

Trust.
By Keeth Poe
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Good Morning Lighthouse. It is an honor to be up here again. So, are you ready for the Word of God? Awesome, but first I'll tell a joke.

There was a man named Jack and he was hiking along a steep cliff one day, when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he managed to grab a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet.

He couldn't hang onto the branch forever and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff. So, Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something.

"HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? HELP!"

He yelled for a long time, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice. "Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, Yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you Jack. Are you alright?"

"Yes, but who are you, and where are you?"

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean GOD?"

"That's me."

"God please help me! I promise, if you'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve you for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises Jack. Let's get you down from there; then we'll talk. Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said let go of the branch."

There was a long silence.

Finally, Jack yelled, "HELP! HELP! Is anyone else up there?"

How many of us can relate? My message today is about Trust. So, let's do a quick word study.

Trust:

The definition of the word trust is: (noun) belief in something as true.

Here are some synonyms for trust: confidence, expectation, faith, hope, assurance, certainty, conviction, dependence, reliance, stock, sureness

(The underlined words are the most relevant.)

Besides the word trust, the two most common forms of this word in the Bible are believe and faith.

Believe/Pisteuo:

Stong's concordance says the most common occurrence of the word believe comes from the Greek word pisteuo. Strong's defines it as to have faith (in upon or with respect to a person or thing) that is credit; by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ); - believe (-r) commit (to trust) put in trust with.

The Bible uses Pisteuo/believe to strongly mean to trust or put in trust with, but the way we use it is much softer.

Bible's usage: to trust in, to know and have confidence in

Today's usage: to think something. Maybe it's true? (with a question mark)

Faith/Pistis:

Faith in the Bible is the action or state of pisteuo. It is from the Greek word Pistis.

In my joke God asked Jack to trust him, but that is how the world sees faith. They think that you should blindly have faith/trust in something, but you never need to be sure. I submit to you today, that real Bible faith isn't blind, but is built on real substance and real evidence.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

You can never really place your trust in something that doesn't have evidence or substance.

If I told you everything Jesus did for us, unless you saw the substance and evidence then you wouldn't be able to trust in the Gospel. Where do we find this? Our only source today is the Bible, the very word of God. You can't trust in Jesus without trusting in the source of everything we know about him, and you can't trust in the source (Bible) without seeing the evidence and substance of God's Word. Which brings me to my first point.

I. Trust in God's Word

Many would have you think, the Bible is just a “Good Book”, or something created by men to control men. However, there are mountains of evidence that the Bible is really God’s infallible Word and you can stake your life on it. I couldn’t begin to fit all of it into one sermon, so I’ll try to give a brief overview. God has given us three ways of knowing the Bible really is His Word.

A. The Construction of the Bible

- The Bible consists of 66 books total. 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament
- Every one of these books have the same central character (Jesus) and the same central theme (What God has done for fallen man.)
- The Old Testament talks about the coming of the Savior and the New Testament records His arrival
- The Bible was written over a period of about 1600 years (from BC 1492 to 100 AD)
- The penning of the scriptures was done by 40 men from all different walks of life:
 - A herdsman named Amos
 - Statesmen such as Daniel and Nehemiah
 - Mighty seers – Isaiah and Jeremiah
 - Priests – Ezra
 - Educated men – Moses and Paul
 - Uneducated men – Peter, James, and John
 - Kings – David and Solomon
 - Tax collector – Matthew
 - Medical Doctor – Luke
- These men lived across 3 different continents and wrote in 3 different languages
- Most of these men didn’t know each other and had no way of referring to each other’s work
- The Bible covers the Greatest scope of material ever in one place
 - o Origin of man
 - o The nature of God
 - o History from before Creation to eternity after time. With dates, times, and places accurately recorded
 - o The Bible traces a nation (Israel) from beginning to end
 - o The Bible describes the Earth, sciences, metallurgy, agriculture, astronomy, horticulture, and much more
 - o There are thousands of details, all in perfect unison, with absolutely no disagreement

All of this proves that man was not capable of authoring the Bible.

B. The Prophecies of the Bible

There are hundreds of prophecies in the Bible (more than 350 about Jesus alone). A prophecy is an event or something specific that is foretold well in advance that is certain to happen in the future. Some of the requirements for a real prophecy are:

- Must have very specific details (not vague)
- Must be given well in advance of their fulfillment
- They are beyond human foresight

Most of the prophecies have been fulfilled with 100% accuracy, with a handful that just haven't happened yet. Here is a short list of prophecies that have been fulfilled (from Dr. Lester Hutson's What We Believe and Why):

- Gen. 6:14-17 predicted a great flood would come and cover the whole earth.
- Gen. 7:10-24 shows it did. Science today admits that at one time, every inch of this earth was covered with water. (Consider the animals in caves with grass in their lungs.)
- Gen. 17:2-6 gives unlikely prophecies of Abraham which have come true.
- Gen. 50:24-26 says that Joseph's bones would leave Egypt. Ex. 12:31-40 fulfilled it
- Isa. 44:28-45:4 of Cyrus the Persian 200 years before he was born. Compare Dan. 6
- Jer. 34:3 The impossible prediction that Zedekiah would see the King of Babylon, yet never see Babylon though he would go there. Ezek. 12:13 only God could have known his eyes would be put out, II Kings 25:6-7
- Isa. 23:1-18 The destruction of Tyre – a fact today
- Over 3500 years before man admitted it with the telescope, God said the stars are too many to number Gen. 15:5
- Over 2200 years before Columbus proved it, God said the earth is a sphere in Isa. 40:22 Who, but God, could have known?

