “For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant.

The threat of a Babylonian invasion hung over the heads of God’s people. Instead of turning from their sins and trusting the Lord, the Jewish leaders were reaching out to Egypt and other nations to come to their rescue. The Lord’s response was terrifying (vs. 5).

What's life like for someone who rejects the Lord and relies on their own strength or who looks to other people for help? Look at the picture set before us in verse 6...

Here is a stunted, gray, prickly little desert shrub that constantly struggles to live. There are no leaves and no fruit. This shrub is doomed to a life of desolation.

Is that the life you want to live? Hear the Word of the Lord...

Psalms 146:3... Do not trust in princes, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.

Psalms 118:8... It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man.

The person who ignores the Lord and depends on self or others is spiritually blind to the opportunities God places before them...

"He/she will not see when prosperity comes (vs. 6)."

The Lord comes with blessings and this person who has been blinded by an improper trust prefers material prosperity, a life of pleasure, or career advancement. This is no way to live!

There is another option...

2. TRUST IN GOD

When He created you, He designed you to live in an intimate, lifelong, trusting relationship with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ who is a continuous fountain of living water...

1 Corinthians 1:9... God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord presents another word picture for us in verses 7-8...

Jeremiah 17:7–8... “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. **8** “For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.

Trusting in the Lord results in His favor and blessings on our lives. The picture involves a luscious, fruitful tree whose roots draw moisture from a continuous water source. Even in times of extreme heat and drought, the tree thrives and produces fruit!

The person who trusts in the Lord can endure life’s adversities without being rendered ineffective and unfruitful. This is the Old Testament equivalent of the *abundant life* Jesus promised to those who believed in Him.

With these two options before us, it seems obvious that trusting in God is the right choice. With that being said, I want to address a few questions...

Why is it hard to trust God?

We have limited insight. When we go through difficult times, we question how the Lord could allow us to go through this stuff and how He is going to deliver us. (Israel and Moses at the Red Sea)

We want to be in control. Therefore, we find it difficult to turn over the control of our lives to the Lord. (Romans 14:9)

We've been let down by others. As a result, we are predisposed to doubt the Lord.

Why should we prioritize our trust in the Lord as opposed to people?

Proverbs 3:5–6... Trust in the LORD with all your heart and *do not lean on your own understanding.*
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Face it. Every human being, including believers, is tainted by sin. It affects our will, our emotions,

and our thinking. We should trust the Lord because He is totally trustworthy!

He is sovereign.

1 Chronicles 29:11–12... “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. **12** “Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

He is good.

Nahum 1:7...The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

He is wise.

Romans 11:33... Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

He is love.

Romans 5:8... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

He will bring order to the confusion of our lives.
He will make our path straight. He is trustworthy!

What are the benefits of trusting the Lord?

- He gives us eternal life.
- He helps us through difficulties.
- He promises to meet our needs.
- He gives us perfect peace.
- He releases us from anxiety.

- He never leaves us or forsakes us.
- He protects us.

Here's my challenge to you today...

TRUST THE LORD!

CONCLUSION

Jeremiah's message to the Jewish people was simply this—IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TRUST THE LORD!

Will you believe in Jesus and trust Him to be your Savior and Lord? He will forgive all of your sins. He will bless you with a new life and a new hope and a new destiny. Come to Jesus today.

Okay, for you who are already believers you must understand that this trust in God must become a kind of "*Holy Stubbornness*" where you repeatedly choose to trust Him in times of adversity and in times of prosperity.

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Let's get specific. What is one area of your life where you need to trust God more? Come to the altar and present it to Him this morning.

TRUST THE LORD!