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***Trust***

**T**he matter of trust permeates our lives. Why don't people trust in God? They trust the glass in buildings, they trust that certain prices will go up while others will go down, they trust that the mailman will bring their mail, and they even place some trust in the vicious dog that is said to bite. People trust just about anything, but they have the hardest time to trust God. Why? It is because Satan has blinded us with fear that we don't want to trust. When we trust, we risk getting hurt.

Think of how suspicion came about. Basically, Eve mistrusted God's word and began to consider what Lucifer had to say. She believed that his words were real and began to doubt God's. But look where it got her and the rest of humanity. Why is it that we still trust Satan's words over God's? Trust in God has to be restored—and we are the ones who must do it.

**W**e know that God created all things and we realize that God is also our creator. We know that the mighty universe, nuclear energy, high technology, and every other element came from God's infinite creativity. The whole universe is such a tremendous "something" which mankind has not yet been able to fully comprehend. And we certainly have not yet grasped the totality of God.

When we really think about these circumstances and realize just what an amazing force God really is, how can we *not* trust in God? Can't we trust that His principles will work in our lives if we apply them? Can we challenge the power of God and the validity of His laws? Why *shouldn't* we trust God? The problem is that God is an entity we cannot see. And that very fact seems to make all the difference to us. We are used to the tangible world and trusting what we see or at least can understand as a natural law. Think about it. We often don't trust someone's emotions or the words "I love you" simply because they too are invisible.

Most of us don't think twice about going up in skyscrapers. We rationalize that glass will protect us from falling out. It is that very real and tangible glass which supplants our fear. The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France is old and rusty and has no protective glass around it. When you go to the top and look down, you might feel as if nothing supports you. *That* is a place where we may have cause to fear, but basically unless someone is specifically afraid of heights, he is not overly concerned about going up in the Eiffel Tower, and probably concentrates more on looking at the view.

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Part of human or fallen nature manifests in the inability or difficulty

to trust. This stems from the fact that the human race has been disappointed and abused by Satan. And he still runs rampant today.

In the last war, many good people stood up for their homeland or ideology and were exploited. Many good and innocent people died. Those who survived did not know who should be blamed. Some looked heavenward and accused God. Then in a type of self-defense they cried out that this would never happen again, and silently resolved not to trust Him any more. But even today Satan still works to divide man from God, and one human being from another. We have blamed wars and divisions on other people or other things. This has gone on for thousands of years. So many people throughout history never recognized the real culprit, Satan. To root out the cause and begin to trust people and even to trust God is a real, but very arduous, challenge.

Why don't we trust God? It seems easier to trust a living person; therefore even though you may not know everything about your spouse, you no doubt have already investigated and for one thing, discovered that your mate could be trusted in many areas. It is the same thing with God. When you got "married" to God, you still may not have known too much about Him. Weathering the good times and the bad together with your spouse will teach you about him or her, and the same is true of our relationships with God, True Parents, and spirit world. It is important to learn to trust; that is the essence of the vertical relationship. It is also the lifeblood of the horizontal—the interhuman—relationships. And as in so many other areas of life, experience makes the master.

Most problems we have in trusting another person can actually be traced back to self-centeredness. It is because people generally revolve around themselves that they find it hard to trust others. They think, "What decision am I going to make? What can I do now? What is the best for me? Why not turn that around and ask God, "What do You want me to do? What decision did You make for me?" If you come to that point, then in no time you will be back with the team that God coaches. But if you feel life is merely a spectator sport, you will find yourself on the sidelines and in trouble. My recommendation is to "get wet" all at once. Just get on the high board and jump off into the water—trust.

God did not run away from us. We abandoned God and we are the ones who have to walk back home to Him. We have to knock on the door

before God can answer us. God is awaiting our call and ready to respond. The closer we come to God, the more we will trust Him. We will be able to distinguish His facial features the nearer we get; finally we will be face-to-face. But if we stay far away from Him, then we cannot be sure if who we see is God or somebody else.

We need to believe that God is at the end of the path we are now traveling. Despite our need to trust God, it is actually God who must come to trust us. When He sees that we are headed in the right direction, He has to trust that we will not go sideways or backwards, but that we will keep making steps forward. If we continue to make progress, we will gain His trust and finally He *will* be able to embrace us.

When we trust in God, we will not only believe but *know* that we are forgiven of our sins. In fact, we make God smaller if we do not develop that level of trust.

God is the Creator of this entire universe. He designed everything in such a fashion that the essence of beauty and love would exist everywhere and in fact would envelop the interrelationships between mankind and the whole creation. He created each being to ultimately find happiness and joy. As we develop our relationship to God and come ever closer to Him, we also naturally develop a greater trust in Him. We trust God because we see how He works not only in our life but in the world. And as we see more and more of His power, almightiness, omnipotence, and love, that level of trust only deepens. One way we can develop a very close relationship of trust in God is by nurturing and strengthening our life of prayer.

Ultimately, trust has nothing to do with the question of whether or not you will run away or shirk your responsibility. It has much more to do with being a lord over creation.

