

T rust

The Scripture:

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God (Psalm 20:7).

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust (Psalm 91:1-2).

The thought:

It could be said that trust is a form of faith. It is a trusting faith. While that sounds somewhat circular, trust emphasizes the emotive or attitudinal aspects of faith. Here we are not addressing the intellectual knowing or the active doing of faith, but the experiential aspect of faith. This is the heart-felt confidence that God is with us. This is the inward assurance that we can give all to God and then trust that he will take care of all that is necessary. Here we find the assurance expressed in gospel song phrases such as "God will take care of you," and "Take your burden to the cross and leave it there."

Taken to its extreme, trusting faith throws off its intellectual moorings and moves into pure emotionalism. But solid trust must always be secured by the certainty of God's word. The truth of the person of Jesus Christ, along with an ongoing faith-based relationship with him, is our point of "blessed assurance." This is the trusting in the person and work of Jesus. It is not the trusting merely in one's feelings. These may waver with the ups and downs of life, but Jesus is the solid rock upon which we can securely build our lives.

The song:

*Simply trusting every day,
Trusting through a stormy way;
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Trusting as the moments fly,
Trusting as the days go by;
Trusting Him whate'er befall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Singing if my way is clear,
Praying if the path be drear;
If in danger for Him call;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*
--Edgar P. Stites (1876)

The question:

What is the focus of my trust? Is it in things or other temporary realities? Or, is in first of all in Jesus? What does it mean to come to the end of myself?

The experience:

After college I became a mathematics teacher. I soon found myself uncomfortable in that role and with the sense that I needed to do something more. Some wise counsel and a number of circumstances resulted in my enrolling in seminary studies. It was quite a switch from mathematics to theology. However I found these studies invigorating because they were all so interesting and broadening. I was responding to a new calling—a calling that God had given to me.

While in seminary, a friend, David, introduced me to a small book entitled *The Cycle of Victorious Living*. He also lent me the tapes of messages by the author, Earle Lee. In this book, Lee outlines four steps of victorious living based on Psalm 37: commit, trust, delight, rest. This insightful instruction was exactly what I needed at the time. I was impressed by the idea that commitment was giving to God “hands down.” Whatever the issue or crisis, I needed to give it to God without any sense of holding on or grasping for control. The matter needed to be totally his. Earl Lee then makes an acrostic of delight: *Daily Everything Laid Into God’s Hands Triumphantly*. Here were thoughts to help and inspire and protect. These were truths which provided trust and rest for me.

I often think of these four steps of victorious living. I am not sure that I have always applied them consistently, but they are a great reminder of God’s love and that we can indeed trust in his provision. He will provide for us. Provision and provide come from the same Latin root, *providere*, to see before. God will see ahead on our behalf. I can trust his providence!