

Trusting God

By Jerry Bridges

Chapter 1 - Can You Trust God?

1. List some situations and common occurrences when trusting God isn't easy.
2. The scriptures teach us three essential truths about God, truths we must believe if we are going to be able to trust Him in adversity. They are:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. According to Proverbs 27:1, what should be our perspective on the future?
4. God desires we learn to trust Him. What can we learn about trust from?:
Psalm 32:10

Proverbs 3:5

John 14:1
5. What is the difference between trusting God and obeying God?
6. By reading Hebrews 11:6 & Philippians 2:14 what can be learned about God's interest in our attitude?
7. Read Psalm 9:10 for insights into understanding what it means to "know" God and list reasons why knowing God is more than knowing facts about God.
8. Memorize Psalm 32:10

Trusting God, A Study Guide

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Chapter 2 – Is God in Control?

1. What is God's providence? And what is the purpose or objective of God's providence?
2. What two ways do we many times incorrectly refer to God's providence?
3. What do the below verses teach us about God's sustaining activity?
 - a. Hebrews 1:3

 - b. Colossians 1:17
4. What do the below verses teach us about God's governing powers over the universe?
 - a. 1 Chronicles 29:12

 - b. 1 Timothy 6:15
5. What do the following verses say about God's providence?
 - a. Psalm 31:15

 - b. Psalm 147:8-9

 - c. 2 Corinthians 9:10

 - d. Acts 17:24-28
6. Restate Matthew 10:29-31 in your own words.
7. True/False:
 - a. God is active in the daily affairs of your life. True or False?
 - b. There is not one single event in all of the universe that can occur outside of God's sovereign control. True or False?
 - c. If there is a single event in all of the universe that can occur outside of God's sovereign control then we cannot completely trust Him. True or False?
8. God never permits people to act contrary to His sovereign will. How do the following verses support this statement?
 - a. Proverbs 16:9 –

 - b. Proverbs 19:21 –

 - c. Lamentations 3:37 –

 - d. James 4:13-15 –
9. Memorize Romans 8:28-29.

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Chapter 3 & 4: The Sovereignty of God & God's Sovereignty Over People

1. Confidence in the sovereignty of God in all that affects us is _____ to our trusting Him. If there is a single event in all the universe that can occur outside of God's sovereign control then we cannot trust Him. His love may be infinite, but if His power is _____ and His purpose is _____, we cannot trust Him. (p. 37)
2. From the following passages of scripture what do we learn about man's will and God's will:
 - a. Proverbs 16:9
 - b. Proverbs 19:21
 - c. Proverbs 21:30
 - d. Psalm 115:3
 - e. Isaiah 14:26-27
 - f. Isaiah 46:10
 - f. Ephesians 1:11
 - g. James 4:13-15

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3. Examine the following scriptures for evidence of God's work in the hearts of believers and unbelievers. State the key words used to describe His working.
 - a. Ezra 1:1,5; Ezra 6:22 -
 - b. Proverbs 21:1 -
 - c. Daniel 1:9 -
 - d. 2 Corinthians 8:16-17 -
 - e. Deuteronomy 2:30 -
 - f. Joshua 11:20 -

4. Read Exodus 4:21 and Exodus 8:15. Who is given the responsibility for Pharaoh's hard heart in each of these verses?

5. God's restraining influence on people's actions and decisions is seen in the following verses. Complete the chart for each verse:

What action did God prevent?	What emotion did God influence?
Genesis 20:1-7	
Genesis 35:5	
Exodus 34:23-24	

6. According to the following verses, how do the sinful actions of man affect God's purposes?
 - a. Genesis 50:20
 - b. Acts 4:27-28
 - c. Revelation 17:15-18

7. Memorize Isaiah 46:10: I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

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Chapter 5: “God’s Rule Over the Nations

1.

Name of ruler	Official action	Prophecy fulfilled
Matthew 2:13-16		Hosea 11:1
Matthew 2:17-18		Jeremiah 31:15
Matthew 2:21-23		Isaiah 9:1
Luke 2:1-4		Micah 5:2
Acts 4:27-28		Isaiah 53:3-6

2. What truths are taught about governments and rulers in the following verses:

a. Proverbs 16:9,33

b. Proverbs 21:31

c. Isaiah 40:22-24

d. Daniel 4:31-32

e. Romans 13:1-4

3. What responsibilities do we have toward our government?

a. Romans 13:1-7

b. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

4. According to Daniel 9:1-19, what was Daniel’s response when he realized that Israel’s exile in Babylon was almost over?

