

## WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT TRUST?

God wants us to **trust** Him because He is good (Psalm 136:1) and He loves us (1John 4:16). He is a covenant God (Deuteronomy 7:9), which means that when He makes a promise, He sticks to it forever and **NEVER** breaks it, even when we break our promises to Him. He never lies (Titus 1:2). His wisdom is higher than ours (Isaiah 58:8-9). We are to “Trust in the LORD with all thine (our) heart and lean not unto thine (own) understanding, in all thy (your) ways acknowledge Him, and He shall (will) direct thy (our) paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). This kind of **trust** requires **faith**. The same kind of trust that Abraham and many others have had throughout the generations and even today.

## HOW CAN I TRUST GOD TODAY?

To be able to **trust** God, you have to **believe**. “And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him **must believe that He exists** and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). To **trust** and have **faith** is a choice that you make, not a feeling that you have. Faith may not make logical sense. Like Abraham, you take a step of faith, and reach out, believing that God exists even if you can’t touch Him or see Him. Thomas, Jesus’ apostle did not believe that Jesus rose from the dead and had to touch the wounds that Jesus had from the crucifixion to believe. Jesus said to Thomas “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, but yet believe”

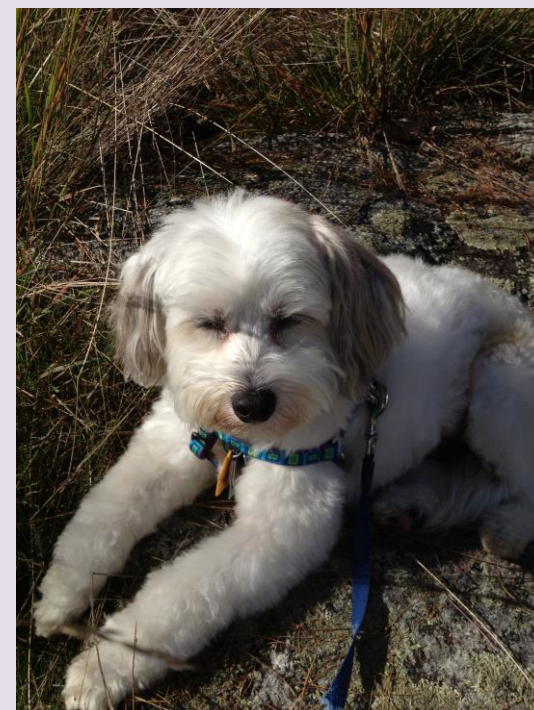
(John 20:29). Today, will *you* decide to believe that God exists even though you haven’t seen Him personally? Will you choose to **trust** God and believe that He sent His only Son to pay the price for your sins so that you don’t have to when you die? “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not die eternally, but inherit eternal life” (John 3:16).

If you do, then pray this prayer now, right where you are. “Dear God, please forgive me for not believing in you. Right now, I choose to believe that you exist even though I can’t touch you or see you. I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He took my sins on Him and paid the penalty for my sins when He died on the cross. Right now, I choose to have faith in You and to trust you to come into my life and be with me forever. . Thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit to live in side of me and help me for the rest of my life. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.”

Congratulations! You have now begun your own journey of faith in God. Start reading God’s love letter to you, the Bible. Start with the Gospel of John. Continue to talk with God throughout your day (pray). Ask Him to help you with every problem and issue in your life. Ask Him to help you grow in your faith and trust in Him. Why? Because you can Trust Him! He is on your side and will never leave you alone to cope with the stressful and difficult things in this life. He promises “Never will I leave you, nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

# Trust

## Learning Lessons in Life



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WHO IS OUR TRUE TEACHER?

## AN EXAMPLE FROM THE ANIMAL WORLD

The relationship and the bond between a dog and its owner begins the first moment they meet. This is especially true with a dog that has been rescued from dirty or horrible circumstances. Why is the bond so deep? Because, the puppy or dog begins to **trust** the new owner. As time goes on, the owner and the dog continue deepening their relationship. This relationship is formed through actions (rewards) and behaviors (walks and rides) as well as spoken praises by the owner. The relationship grows as they develop a pattern together and carry it out on a day to day basis.

## TRUST AS THEY AGE

This trust relationship is especially important as a dog gets older and develops issues. For example, the dog may begin to lose its eyesight. They may lose depth perception and become frightened of using stairs and jumping down off a bed or sofa. They may lose the ability to see in the dark. They may need the owner to reach out and pick them up in the dark. If the dog **trusts** their owner, then, the dog will allow the owner to carry them off a bed or sofa in the dark with no fear of falling or being dropped. Similarly, they will **trust** the *voice* of the owner and come when called, even if they have to walk through a darkened area where they can't see. The dog will follow and will wait under the voice command of their owner. All of these behaviors of the dog are built on the **trust** relationship that they have with their owner.

## TRUST AND FAITH

What is **trust**? Trust includes the ability to believe in the trustworthiness, ability or strength of a person or thing. What is **faith**? It is the complete trust in someone or something (like God). The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." To put it an easier way, **faith** is being sure that the things we believe in **are** real, even if we can't see them.

Just from these two simple definitions we can see that to trust, you have to have faith, and to have faith, you have to trust. They are like two sides of the same coin. You can't have a back without a front!

## HUMAN TRUST

We know that human owners are imperfect. Yet, their dogs will **trust** them in many ways. Humans also **trust** on a daily basis. We **trust** the drivers who take us places. We **trust** that when we 'flip a switch' our electricity will come on. We **trust** our family to be good to us and support us through the good and bad times of our lives. We **trust** that someone we love and who loves us will care for us and not hurt us.

So, when we come to the issue of **trusting God** (who **is** perfect!\*), why do we struggle so much with trusting Him to provide for us, take care of us and keep us safe? Why do we struggle in believing that He hears our prayers or that He will answer them? \*Psalm 18:30

## TRUST IN GOD-ABRAHAM

In the Bible (Genesis 12:1-20), there was a man named Abraham. He is famous for his **faith** and **trust** in God. Why? Because he obeyed God when God called him to leave his home, take his family, and travel to a new land even though he did not know where he was going! Then, when he arrived, he lived there by **faith** because, now, he was a stranger in that place and he had no stick and mortar homes, but lived in tents. Abraham was **trusting** God, because of who God was, and that He would meet all his needs and the needs of his family. He is even listed as a great example of **faith** by the Apostle Paul (Hebrews 11:8-19).

## TRUST IN GOD-PETER

In the Bible, we have many examples of humans trusting Jesus (who **is** God\*\*). One story (Matthew 14:22-33) is about Peter, His disciple. Jesus was in a boat with His disciples. After crossing the water, Jesus left the boat, and went up into the hills to pray all night. He sent the disciples back across the water. Suddenly, a severe storm came up and they were fighting the heavy waves. Jesus came to the disciples walking on water about three o'clock in the morning. At first, they thought He was a ghost. Jesus spoke to them and calmed them down. When Peter saw Jesus, he asked Jesus to let him come to Him by walking on the water. Jesus said "Come". Peter **trusted** Jesus and actually walked on water to go to Him! [Peter's faith was a little shaky when he looked around at the storm, but Jesus reached out and caught him].

\*\*John 1:1-5 and 1John 5: 7-8