

The Importance Of Trust

A while ago we were studying a lesson on the parent's responsibility to their children. There was much discussion in that lesson about parenting and what children need. Children need nurturing, guidance, acceptance, and praise in order to grow up with a sense of self-worth, knowledge, and the ability to cope with life's struggles. One person mentioned something that we had not touched on "trust."

Trust is a very important ingredient in any relationship. It is closely related to faith and belief. A spouse who does not trust their mate will have trouble letting down their guard. A wife who does not trust her husband will always wonder where he is and/or who he is with. A parent who does not trust their child has the same thoughts. Are they telling me the truth, what are they doing with their friends away from home? As Christians we are called up to have faith/trust in God and His word, and trust/faith in our brethren. When that trust is missing doubt and suspicion arise.

How does one develop trust in God, their spouse, their children or children in their parents, and toward one's brethren?

The more you know someone and how they think the more you understand them: why they do what they do. For instance, in order to trust God and His word you have to know that God loves you and wants what is best for you. The Bible teaches a great and powerful God created mankind. God is righteousness, justice, vengeance, mercy, and grace. Those qualities and others are contained in His word. Reading Psalm 119, the writer expresses his trust in God and His word. "I hope for Thy salvation, O Lord, and do Thy commandments. My soul keeps thy testimonies, and I love them exceedingly" (Psalm 119.165-166 NASV). Not only do we trust God to instruct us for our own safety and salvation we also trust in Him to keep His word. "In order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope

set before us" (Hebrews 6.18 NASV). Because of our trust/faith in God we do not need to know the why behind the command.

The same can be said for the relationships in the home. Before getting married or soon afterward you learn to trust your spouse. You must trust in God's plan for the home. A wife must believe her husband really loves her and is making decisions for the good of the family. A husband must trust his wife to submit to his leadership. Children learn their parents are doing their best to provide a good home and are teaching them right from wrong.

This means for trust to develop there must be time to grow in those relationships. Young Christians might wonder why God expects obedience in word and deeds. Studying the Bible insures the properly understanding of His word then eventually they understand. We must spend time serving God if we are going to trust in Him. The same can be said in a marriage. Husbands and wives who study, pray, and spend time together will build their lives around one another. Parents who do the same with their children will be trusted in their words.

Finally, trust is hard to establish once it has been betrayed. Unfaithfulness in marriage might be forgiven and the marriage remain intact but it takes time to build trust in that relationship. Recently I came across an article written by a woman who committed adultery. She revealed this to her husband and they tried to keep their marriage intact. However, she said their lines of communication were broken. They could not talk to each other. Slowly but surely their marriage did end due to a lack of trust in their relationship.

Fortunately, in our relationship with God we know He can be trusted. He will always do what He has promised. Since it is impossible for God to lie we can always take Him at His word. It is up to us to keep our word and be faithful to Him. The song "Trust and Obey" makes this point verse 1 reads:

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.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

So, if you are having trust issues in your life you need to overcome them with pray, knowledge, and love. –Dennis Tucker