"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

As scripture says, we can only believe and trust in God by faith. What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Why are we enjoined to trust God by faith?

Colossians 1:16: "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

Numbers 23:19: "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind."

Isaiah 26:4: "Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock."

1John 5:4: "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." Therefore:

Ephesians 6:16: "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith."

1Timothy 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called."

Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

2Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves."

Do I realize the importance of faith so I trust God in all circumstances of life?



Why must we trust God in all circumstances of life?

Isaiah 12:2: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

Psalm 9:10: "And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."

1Peter 1:7: "That the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who

comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Therefore:

Psalm 37:3-4: "Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Do I sincerely trust God, even through the challenges of life?



Why must we trust in God and follow Christ?

Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, w*hose* mind *is* stayed *on* You, *b*ecause he trusts in You."

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 17:7-8: "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

Psalm 28:7: "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."

Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose."

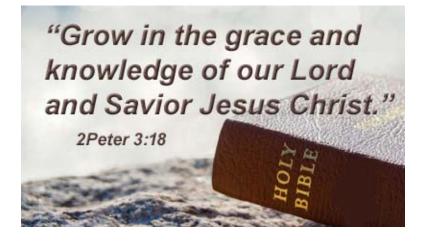
The reason why:

James 1:2-3: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

Therefore:

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

How strongly do I trust God, and how steadfast am I to follow Christ?



How can we grow in our faith so we trust God at all times?

2Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Colossians 3:16: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another."

Why?

Romans 10:17: "Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Proverbs 30:5: "Every Word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Psalm 119:130: "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

Proverbs 9:10: "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding."

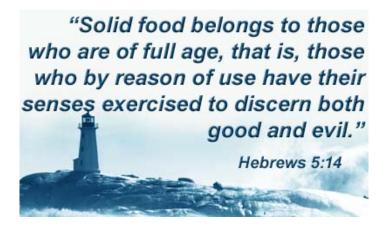
The purpose:

Ephesians 1:17: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."

Therefore:

Hebrews 6:1: "Let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding."

Do I understand that the knowledge of the Word of God is paramount to the growth of my faith, so I live to trust God and follow Christ?



Sound knowledge of the Word of God gives us the ability to discern between good and evil.

As the Bible says:

Hebrews 4:12: "The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Why must we seek discernment?

1Corinthians 2:14: "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

Proverbs 15:21: "Folly *is* joy *to him who is* destitute of discernment, but a man of understanding walks uprightly."

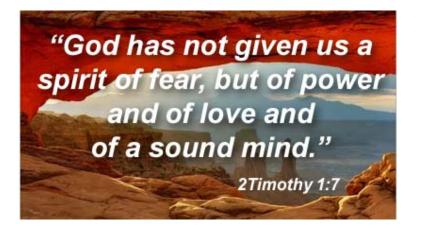
John 8:32: "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Therefore:

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God."

Philippians 1:9-10: "This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."

How steadfast and powerful do I allow the Word of God to lead and guide me, so I can wisely discern between right and wrong, good and evil?



Why must we reject doubt, so we don't develop fear, but rather always trust God?

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Psalm 46:1-2: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea."

James 1:6-8: "You must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."

What did Jesus say about doubt and fear?

Matthew 14:31: "O you of little faith, why did you doubt and fear?"

Luke 24:38: "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

The reason why He added:

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Therefore:

Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established."

Do I harbor the Spirit of Christ in my heart, so I trust Him without doubt or fear?

"By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." 1John 4:13

Why and how must we always be on guard against the deceptions of the enemy of our faith?

Colossians 2:8: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." Why?

2Corinthians 11:13-14: "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

1Corinthians 3:19: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness." What's more?

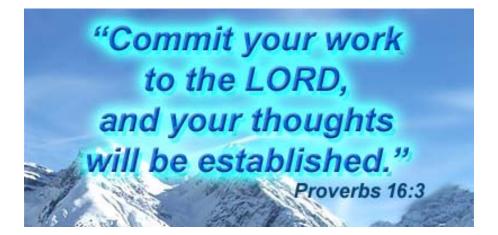
Proverbs 28:26: "Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe."

Therefore:

1John 4:1: "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Ephesians 4:17-18: "You must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart."

Does the Spirit of Christ abide in me, so I avoid being deceived by the world whose god is Satan?



How is our life impacted when we truly trust God?

Isaiah 26:3: "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

Psalm 9:10: "Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You."

Psalm 62:7: "My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me."

Isaiah 40:31: "Those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Psalm 145:18: "The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

Therefore:

Ephesians 5:15-16: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Hebrews 12:1: "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

1Peter 5:6-7: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

The Rock of our salvation being:

Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

How strong is my faith in God, in trusting Him, to follow and abide in Christ?