**Do you Trust God?**

 **by Sharon Fenn**

I read a daily devotional from a book by Sarah Young titled ‘Jesus Calling.’ Her writing style is as if Jesus Himself is speaking directly to you. Here is an excerpt from April 14th.

“Trusting me is a moment-by-moment choice. My people have not always understood the truth. After I performed miracles in the wilderness, my chosen children trusted Me intensely-but only temporarily. Soon the grumbling began again, testing my patience to the utmost.”

Sarah was referring to the passage in Exodus 15: 22-24. Moses had led his people away from the red sea into the desert. They were unable to find water. When they did find water, it was bitter, and they were not able to drink it. The people started grumbling to Moses, lamenting, What are we going to drink?

Do you trust God always, or moment by moment? When life is rolling merrily along, it is easy to find joy in each day. We may even sometimes skip church to go to the park or the beach for the day.We are excited if we get good news from our healthcare providers. God may send someone to help you out just when you need it the most. When everything in your life is going smoothly, do you still remember God and thank him for these joyful moments?

Then there are moments when life slams into us like a freight train: a lost job leading to financial woes, a death in the family, or a terrifying illness. Do you trust God in these moments? Or do you feel abandoned at times like the followers of Moses?

I googled the word trust in the Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary. I did not realize there were so many definitions. Here are the ones that spoke to me as I was writing this message:

As a noun, “one in which confidence is placed.”

As a verb, “believe”

In our everyday life, we may put trust in some people or even corporations more than others. It may be based on experience. Or you may choose a plumber or electrician based on word of mouth (someone else’s experience). As an example, if you hire a babysitter to come to the house and watch your children while you go to a doctor’s appointment, your expectations are that they arrive on time and they take good care of your children. If this occurs, you will hire the same babysitter again. If you are disappointed, you will try to find someone else. As for corporations, I remember the Fed-Ex campaign that ran from 1978 - 1983, “when it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight.” Fed-Ex was trying to get the point across that you can count on them. And as I was writing this, I happened to look out the window to spot a Fed-ex truck driving by and I just knew those packages were going to be delivered on time. Those are just two examples. I amsure you can think of many more. It may even spark some conversation during coffee hour.

Let’s talk about trust as a verb, using the definition believe. When trust is defined in this way, it reminds me of my favorite verse in the bible from Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 1: “To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.”

This is a little different as it may not be necessarily based on experience. This might be equivalent to jumping from a ship into a lifeboat, hoping and/or trusting you will make it to shore.

I think God wants us to trust in him and pray for guidance. I also believe our prayers are answered. We have to understand, the answer to our prayers is God’s will, and not ours, so our prayers may not always be answered the way we expect them to be.As it says in Proverbs, chapter 3, vs. 5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” Sometimes we have to do research and have blind faith. Many people are on our prayers list have cancer. A lot of progress has been made over the years in cancer research and treatment. It is sad when we hear the prognosis is not good for someone. We must trust that God may have other plans for this person, which include everlasting life in heaven. This is hard for those of us left behind as we have lost more than a couple people recently on our prayers list. Let’s trust in God that they have been reunited with those who have gone before them. In John 14, vs. 2, Jesus says, “There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you.”

My sister-in-law Lucie who we had on our love and prayers list, specifically for pancreatic cancer and is continuing to be monitored by Dana Farber gave me permission to share her thoughts on her diagnosis:

When faced with a cancer diagnosis, trusting God can be a challenge.  However, during this journey, I’ve never doubted that I could trust God to guide me on the path he has chosen for my life. Trusting God is what keeps me from giving up when times are difficult and rejoicing when times are wonderful.  As the song by Elevation Worship says, “I trust in God, my Savior, the one who will never fail”. Elevation Worship for those who are not familiar with them sing contemporary worship music and tour the United States.

Many times, our prayers are answered as in the birth of a healthy baby, a fully stocked pantry, a safe trip, or a good prognosis to name a few. In the scripture passage of Luke that was read, Jesus tells us not to worry. Focus on life, he says. God takes care of the wild flowers growing in the fields. I know it is difficult at times, but Jesus urges us to focus on having faith.

We have some control over the paths we choose. If we come to a fork in the road, we know which one to take. This makes our lifes journey a little easier. If, however, someone takes the wrong road, such as the path of addiction, all is not lost. Prayer, trust in God, along with a lot of hard work, and support can put someone back on the right path.

We have one life and what a gift it is trust in God. Pay attention to the words in one of our favorite songs, “Trust and Obey.”I will end with one of the verses,

“Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!

How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er.

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!

Oh, for grace to Trust Him more.