If you are not superficial but instead share your astute observations with others, people will respect your character. To become trusted as a person of our word is indeed a great triumph.

If you have to walk or drive over a certain bridge many times a day, you have no choice but to trust that the bridge will hold. Such reliance is

subconscious; people go back and forth not giving a thought to whether they should trust the work of the builder and the architect.

We all trust people to some extent, yet God is a much better architect than the one who planned and engineered a bridge or elevator. And He has more foresight and insight than any food or car manufacturer. We trust that the brakes of our car will not give out; we trust that the food we buy in the market is not poisonous. But most human beings falter and doubt when it comes to trusting GOD—the very one who created the people who did the designing or manufacturing. People trust that motorists will stop at red lights, and even cross the street when cars are coming; they even "trust" drunk drivers. Then why is it so hard for us to trust God?

Ignorance is the first point which makes you resist trusting in God—not knowing about God, not being able to feel God, not accepting His omnipotence and almightiness. Yet if you face the fact and believe there is a God and a spirit world and that some day each of us will die physically, then you can no longer have a major problem with it. If we really knew how powerful God is, we would do whatever He told us. Trusting in God will give us tremendous spiritual power.

Rather than being taciturn, be vocal about your reliance on God! Tell Him that you trust Him with all your heart. When we trust someone, we put our life into that person's hands. I urge you to place your life into the hands of God and True Parents. I believe that our whole view of life changes when our basic attitude toward God is one of trust.

**A**lthough we have to rely upon God, we should not forget to trust ourselves. You have every reason to believe in yourself, especially when you have a strong connection to God and He is able to work through you. And that takes developing faith in the power of God and reliance in the power of prayer. Whenever you pray for something, never doubt it will happen!

**S**piritual growth is a process; you will find that you do not stay on the same level at all times. And I see that such growth depends quite heavily upon how you develop trust. Once you place trust in people, you also have trust in God. And when you trust God, your trust in other people will follow as a matter of course. You are subconsciously suspicious of others because you have been disappointed before. Therefore, it seems too hard to come out of that shell and risk trusting people again. Through give and take, we have to build a new foundation of belief in others. That very action will help solidify all our relationships.

It is a great achievement if you are able to trust your superiors. It is an equally great achievement if they are able to trust you. If all of us could come to trust God and True Parents, so much more harmony would be generated. Yet we have to start on lower levels—in our immediate family, for instance. If we can rely upon the members of our family without compromise or reservation, then we can accomplish the same thing with God, and ultimately other people.

Suspicion is a part of human nature. Unfortunately, it is far too widespread. Yet living a life of faith should help us overcome the element of mistrust, and develop the ability to trust each other more.

If you are able to trust another person, you elevate him and yourself at the same time. You give value to a person when you trust him. You praise his qualities of heart and intellect, and even his humanness. That action in itself praises his qualities of perception and compassion. And because we are created in His image, we indirectly glorify and trust God at the same time.

Trust in God. He has the greatest power, wisdom, and love. He can create the miracles you are waiting for in your life. Why do you have to be timid? Accomplishing the will of God and trusting in Him should go hand-in-hand. If you do God's bidding, He *has* to respond. And when you see that He does, this in turn will generate a greater trust from your side. You can learn reliance upon God by doing His will, but there is a reciprocal relationship involved. God can also develop more trust in you, giving you greater responsibility and ultimately, greater blessings!

If we want to live a life of faith but do not trust in God, we are just wasting our time. Trusting God is perhaps the single most important element in living a spiritual life. God always wonders, "Can I trust this person? Does he follow Me conscientiously? Does he do My will?" True Parents test us for they also need to develop trust in us. And we even test each other: "Is he *really* a friend of mine? Or will he betray me after three months? Will he defend and support me ten years from now, or are his words just a cloud of smoke?" Trust is an essential quality. We develop spiritually and emotionally when we cultivate fundamental trust in God.

You are an integral part of God. And the more you experience that God lives within you, the more you will see how close you are to God. Trust is the very shortest route of travel from heart to heart. Recognize that God is the right chamber of the heart, and you are the left chamber. You are essen-

tial to one another. But unless you trust one another, will the lifeblood be able to pump freely between those chambers and to the rest of the body?

Your inner security, stability, and the ability to overcome inferiority complexes can only develop in measure to how strongly you are connected to God. Any detrimental characteristic which you may have developed can be eliminated only through deepening your faith in God. The next step is to become totally one with Him on the basis of that faith. You have to first trust in God and *then* learn how to live with Him. As you do, you only become stronger. Your insecurities do not come from God but are induced by your *separation* from Him. If you are connected to Him through strong prayer power and the bond of trust, you will be effective and successful in everything you do.

Once while visiting the Chung Pa Dong church in Korea, I noticed Heung Jin Nim standing in the window. He was perhaps five years old at the time. He was only two or three yards away from me, and he jumped out toward me because he had the faith I would catch him. And luckily I did! To me it exemplifies such a precious example of trust.

