

Trusting the Lord

We sometimes sing about *trusting God*- (“Trust and Obey” and “Trust the Savior”), but it is one thing, perhaps of many, that is *easier said than done!*

I. What does “Trusting the Lord” mean?

The word translated as “*trust*” by the NASV is often the Greek term **peitho** (“*pi-tho*”). This is interesting because *peitho* has as its primary meaning *to persuade, or be persuaded*. At first this took me back a bit, but once you think about it, isn’t that what’s really involved in “trust”? Isn’t it *becoming convinced, or allowing oneself to be induced to believe-* to develop a *confidence* in something or someone?

Sure it is! Contrast Matt.27:20 where the crowds were “*persuaded*” to ask for Barabbas; or with Matt.27:43 where the same people accused Jesus of “*trusting*” in God; or even with Matt.28:14 where the soldiers who guarded the (now empty) tomb of Jesus were told by the chief priests that they would “*win over*” Pilate if he heard about the lie they were bribed to tell. In each case, a *persuading* (all are the Greek word *peitho*) has taken place, and therefore a *trust* has been established- either rightly or wrongly, but it has happened.

Consider these other translations of *peitho* to perhaps get a better idea:

Luke 11:22, “*his armor on which he had **relied***”

Luke 16:31, “*they will not be **persuaded** even if someone rises*”

Luke 18:9, “*people who **trusted** in themselves*”

Luke 20:6, “*they are **convinced** that John was a prophet*”

When we are *convinced* and *persuaded* to *rely* on someone or something, we then “trust” it or them.

II. Trusting the Lord *generally*.

To “trust the Lord” *generally* is to be *persuaded* and *convinced* of His existence, and therefore control over all things:

2Cor.5:11, “*knowing the fear of the Lord, we **persuade men***”- belief in God causes a general course of action to be pursued.

Gal.5:7-8, “*who hindered you from **obeying** the truth? This **persuasion** did not come from Him*”- when we believe in God, we are obligated to *obey* Him.

Phil.3:3, “*in Christ Jesus and put no **confidence** in the flesh*”- believing in the existence and authority of God causes us to *trust* in Him rather than ourselves.

This is “*trusting the Lord*” generally. To further illustrate, consider Heb.11:6. Though the word *trust* is not found, the concept of believing in Him as a *Rewarder* is present. This is essentially “trust.” We live in a way that trusts He will reward our efforts.

III. Trusting the Lord more *specifically*.

The mindset and determination do not change when we switch from *general* to *specific trusting the Lord*- just the application does, and therefore perhaps the degree also. It is one thing to *trust* the Lord concerning matters that are clearly beyond your control anyway- like your eternal destiny, 2Cor.1:8-10. It is another issue altogether to surrender control of things that are, or at least appear to be, within your control now. For instance, what about:

Trusting in God's **Promises**? Matt.6:25-33 says we are to "seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these (physically needed) things will be added to you." Do you trust God in this way? Do you trust His promise to *physically* care for you enough to really commit to Him *spiritually*? Remember v.24! (see also Phil.1:14)

Trusting God's **Love**? 1John 1:9 tells us that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." But we, because we don't trust in God's love as we should, constantly doubt our salvation, and we fear judgment. For example, are you still "beating yourself up" with guilt over something you did perhaps years ago despite having confessed it to God, and having repented of it? Why? Because we don't trust the love of God to forgive! cf. Rom.5:8 > Heb.10:14-22.

Trusting God's **Power**? Consider Paul's statement in 2Tim.1:12, "I know who I have believed and I am **convinced** (our Greek word *peitho* again) that He is able guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." Paul had great trust in God's power to protect and preserve! Consider also Rom.8:35,37-39. Do you *trust the Lord's power* this way?

IV. Conclusion

We need to trust the Lord *generally* for the things that are beyond our control- like our eternity when life is over.

But we also need to trust the Lord *specifically* for the things we sometimes fail to surrender here and now- like our hearts, minds, and bodies in service to Him, Heb.2:13.