

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT GATHERING
CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CENTER



October 11, 2008
PRESENTER: Deacon Al Birsinger
TOPIC: Trust in the Lord
NEXT GATHERING: 11/8/2008

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE TRUSTING GOD?

Jesus tells us not to worry, and to trust God for all our needs. In the Gospel of Matthew 6:24-34, Jesus talks to us on his attitude towards possessions, and how to depend on God in all matters. "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink? Or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.' From all the scriptures on trust, Matthew 6:24-34 are the scriptures that help us reflect if we are really trusting God.

How do we know that we are not being foolish?

Sometimes we are called to be foolish and we need to discern. James 1:5-8 tells us, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it. But he should ask in faith, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways."

What do we need first, trust or wisdom?

Neither comes first. We first need to seek God. Seek first the Kingdom of God. He will lead us and guide us. We need to trust God to get wisdom. As we trust more, we get more wisdom. As we seek the Spirit of God, He gives us more trust and wisdom. Holy Spirit will be with us. We need wisdom and trust to let the Holy Spirit guide us.

We need to surrender to let the Holy Spirit guide us, and to learn wisdom and trust. Deacon Birsinger shared his testimony on how he was called to trust God with his finances. God challenged him to tithe even when his finances were very tight, and he was raising a family of 11. He sensed God was asking him to tithe 10 % of his gross income. Deacon Al witnessed God's provision, and the healing of his son from an undiagnosed pain, when he said yes to tithing 10% of his gross income.

We need to learn how to trust God. Deacon Al asked group members to trust him with a dollar bill. The dollar bill was torn into many pieces, and he explained that at times we may not know what God may do even when we follow his commands, and are obedient to his teachings. We may not understand what He is doing in our lives but we need to continue to trust God. Deacon Al then asked another group member to trust him with a \$10 bill. Deacon then gave the \$10 bill to the group member who had volunteered her dollar bill to emphasize the point, that at times, we may look foolish as we do not do "the worldly thing" of following the cultural norm. God is in control. God is worthy of our trust. We cannot out do God. We cannot out give God. "Seek first the kingdom of God." He will make us wise; lead us away from fear and anxiety.

What does trust look like?

Examples: Not buying a new house or car so we can tithe. Not giving into social promiscuity and exercising chastity and abstinence in a culture that promotes sex outside marriage. A business person manages his time at work so he can make his family a priority. An employee who does not steal and does not take office supplies home is another example of trust. We may not know where he is leading us to. It is an adventure. Attendees then shared their experience on trusting God in challenging times, and during trials.

"The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness." 1 Sam. 26:23

Other Scriptures for further reflection

Psalm 71:5; Psalm 62:9 ; Proverbs 16:20 ; 1 Peter 1:3-9

Prayer Challenge for the month: I will trust God for all my needs and depend on God in all matters of my life even when I experience trials and sufferings.

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