Another interesting study is to read through the book of Matthew with a Bible that has cross references. Matthew makes a reference to Old Testament prophecies every time they were fulfilled.

C. The claims of the Bible for itself.

2 Peter 1:16-21 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

1:17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

1:18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The church in Thessalonica was an amazing church and we should follow their example.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-9 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

1:7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

1:8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Chapter 2:13 tells us what made the difference.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

This church received the Word of God as the True Word of God. They placed their trust in the Word of God. Can you? If you have then you can move on to my next point. But, if you still have questions or want more clarification on how to Trust the Bible with your life, we can set up some one on one classes to help fill in any blanks.

II. Trust in God's Son

As I mentioned before, every book in the Bible has the same central character (Jesus) and the same central theme (What God has done for fallen man.) So, we will start with fallen man.

1. Fallen Man

- The whole chapter of Genesis 3 tells how sin entered the world and how mankind fell. We inherited this sin nature from Adam.
- Our sin separates us from God

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

- The penalty of our sin is death (or to be eternally separated from God.)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- To spend all of eternity in the Lake of Fire

Revelations 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Because of our sin, we are separated from God and there is absolutely nothing we can do to have a relationship with God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Titus 3:4-7 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

2. What God did for Fallen Man

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God loves us so much! He provides us a way to go from being eternally separated from Him to having a relationship with Him for all eternity. This is the Gospel.

- The Gospel is the power unto Salvation

Romans 1:15-17 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

So, what is the Gospel?

I Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The Gospel is the:	Death	}	For
	Burial		Our
	Resurrection		Sins

3. What's your part in this?

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- You have to put your trust in Jesus alone to save you from your sins.

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

- Propitiation means expiatory atonement or the complete and full payment

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

- A. You have to hear the Gospel
- B. You have to understand that His death, burial, and resurrection was the complete payment for your sins.
- C. You have to see the evidence for yourself.
- D. Then you have to place your trust in the Son

III. Trust in God's Promises

If you have trusted in the Word of God and then trusted in the Son, you have done what it says in:

Ephesians 1:12-13 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

1:13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

But now what? Then you need to trust God for everything else in your life.

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Once you have faith in Jesus Christ, you can live by faith, resting in the promises of God. God makes many promises in the Bible, but it is up to us to find them and apply them to our lives.

I look at it like steps of faith, in a stairway to get closer to God. Each step of faith builds on the previous steps, and moves you forward and upward. You don't have faith "to move mountains" overnight. You find a promise and put it to test. When you test God in this way, you are taking a step of faith.

Malachi 3:10 shows this principle on bringing God's tithes to the church.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall* not *be room* enough *to receive it*.

Here are a few of the promises of God that we should exercise our faith in:

- **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. >>God promises to forgive us when we sin
- **Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* >>God promises to never leave or forsake us
- **Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. ,
Proverbs 3:9-10 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. >>If you give with the right attitude, God promises to bless you beyond measure
- **Proverbs 15:29** The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. >>God promises to hear the prayers of the saved
- **Ephesians 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, >>And then God promises to answer those prayers that are in His will, above anything we can think or imagine

When you take steps of faith, you build off the previous steps, and your faith grows each time God is faithful. You will learn you can trust in the promises of God.

Conclusion:

I'm going to end this with an illustration. You need to understand these 4 points.

1. Hear it.
2. Understand it.
3. See it for yourself.
4. Then Trust it.

Step 1 – Hear it: Newton's law of universal gravitation states that every particle attracts every other particle in the universe with a force which is directly proportional to the square of the distance between their centers. Did you get that?

Step 2 – Understand it: If I hold this bean bag up to shoulder height and let go. Gravity will pull it downwards to the stage.

Step 3 – See it for yourself: Drop the bean bag.

Step 4 – Trust it: Once you've heard it, understood it, and seen it for yourself, it is easy to trust it. You can have: confidence, expectation, faith, hope, assurance, certainty, conviction,

dependence, reliance, stock, sureness. If I held the bean bag up again, you can put your trust in that, when I let go, the bean bag will always fall downwards.

God has made it so simple to trust Him.

1. He's given us the Bible, with many infallible proofs, that you can trust in.
2. He's given us His only begotten Son, in whom we can trust for our salvation.
3. He's given us His promises, that you can trust in and see that He is always faithful.