5. What is promised in the following verses?

a. Matthew 28:18-20

b. Revelation 7:9-10

c. How can you respond to these promises?

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Chapter 6: “God’s Power Over Nature”

1. Summarize in your own words what each of these verses says about God’ role in natural phenomena:
 - a. Job 37:3, 6, 10-13
 - b. Psalm 147:8, 16-18
 - c. Jeremiah 10:13; 14:22
 - d. Amos 4:7-9
2. What is God taking responsibility for in Exodus 4:11 and Isaiah 45:7?
3. Read John 9:1-3. Explain in your own words the reason Jesus gives for the man’s blindness.
4. What does God teach us about the conception of children in these verses? If a couple is unable to have children, how can these verses help them maintain a trusting attitude toward God?
 - a. Genesis 16:2
 - b. Genesis 29:31
 - c. Judges 13:3
 - d. 1 Samuel 1:5
 - e. Psalm 139:13
5. How can coming to grips with the fact that God is in control of nature affect your daily life, especially your current circumstances?
6. Memorize Habakkuk 3:17-19: “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.”

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Chapter 7: “God’s Sovereignty & Our Responsibility”

1. Read Nehemiah 4:6-9. a.) In what two ways did the Israelites respond to the threat of attack? b.) What does their response indicate about their understanding of the relationship between prayer and prudence?
2. Read Acts 4:23-31. a.) What effect do you think this prayer had on the believers who were praying? b.) What specific requests did the believers make? c.) How does Matthew 28:19-20 help explain their confidence in prayer? d.) What specific applications to your own prayer life can you make from the example of this prayer?
3. Read the account of the violent storm, recorded in Acts 27:13-44. a.) When God revealed that he would deliver Paul and all his shipmates, Paul trusted God and His promise of deliverance. Even so, Paul didn’t passively expect God to do the work that He had equipped the sailors to do. Make a list of all the actions that were taken that helped fulfill God’s promise that they would all reach land safely.

What relationship does this story (Acts 27:13-44) show between God’s sovereignty and our responsibility?

4. Are you currently involved in building anything? (not necessarily a physical structure, it could be an organization, a relationship, etc.). If so what is it? How is the Lord involved in your building? In what areas of your life are you like a watchman guarding the city?
5. Memorize Philippians 4:6-7:

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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Chapter 8: “The Wisdom of God”

1. Fill in the blanks from the page where Jerry Bridges provides a definition of wisdom. He quotes J.L. Dagg’s definition of wisdom: “as consisting in the selection of the best _____ of action, and the adoption of the best means for the _____ of this end”. God is infinitely wise, because He selects the best possible end of action... [and] because He adopts the best possible means for accomplishment of the end which He has in view.”
2. **True or False?**: God never has to agonize over a decision. He even does not have to deliberate within Himself or consult others outside of Himself. His wisdom is intuitive, infinite, and infallible:
3. What does Psalm 147:5 teach us about God’s wisdom?
4. What is the best possible end of all of God’s actions? See John 15:8; Romans 1:21; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 1:12,14; Revelation 4:11; Revelation 5:13; Revelation 15:4.
5. The wisdom of God is displayed when He brings good to us and glory to Himself out of confusion and calamity rather than out of pleasant times. What do we learn about the hostile world we live in according to 1 Peter 5:8, Luke 22:31, and Job 1:12 & Job 2:6?
6. What is the “good” referring to in Romans 8:28?
7. According to Hebrews 12:10-11 and Psalm 119:71, what do we learn about God’s infinite wisdom in knowing s exactly what our needs sometime really are?
8. At the conclusion of the book of Job, we read of a conversation between God and Job. What can we conclude from reading Job 42:5 regarding, at least, one of the results God had in mind for Job through his trials?
9. What same truth are Job 42:3 and Psalm 131:1 teaching us (see p. 127)?

