



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Numbers, Deuteronomy Sermon Series

Supports Session 5: Lack of Trust

Sermon Title: "Trusting the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6)

---

### Connection to Session 5

Our group Bible study this morning showed a significant lack of trust displayed by Moses, Aaron, and the children of Israel. This lack of trust yielded ramifications beyond the moment. Today's sermon will outline a biblical call to trust in the Lord. We will also see the promise God bestows upon those who trust Him.

### Introduction/Opening

We may not think this to be true, but we are trusting people. If we open a can of corn and eat the contents, we trust those who put the corn in the can. If we follow the directions our GPS provides to our desired direction, we trust our GPS to not lead us astray. If we sit in our pews this morning, we trust those who built them did their jobs in such a manner that we will not fall down. Since we are trusting people, let's look at a passage this morning that tells us not only who to trust, but how to trust and what benefits this will bring us.

### Outline

#### 1. Who should we trust? The Lord.

Soloman was the author of this text. He was the son of King David and considered to be the wisest man in the world at the time. In all of his wisdom, he called the people he led to trust in the Lord. To best understand this verse, it is helpful if we understand what the word "Lord" means. Simply put, Lord means boss. If God is Lord, then He is boss. If God is boss, then I am not. Since God is boss and I am not, it would be wise for me to trust in Him and His leadership in my life.

Some may instantly say they are not able to trust in someone they cannot see or talk to directly. Has anyone met the line worker who put the corn in the can we bought from the local store? Has anyone spoken with the people who constructed the pews we are sitting on today? Most, if not all of us, would say no to these questions. Yet, we still eat our food and sit in our pews. We are trusting people, and our calling is to trust in the Lord.

Let's look at one more important point. We are called to trust in the Lord, and this is not a blind trust. Paul, a prominent author in the New Testament, stated the God has clearly revealed Himself through His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, as seen through His creation (Rom. 1:18-20). Also, if we have ever witnessed someone personally change as a direct result of knowing and following Jesus, we know that only God can do this. He is seen and He calls us to trust Him.

## **2. How should we trust the Lord? With all our heart.**

Let's say that we all gathered together for a wedding. When the doors at the back of the church open, the groom fights back the tears and the father of the bride lost the same fight long ago. As the service continues, the pastor asks the groom if he is fully committed to loving his bride until the Lord returns or death separates. What would the response be if the groom said, he would love her 99% of the time? While 99% is a large portion, his answer would cause a gasp within the congregation. Nothing less than 100% is acceptable and we all know this.

God is calling us to the same thing. He does not want us to trust Him with some of our heart, or even most of our heart. He wants us to trust Him with all our heart. We can look at the cross of Jesus and determine that God loves us so much that "He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Therefore, God is not calling us to trust Him any less than He loves us. God has already shown His love to us on the cross and in an empty tomb. Now is our time to trust Him with all that we are.

## **3. Who should we not rely upon? Ourselves.**

When given a task, it is typically helpful to know what to do and what not to do. While trusting in the Lord is much more than a simple one-time task, we can still be grateful for the fact that the passage tells us what to do and not do. As we trust in the Lord with all our heart, we are not to rely upon our own understanding.

One way we may see this occur is our own understanding of salvation. The world may tell us that we are good people and because of this we will get to go to heaven. The Lord has a different plan. The Scriptures tell us that we are all sinners in need of a Savior (Rom. 3:23). Scripture also tells us the wages of sin is death and while we were sinners Christ died for us (Rom. 6:23; 5:8). Finally, we learn that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved (Rom. 10:9). This is a much different story from relying upon our own so-called goodness for salvation.

## **4. What is the benefit of trusting the Lord? A straight path.**

When a king was going to enter into a new place, a servant would go out in front of the king to make a straight path to the destination. The king then had a choice to make—would he travel the path the servant made straight, or would he risk going out on his own?

We have a Servant King who has made a straight path to the Father for us. He came to this earth, lived a perfectly submissive life to the Father's will, was crucified, died, and buried. Yet, three days later, He rose from the tomb, conquered death, and now sits in power at the right hand of the Father. He has made a straight path for us and calls us to trust Him.

## **Conclusion**

We learned at the start of this sermon that we are truly trusting people. We trust so many others, whom we have not met, and yet blindly follow them. Today's message is calling us to trust Jesus, whom we can see in the Scriptures, His creation, and the changed lives around us. Let us all reflect upon these truths and make sure that we are truly trusting Him for our eternal security and not relying upon our own faulty understanding.

*Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Wartrace, TN, and he is serving as the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.*

*All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.*