**REBUILDING BROKEN TRUST**

Sunday School Lesson 11

*FORMER THINGS*

Proverbs 25:19

4/17/2022

**Introduction:** In these past two lessons, we have been examining how a Christian can move forward when he does not find forgiveness from an offended party. The reality is that it is challenging to move forward from both unforgiven and forgiven past actions. Part of the challenge of moving forward from the regrets of the past is the rebuilding of trust that must happen afterward. The forgiveness should really be the easy part for both parties. It is as simple as humbly asking and humbling giving it. When it comes to trust, though, it is not quite so simple. Trust is a very delicate thing, and it is also a vital thing in any relationship. When trust is not there, a marriage is damaged. When trust is not there, a friendship is damaged. When trust is not there, a leadership-follower relationship is damaged. When trust is not there, a parental-child relationship is damaged. Most importantly, when trust is not there, a God-believer relationship is damaged. Consider that trust/faith is the single most important element of a successful walk with God. It is impossible to please God without trusting Him. If that is the way that God designed our relationship to work with Him, then we should understand that trust plays a very large role in every relationship that we have on this earth. Let’s take some time today and possibly over the next week or two to consider this matter of rebuilding trust.

1. **THE TRUST OF EVERY BELIEVER MUST BE IN THE LORD FAR ABOVE ANY PERSON.**
2. **Notice that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man (Psalm 118:8-9; 146:1-5; Proverbs 22:19;** As we start down the road of understanding how to rebuild trust, we must first understand that our trust rests in the Lord above any man. This should be obvious to us, but it still needs to be said. Why is it important to trust in the Lord above man? God is perfect. God will never fail us. God will never forsake us. He will never leave us. He is always good. He is always right. He is always holy and just. Can we say that about any other individual? The best person that you know comes nowhere close to the righteousness of God. For this reason, the Lord deserves our trust far above any person in this world. Notice that this also should help us to understand that people will let us down. Every person here will have to deal with rebuilding trust both as the offender and the offended. The man who never offends or wrongs anyone is a perfect man. Does such a man exist? There is only one such individual – Jesus Christ! Consequently, we should be ready to confront the need to rebuild trust. Any person with the mentality of casting off every person who breaks their trust is both a fool and a naïve person.
3. **Notice that there is a curse upon the person who trusts in man above God (Jeremiah 17:5-7; Proverbs 3:5-6).** There is a blessing to those who trust in the Lord, but there is also a curse for the person who puts his confidence and trust in man above God. What is the curse that is promised to the person who trusts in man over God? The Bible says that he will be like the heath in the desert. It also says that he will not see when good comes. He will inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. This is given in contrast to the blessing of the one who trusts in the Lord. That person will be as a tree planted by the waters. The illustration should be apparent to us. The person who trusts in man has no strength. He has no foundation to stand upon. That’s because trusting in man is trusting in unstable ground. The worst part about it is that trusting in man above God ruins your ability to trust. Notice that the curse includes an inability to see when “good cometh.” There is such disappointment in trusting in man that you are left with nothing at all to trust in. You can’t see the good that comes in trusting in the Lord and what He can and will do in this world.
4. **THE TRUST OF EVERY BELIEVER IS NOT TO BE BLINDLY GIVEN OUT TO ANY PERSON.**