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Chapter 9: “Knowing God’s Love”

1. What observations about God’s love can you make from these verses?
 - a. Psalm 103:11

 - b. Isaiah 54:10

 - c. Zephaniah 3:17

 - d. Romans 8:38-39
2. How does God feel about punishing the wicked? (Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9)
3. How does God feel about the afflictions He allows us to suffer when we sin? (Lamentations 3:32-33)
4. In what event do we see the supreme demonstration of God’s love for us? (1 John 4:9-10)
5. Restate Romans 5:6-8 in your own words
6. What experiences in your life have tempted you to doubt God’s love?
7. When you have doubted God’s love, what has helped you regain your confidence in His love for you?
8. What can we learn from Hebrews 12:5-11 about why God disciplines us?
9. Summarize what God promises in the following verses:
 - a. Psalm 32:10
 - b. Isaiah 41:10

 - c. Isaiah 43:2-3

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Chapter 10: “Experiencing God’s Love”

1. Based on Ephesians 1:3-6, how does being “in Christ affect God’s love for us?
2. How does John 15:1-8 describe our relationship with Jesus?
3. What does pruning have to do with love (John 15:2)?
4. What did Jeremiah express in Lamentations 3:17-24?
5. What can we learn from Hebrews 12:5-11 about why God disciplines us?
6. Summarize what God promises in the following verses:
 - a. Psalm 32:10
 - b. Isaiah 41:10
 - c. Isaiah 43:2-3

Chapter 11: “Trusting God For Who You Are”

1. What truth is being taught in the following verses?
 - a. Job 10:8-11
 - b. Psalm 119:73
 - c. Psalm 139:13-14
2. Re-state in your own words the truths taught in these verses:
 - a. Job 14:5
 - b. Psalm 31:15
 - c. Psalm 139:16
 - d. Acts 17:26

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Chapter 12: “Growing Through Adversity”

1. Think about the fruit of the spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. How does adversity encourage each of the following:
 - a. Love
 - b. Joy
 - c. Peace
 - d. Patience
 - e. Kindness
 - f. Goodness
 - g. Faithfulness
 - i. Gentleness
 - j. self-control
2. Which of these have grown in your life through adversity?
3. Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4. What should our attitude be in the midst of adversity, and why?
4. How did Jesus maintain this attitude (Hebrews 12:2)?
5. What does Philippians 1:6 say about our spiritual growth?
6. What happens when we resist God’s working in our lives through adversity?
7. What warning is given to us in Job 36:21?
8. According to John 15:2 what is the purpose of God’s pruning?
9. What is the connection between adversity (or discipline) and holiness, as expressed in Hebrews 12:10?
10. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 and 12:10. How does adversity teach us to depend on God?
11. Hebrews 10:36 and 12:1 speak of the need to persevere. What is the goal of our perseverance?
 - a. How can we learn to persevere (see question #3)?
12. Why does suffering deepen the fellowship between believers?
13. What does Psalm 34:18 say about how adversity affects our relationship with God?

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Chapter 13 & 14: “Choosing to Trust God” & “Giving Thanks Always”

1. Read Psalm 56:3-4 and 1 Samuel 21:10-15, which is the historical setting for the psalm. What emotions was David experiencing at the time he wrote the psalm? (1 Samuel 21:10-12)
 - a. How much trust in God did David show in 1 Samuel 21:13? Why do you think this?
 - b. When David chose to trust God, how did his feelings change (Psalm 56:3-4)?
2. What attitude did Job express in Job 23:8-10?
 - a. In times of distress we must be careful that our feelings do not mislead us. Do Job’s feelings contradict the truth of Hebrews 13:5. Why or Why not?.
3. What contrast is made in Proverbs 18:10-11?
 - a. Do you get your sense of security from your achievements and possessions or from the Lord? How do your actions reflect this?
4. What does God promise us in Psalm 50:15?
 - a. What do we need to do after God answers our call, according to this verse?
 - b. In what specific ways might you do this?

Chapter 14: “Giving Thanks Always”

5. Read Luke 17:11-19. What two human responses to a blessing are illustrated in this event?
 - a. According to Acts 17:24-25 and 1 Corinthians 4:7, why should we be thankful?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7. Why was Paul given a “thorn in the flesh”?
 - a. Why does God cherish humility in us (James 4:6)?