



### **Class 3. Trust in the Lord and Do Good**

- The more you trust in God, the easier it is to do his will
- This is especially true when you are involved in a conflict
- We trust God because he is Sovereign
- Sovereign means to be supreme, unlimited, and totally independent of any other influence
- God takes a personal interest in even the smallest details of our lives
- The tricky part to grasp is that God's sovereignty is so complete that he exercises ultimate control even over painful and unjust experiences in our lives
- This is hard to accept, because we tend to judge God's actions according to our reality of right and wrong
- God is above us, and we can't judge him based on our reality ([Isa. 29:16](#))
- God allows suffering and permits unjust acts even though he has the power to stop them
- Consider what Peter said about Jesus ([Acts 2:23](#))
- God is Good
- Not only is God in control, God is Good ([Psa. 62:11-12](#))
- The foundation for our trust in God is constructed of both power and love - He is not only in control over us, but he also loves us!
- The fact that God is good does not mean that he will insulate us from all suffering
- Rather it means that he will be with us in our suffering ([Isa. 43:1-2](#))

- God also uses our trials to teach us how to minister to others when they are suffering (2 Cor 1:3-5)
- By allowing suffering in our lives, God teaches us to rely more on him (2 cor. 1:9, 12:7-10)
- The trials he gives us require that we practice the character qualities that make us like our Lord (Rom 5:3-4)
- Trust that God won't give you more than you can handle
- Although you can be sure that God is always working for good in your life and the lives of those around you, you will not always know exactly what good is
- In many cases his purpose will not be evident for a long time, and in some cases they are simply too profound for us to ever comprehend
- Consider Deut. 29:29
- This is the key to dealing faithfully with painful situations and situations that seem unjust
- God may not tell us everything that we WANT to know, but he has already told us everything that we NEED to know
- Instead of wasting time trying to figure things out that are beyond your comprehension, turn your attention to the promises and instructions that God has revealed to you
- God is both sovereign and good so we can trust him
- Trusting God does not mean that we will never have questions, doubts or fears
- Trusting God means that IN SPITE OF our questions, doubts and fears we continue to believe that he is loving, and that he is in control, and that he working for our good
- The Bible is full of people who experienced all kinds of doubt, and yet continued to trust in God
- Job immediately comes to mind (Job 42:2-3)
- Joseph is a great story of trusting in God (Gen 50:19-21)
- David couldn't understand why God would allow evil men to flourish, and wrote about this often
- Peter and Paul were able to sing praises to God even after they had been poorly treated by the authorities

- What is it that allows a person who experiences extremely difficult problems, and wrestles with doubt, to keep going in spite of these challenges?
- Among other things, it is the humility to recognize the limits of your own understanding and wisdom to bow before God's eternal purposes
- Through prayer, study and experience you learn to trust in the sovereignty of God
- This trust releases you from burden of unanswered questions and helps you overcome the fears and doubts that challenge us
- Trust is a decision
- Your view of God will have a profound effect on how much you trust him
- If you don't really believe that he is both sovereign and good, then trusting in him will be hard
- A god who is loving but not in control is simply a "Heavenly Santa Claus" who means well but can't insulate you from trouble and grief - Such a god fails to inspire trust
- On the other hand, if you believe that God is sovereign and good you will be able to trust and obey him in the midst of the most difficult circumstances

## APPLICATION

- When you are involved in a conflict, you must decide whether or not you are going to trust God
- Trusting God does not mean believing that he will do everything that you want, but rather believing that he will do everything that he knows is good for you
- If you don't trust God, you will end up placing trust in either yourself or another person, and that will ultimately lead to grief
- Believe that God is sovereign and that he will never allow anything into your life unless it can be used for your good
- Believe that and you will begin to see conflicts not as problems, but as opportunities
- Consider these questions about your Conflict:
  - 1) Have you been looking at this conflict as something that happened by chance, or as something that God allowed into your life for a specific purpose?
  - 2) What questions, doubts or fears have arisen in your life because of this conflict?

3) How would your feelings, attitudes, and behavior change if you started seeing this dispute as an assignment from a perfectly loving and all powerful God?

4) What good might God bring about if you respond to this conflict in a Godly manner?