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1. **Notice that we are commanded to prove all things and to hold fast that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Timothy 3:10; Psalm 66:10; John 6:6; Exodus 16:4l; Judges 2:22; Malachi 3:10).** The believer is never commanded to blindly trust in any person or thing in this world. The Lord is the only one deserving of our blind trust, yet we know that He still gives us many signs of His goodness and faithfulness. The Bible shows us in several places that the Lord proves us. He wants to see whether we can be trusted or not. Of course, the Lord knows the heart, but He still allows the proving to take place to make our response visible. Likewise, we are commanded to prove all things in this world. Once we have proved them, then we hold fast to that which is good. If we are to prove all things, then that ought to include those who would seek to have influence or relationship in our lives. The Bible commends the people of Berea for checking the Scriptures to see whether Paul and Silas were teaching them the truth. Even children are commanded to obey their parents “in the Lord.”
2. **Notice that we are commanded not to be deceived by others (Ephesians 5:6; Mark 13:5; Romans 16:18; Titus 1:10; 2 Timothy 3:13; Matthew 15:14; 24:4).** One of the responsibilities of every believer is to ensure that he is not being deceived. What does it mean to be deceived? To deceive is to cause someone to believe something that is not true. The Devil wants us to put our trust in places and people that we should not be trusting. This could even be a person who presents himself as well-meaning and believable. After all, we ought not to marvel given that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Sadly, the Bible warns that there are false teachers and preachers out there who seek to earn your trust for the hope and purpose of deceiving you away from the Lord. Sometimes, these may not be people with actual position, but even may be those close to the family that subtly seek to get us to trust in things that we ought not to. Thus, we understand that we have a very great responsibility to guard our trust. Of course, this makes rebuilding trust an even more difficult thing for the believer to do.
3. **THE TRUST OF EVERY BELIEVER IS IN GOD’S SPIRIT WORKING IN ANY PERSON.**
4. **Notice that our trust in others is through the Lord (Galatians 5:10; Philippians 3:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:4; 2 Corinthians 5:11; 7:16).** When Paul addressed the churches, he often spoke of the confidence that he had in them. He trusted that they were going to do right. He trusted that they would obey the commands that the Lord had given to him. What was the basis of this confidence? After all, the church in Corinth was a carnal church, and he was led of the Spirit to record multiple letters of reproof for them. His confidence was in the Lord working through them. This is the critical distinction that every believer must understand when it comes to trust in others. It is not a matter of trust in God and then people. It is trusting God and then trusting God again when it comes to people. Our trust is just simply not in the flesh. It is in the Spirit. If we keep this in good perspective, it will make the task of rebuilding trust that much easier for the person who has fallen. Your trust in them was based on and continues to be in what God can do through them.
5. **Notice that our trust even in ourselves is through the Lord (Proverbs 28:26; 3:5; Ezekiel 33:13; Luke 18:9; 2 Corinthians 1:9; 10:7).** A person who trusts in his own heart is called a fool in Proverbs 28:26. In chapter 3, we are told to trust in the Lord with all thine heart. Notice the second part of that verse. It says to lean not unto thine own understanding. Friends, we cannot even trust ourselves. Our heart is deceitful. It tells us things that simply are not so. It makes us feel a certain way at times. Our emotions betray us. We cannot be trusted. Our trust in our own decision making and overall thinking is based on the leading of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever found yourself not thinking clearly? You knew you could not be trusted to make a good decision. The world will tell us that we need to trust in ourselves. Just believe! I present to you that we are all wretched sinners who cannot be trusted in our flesh. Our trust is in the Lord. He changes us. He causes us to think differently than we thought before we knew Him. How can we ever possibly rebuild trust if we don’t even understand that we can’t be trusted?
6. **THE TRUST OF EVERY BELIEVER IS IN THE TRUTH ABOVE ANY PERSON.**
7. **Notice that there is absolute truth in this world, and His name is Jesus and His Word (John 14:6; 1:14; 17:17; 18:37-38; James 1:18; Proverbs 12:22; Psalm 119:160).** Jesus is the Truth. His Word is the Word of truth. His Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He is the God of truth. God hates lying. He knows that a false witness tears down trust. We can trust the Lord because we know that He will never lie to us. He will never mislead us. He tells us plainly what is and even what will be. This is the confidence that we have in this life that God is True. Trust would never be possible for us if we did not have an upright and honest God. Since we know that God always speaks the truth to us, then we know that we can trust in the things that He commands us to trust in. We have a baseline for truth. We have a barometer by which we can gage everything off of. Additionally, we can trust that God really does work in the heart of those who are His children. This is how we are able to trust a spouse, friend, pastor, and others.
8. **Notice that the God of truth helps us to know who and what to trust (1 John 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:15; John 4:24; 8:31-32; 16:13; Psalm 25:5).** If we have received the Lord, then the truth rests within us. We are told that we also have the Spirit of Truth dwelling within us. One of the things that the Spirit of Truth does is guide us into all truth. Notice again there that It says that the Spirit will guide us in all truth. Sometimes, we might feel like we do not know who or what to trust. There is so much dishonesty in this world. There are so many wolves in sheep’s clothing. There are so many Satanic vessels presenting themselves as angels of light. There are many who call good evil and evil good. It can be overwhelming and very troubling for the believer. We might be tempted to think that it is just not possible for us to trust in a world that is filled with so much untrustworthiness. Yet, we have the help of the Spirit who will lead us to know who we can trust. This allows us to give our trust to those who we might be reluctant to trust.