

# CROSSTRAINING

*discipleship series 2022*

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## Trusting & Trustworthy

Proverbs 3:5-6

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways **acknowledge** Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

The Holy Spirit is teaching us 2 things in life:

- How to trust the Lord
- How to be trustworthy ourselves

It is vital we **acknowledge** the Lord in all our life events prior to making decisions – shows trust. *What do we mean by acknowledge the Lord? What else does this do for us?*

It Sets context – acknowledge and worship of Him allows me to walk through whatever season of development I’m in. We must confess and declare who God is for us! *Rev 12:11 – “They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.....”*

Everything the Father does in our lives is for the purpose primarily of building a relationship with us. Heaven works on a relational paradigm whose prime purpose is to love & build relationship. Ministry comes second.

The World works on a functional paradigm – task oriented, get job done – work first and leftovers given to relationship.

When we **acknowledge** the place God has in our hearts, we are more able to hear His voice and know His mind. Time spent in waiting on the Lord will enable us to see His Presence and His hand on things. Having a passion for rejoicing and thanksgiving gives us access to a higher dimension of peace and rest where we are lifted up to recognize a different perspective. Trust is easier the higher up we go in the affections of the Father.

To summarize: Acknowledgement Looks Like:

- Fellowship with the Father
- We confess & declare who God is for us
- We worship our testimony back to Him



- We love, adore, and give thanks for who He is
- We rejoice in Him – speak out our pleasure in who He is – passionately outspoken in our praise
- Focused, intentional, and highly personal worship

### Rejoicing Worship

- Is standard for a life with the Spirit
- Without it, our mind has no defense against anxiety
- Anxious situations overwhelm us unless we become consumed by who God is for us
- Rejoicing produces such an amazing sense of well-being that trust becomes the consequence of confidence
- Trust is a by-product of rejoicing – as we give thanks, we experience God's Presence and trust comes with Him because He is imminently trustworthy. *Trust is not something I have to call up in myself. It is massively provoked in me by God's Presence.*
- As I rejoice, He fills all in all with Himself. He generates trust in me by His beauty, His integrity, His very nature!

### Rejoicing is an incredible aid to faith

- Faith & worry cannot inhabit the same space at the same time – one has to go and we choose which one
- Trust & anxiety – are mutually incompatible – one has to go – we choose
- Power & Fearfulness – one robs the other of life and expression

We can choose the negative option by default. Not choosing positively puts us in the category of victim. We are overcome rather than being more than conquerors!

*In all the circumstances of life, the Father is teaching us **how to relate to Him** by rejoicing praying and giving thanks. These all lead to trust in the nature of God and faith in the operation of God on our behalf.*

So, what does it look like to TRUST Him?

Not being worried, anxious, fearful

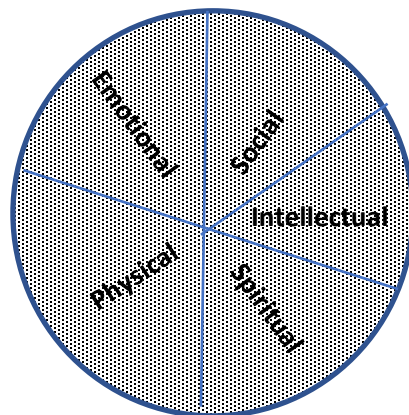
When we speak out our trust (Rev. 12), our spirit pushes away the negative.

When fear grips our hearts, negative faith (unbelief) rules our minds. Negative faith occurs when we believe that nothing is going to change. We are stuck with how things are now, or we believe that we will never be any good. **We often have more faith that we can't make it, than in the love of God to enable us to succeed by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Two Ways to trust God (we all have two relationships with Him)

<b>Vertical – Spiritual Presence</b>	<b>Horizontal – Powerful Relationships</b>
<b>Relate to God one-on-one</b>	We access the Father through the relationships He places around us
<b>We access all that He is and can do, personally</b>	Faith – “you can borrow mine”

We are made in the Image of God to be more than just “spiritual” beings. (Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*)



Friends and family are a crucial part of our discipling and development. There are times when God chooses to come to us through our friends like He did for David with Jonathan. The Father has chosen human friends in order to come to us in a different reality.

God uses friends to ground that spiritual growth in the natural – in reality of living. If it works in the Spirit, it must be worked out in life. When God shows up in our weaknesses, it is our friends and family who get to be part of our training in discipleship (we work out our salvation on one another).

Spiritual Maturity: Fathers don't give up on us – they are essentially redemptive! See everyone through lens of the Father looking at Jesus. Point people to their freedom.

Everything is Relational

When we understand how God interacts with us:

- We grow in confidence
- We know what God is doing in us
- We know what He is doing through us
- We spend time in His presence receiving revelation, guidance, and love

But – this is not usually an immediate experience. Waiting on God takes patience – there is a “perfect” time for everything. Ecclesiastes 3:1 – *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven”*

We have to resist the urge to doubt God when things take longer to happen than we want or expect. We live in Christ, not our circumstances. He is our rest and peace. **We do not try to apply peace to our life situations. Peace comes from the heart, not the head. Peace is relational, not circumstantial.**

- Rejoicing and true thanksgiving produce peace and rest
- Rejoicing and giving thanks from the heart will always overpower anything negative
- Rejoicing from the mind gives only temporary relief.
- Rejoicing from the heart changes our lifestyle (*how do we know if we are using the mind or heart?*)
- Thanksgiving is not casual; it’s an experience of the Lord’s joy that liberates us to rejoice.
- Joy is the abiding atmosphere of Heaven, and so it changes our internal atmosphere permanently
- Joy is who God is; rejoicing is our response to who God is! We can abide in joy simply because He does.

CONFIDENCE is a lifestyle that emanates out of our internal abiding atmosphere. Do not just visit the nature of God; live in Him. Abide in Him, and He will abide in you (Jn 15:1-11). Confidence is the consequence of Abiding. It is part of our inheritance with the Father. He is our inheritance!

Our inheritance and our guidance are tied to our relationship with God. I want to run and not be weary; I want to walk and not faint. This boundless, sustained energy only comes from spending time with God. We can’t receive it through the laying on of hands or some other form of ministry – it only flows from resting in the Lord. As mature Christians, we must stop asking people to pray for us to receive something that can only come through our own relationship with God.

Should we pray for people? Of course. But we shouldn’t develop a culture that says a person needs that prayer to survive another week spiritually. Every Christian needs to learn how to wait on the Lord, how to bring themselves to rest in Him, and how to simply be still.

Sometimes, instead of praying for someone, we should be checking what they believe: “What are you not believing about God that is causing you to feel this way or do these things?”

“Are you clinging to an old or incorrect idea about God?”



*1 Corinthians 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

To inherit this gift, we have to live in Him. We must enter the place He has set aside for us in Christ. The goal of all our gatherings is to establish each of us in that relationship with Jesus. We have a personal responsibility to the Holy Spirit to learn how to abide and stay in Christ. Taking care of our relationship with Him is our top priority.

How do we do this?

- Declaring – "the word of their testimony" – speaking His Word over us
- Orienting to the scripture
- Abiding – time in stillness & quiet, contemplation, retreat, focus
- Rejoicing – worship and praise
- Expressing gratefulness – speaking it, noticing, paying attention



"Prophetic Wisdom"  
Graham Cooke