

Things That are Needed in the Church (II)
Learning to Trust God
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Introduction: We can see in life that men often substitute words for action.

A. I have met many in the church who confess that they believe, but in truth they do not.

1. It is possible to believe, that is have an intellectual assent. (**Jn 12:42**)
2. This "dead" faith is not a "living faith." (**Jas 2:14-18, 26**)
3. What is a living faith? Some describe it as trust, a willingness to put one's life at risk by submitting to God. (**Gal 5:6**)
4. In this definition we include repentance and any other command God places before the Christian. (**Jn 8:31-32**)

B. We will examine the components of a living faith.

1. We must never be satisfied with a faith that will only confess facts. (**Jas 2:19**)
2. Someone could be a good preacher, teacher, etc., but not have a living faith.
3. Our faith must be maintained! When we sin, it is a failure of our faith. (**Heb 3:12-13, 19**)

Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done.

I. We must be able to see the unseen.

A. Faith is based upon reasonable evidence. (**Heb 11:1, 6**)

1. In every sermon of the apostles in the book of Acts they presented a reasoned presentation of evidence. (**Acts 2:16, 32, 36; 8:30-35**)
2. When you know that Jesus is the Son of God then that is all the evidence you need. (**2 Cor 4:13-14**)
3. God will not always give you evidence, however, as to the "why" he commands you to do something!

B. Our faith also has an object, God. (**Heb 11:6**)

1. We not only must know that God exist, but we must come to "know God." (**1 Jn 4:6-8; Titus 1:16**)
2. What is your God like? Sometimes I hear of those living in sin who glibly proclaim: "My God is not like that." No, their God is not like that rather their God is a product of men. (**Rom 1:21-22; Gal 4:8**)
3. What are the characteristics of God that make Him trustworthy? (**Psa 18:30; 22:4-5; 36:7**)
4. Why does the Old Testament give us hope? (**Rom 15:4**)

It is not our trust that keeps us, but the God in whom we trust who keeps us.

Oswald Chambers (1874–1917)

II. We must be willing to go against our experience.

A. How far will we trust God?

1. The Bible is filled with examples where one plainly knew what God said, but from their experience it made no sense. Still they obeyed. Here is trust.

Trustfulness is based on confidence in God, whose ways I do not understand. If I did, there would be no need for trust.

2. Consider Peter in his fishing. (**Lk 5:4-8**)

3. How did Joshua take Jericho? (**Heb 11:30**)

B. Why do we do this when our experience is crying out: "stop!"

1. Why did Abraham believe God would give him a son? (**Rom 4:17-24**)

2. Do we have this kind of faith?

III. We must be willing to put ourselves at risk.

A. It is hard to obey when there is a price to pay and your experience says: "stop!"

1. This kind of faith was seen in Abraham's giving of Isaac! (**Heb 11:17-19**)

2. Some may think: "God will never put me through this." You are wrong!
(**1 Pet 1:5-9**)

3. God will often make us face our worst fears! (Ex. Catching wasp nests)

B. What might your faith cost you?

1. Your family. (**Mt 10:32-37**)

2. Your marriage. (**Mt 19:9-12**)

3. Your job. (**Lk 10:21-27**)

4. Your time.

5. Your rights.

5. Your life.

C. Why would we give these things up?

1. Because we trust God! (**Mk 10:28-31**)

2. All I need to know: "Is this God's will?" Then everything else is OK!

3. Have you surrendered you will to God?

4. This is the essence of why we can forgive another. (**Mt 18:20-21, 35**)

IV. We must be willing to test God.

A. When I speak of testing I mean a confident standing on the promises of God.

1. There is a testing that is sinful. Here one tries to make God prove Himself out of unbelief. (**Mt 4:6-7**)

2. God will not honor one who comes to Him in unbelief. (**Jas 1:6-7**)

3. God does want us to test Him in faith. (**Mal 3:10**)

B. How do you view the promises of God? (**2 Pet 1:3-4**)

1. When our Bible Study becomes boring, we have lost our faith!

2. When we really believe we will rejoice at the small cost our faith requires of us. (**Mt 13:44-46**)

Conclusion: Have you ever trusted God?

A. Often we must be sick of this deceitful untrustworthy world before we can come to God. Consider the Phillipian jailer. (**Acts 16:26-30**)

B. What did the jailer do? (**Acts 16:30-34**)

1. Here we see that the end was rejoicing! He now trusted God.

2. Can you see or are you blind?