That is the kind of feeling and attitude we should have toward God—that we can throw ourselves into His arms.

Trust is an important facet which harmonizes any relationship—between you and God, True Parents, your superior, your mate, your relatives, your children, and your friends. When absolute trust exists in a marital relationship, love develops. If the partners are united through the bonding element of trust, they can be separated by many thousands of miles, yet will trust each other implicitly.

What do you do when you start having problems? Examine yourself. Can you honestly say that you tapped God's reservoir of love and power? Perhaps your receptacle to receive love is somehow obstructed. Unclog it and God's love can once again flow through you.

You need guts to go places. You even need guts to trust. Living the Principle entails being bold and strong—having guts. And that primarily has to do with trusting in God. There is no reason to be afraid if we know and accept who God is, who True Parents are, and who *we* are. If you trust in

God, you *can* be bold and strong. Yet how much can you do if you only rely on your own power and capability? How can you be strong if you don't trust in God? All power comes from Him.

Since I joined the Unification movement, Father has basically been my only leader. Twenty-two years ago I was like a young child spiritually. But even as a spiritual child, I had to stand on my own feet. The power of God was my constant companion; I could not have survived without that. It does not matter if you are spiritually old or young—two weeks or twenty years. What is important is that you make harmony with our eternal Source, God. Through the many years since becoming a Unificationist, I have cultivated a tremendously intimate relationship with God. But I went through countless trials and struggles. At times I felt so much spiritual pressure, I occasionally had to scream just to release it. But all of this taught me something about belief, and about how necessary it is that we trust in God.

I was the lone pioneer to Austria. Even though I was married and had a child, I left my family behind to work for God. I dropped all my business dealings and associates, and in a sense everyone turned against me and ridiculed me. But I trusted in God and simply persevered. Once I discovered that the Messiah is on earth, I felt I had no choice but to follow him. Although I had many spiritual experiences, I did not really need them because I never doubted his identity. I trusted that it was just a matter of time before the future plans Father shared with us would come to fruition. And the things he talked about twenty or even ten years ago now *have* been accomplished.

Even twenty-two years ago I spoke to people as if I had a congregation of two thousand in front of me. I told them that Heaven was just around the corner. A certain person said to me, "When you have your congregation call me. Let me know when Heaven is here, and I'll come then." I really painted word pictures for the people, telling them how beautiful and glorious it would be. I was convinced of God's and True Parents' victory. It was just too early for those other people. Yet the element of my trust in God was solid. I believed then as much as I do today: both He and His plan of restoration are real.

A person who is in the position of following a leader may say, "I just don't trust that leader." But the real question is whether the leader is able to trust the follower. It is much easier to have trust in God and people once you are on a higher spiritual plane because you see more and have a broader overview. You see the personality. You see the heart. And because you possess greater vision, you are naturally much more sensitive. If you have a

narrow view and are generally insensitive to others, you may end up becoming suspicious of everybody.

Once you commit yourself—your life—to God and True Parents and you even receive the Blessing, your life should be left in God's hands. It has already become His responsibility. You simply have to fulfill *your* portion.

Do you ever feel small and inadequate? A feeling of sincere humility is fine, but an overwhelming feeling of inferiority strong enough to suffocate you spiritually, comes from Satan not God. By allowing yourself to feel this way, you actually show disrespect for God. I advise you to nurture greater trust in Him. If you trust in God, then you automatically trust in True Parents at the same time. And if you trust in True Parents, then you come to trust in yourself. Believe that you are accepted by God as His child. If you accept that fact, how can you regard yourself as anything less?

A leader may often be disappointed when people don't fulfill the directions he gives. Even though he places trust in them, they may lack the initiative or the resources to get the job done. But God must feel similarly. Throughout history, so few people lived up to His expectations and fulfilled His will. The same is true for Father; he has no recourse but to trust us. Even if he reprimands us for the mistakes we make, in the end he says, "Do better from now on. I trust you."

God trusts certain individuals again and again despite their personal discrepancies and inconsistencies, and despite their inability to carry out His instructions. He simply has no one else. If an individual makes mistakes, a leader may trust that same person again, but not because he is being duped by him. We all are imperfect and we are in need of second, even third chances. It is the nature of God never to shut the door completely. Even if someone disappoints me many times, although I give him new opportunities, I also watch him carefully.

The day will come when your children will ask you probing and difficult questions. "Daddy, why is the sun in the sky? Mommy, why is the moon round? Daddy, why don't we walk upside down? Mommy, why is the sky blue?" Those are the kinds of insightful questions they could ask. If you understand the Principle, you will have the answers.

You cannot glibly say, "You will understand once you are older," and expect them to be pacified. You *have* to give an answer. Your children will

not trust you if you always evade giving answers. And the trust a child develops when he is young has definite bearing on the kind of trust he develops in his later life.

When an employer hires a person, he has to discern whether or not he can trust that individual. It is not important that we trust God, but that God trust us. The potter is the one who decides what the clay should become.