**EVER WONDER WHY?**

**Why Should I Trust God?**

Sunday, May 1, 2022

**WE Slide 1 What qualities does a person need to have for you to trust them? Shout them out. How would you know if you could trust them?** Follow through.If you knew that everything a person said was true, everything they did was right, and no matter how scary it might be, what they did always brought the best into your life, would you trust that person?

**LET ME READ something that God had King Solomon write in Proverbs 3:5–8. Slide 2-6** God’s saying, “Hey! Trust Me with your life and the decisions of your life and if you do here are a couple of promises.”

1. He’ll keep you from messing up your life. There’s a lot of wasted energy and anxiety connected to a life that is off track.
2. His way of doing life will bring mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual renewal/refreshing.

**Who wouldn’t want those two promises fulfilled in their life?** Question is, why should you trust God to fulfill these promises?

**TODAY: YOU CAN’T TRUST SOMEONE YOU DON’T KNOW- You can’t trust God if you don’t know Him.** I want to tell you about who God is, what He is like, and let you decide whether you should trust Him or not. **We’re not going to cover all of God’s attributes so I gave you a hand out.** Your job is to get with God this week, study through His attributes, and let Him tell you who He is. **Slide 7 In our series “The Counselor” I made the 1st statement and the other two flow out of the 1st.**

1. The depth of your relationship with Christ directly impacts the depth of your fear, depression, and anxiety.
2. The depth of your relationship with Christ is directly connected to how well you know/trust Him.
3. The more you know/trust Him the more you’ll grow in faith, hope, and contentment. **Opposites of fear…**

**HERE’S A COOL POINT: Slide 8** **Because we’re created in the image of God we have aspects of these same attributes though obviously not to the extent God does.** God is holy and infinite so His attributes are holy and infinite- He responds perfectly in each and nothing hinders them from being expressed fully, completely. **Because we are created beings and completely full of sin our attributes are finite and greatly hindered in how we express them.**

**TODAY’S CHALLENGE: As we go through these attributes I want to challenge you to think about your area of struggle and ask yourself,** **Can I trust a God who is like this? We’re going to look at 8 this morning.** The 1st is OMNIPRESENCE. **Slide 9**

**GOD**

1. **ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**
2. **Omnipresence-** God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God acts differently in different places, Psalm 139:7-10. **Slide 10-11**
3. God is fully present, fully aware, never distracted from what is happening in your life.
4. God knows, sees, and is interacting in your life every moment of your life.
5. As He is in your life He is in everyone else’s life throughout the world completely/fully.

**Add that to His attribute of Eternity... Slide 12**

1. **Eternity-** God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time, Revelation 1:8 **Slide 13-14**
2. He is as fully present in the past as He is in your present as He is in your future
3. He is already where He plans for you to be in an hour, day, week, month, year, 5 years, 10 years.
4. He’s already fully present in your future/He knows what obstacles are there/what decisions to make.

**This attribute flows into the next attribute- Knowledge. Slide 15**

1. **Omniscient/Knowledge-** God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act, Psalm 139:1-4. **Slide 16-17**
2. God knows what will happen and everything that could happen, doesn’t have to learn anything.
3. No matter what decision we make He knows the decision, every other decision we could have made, and every possible impact any of those decisions could have on us and others.
4. It’s best for us to do what God says since He knows how it will best impact us/others.

**That knowing/choosing what’s best speaks to another His attributes- His wisdom... Slide 18**

1. **Wisdom-** God’s wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals, Romans 11:33. **Slide 19-20**
2. God’s goals/His will is best and therefore the best for us.
3. God’s way of accomplishing those goals is best for us.

**Moving on to the next attribute- Truthfulness/Faithfulness Slide 21**

1. **Truthfulness/Faithfulness-** God is the true God, and that all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth so that God will always do what he says he will do, Numbers 23:19. **Slide 22-23**
2. God can’t lie and is faithful to who He is and what He says He’ll do.
3. He’ll keep your life from becoming a mess and will renew/strengthen you.
4. We have to be in His Word to know what the truth is, what He says He’ll be faithful to do.

**This next one could be split into 4 but we’ll combine them.** It’s God’s attribute of GOODNESS. **Slide 24**

1. **Goodness (Mercy, Grace, Patience)-** God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval, Psalm 34:8. **Slide 25-26**
2. God is good, everything He does is good, and it always accomplishes good.

**3 ways we see His goodness are in His MERCY, GRACE, AND PATIENCE toward us.**

1. **Slide 27 Mercy-** God’s goodness toward those in misery and distress by not getting what we deserve.
2. **Grace-** God’s goodness toward those who deserve only punishment by not giving us what we deserve.
3. **Patience-** God’s goodness in withholding punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.
4. King David puts all these together in Psalm 145:8-9. **Slide 28-29**
5. We learned last week that God can even make what seems bad work out for good.

**A couple more…all these are good but this one seems to hit close to home for many of us. Slide 30**

1. **Peace/Order-** God’s being and in his actions he is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well-ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions, Philippians 4:9. **Slide 31-32**
2. God never brings confusion, only peace/order to a life that is filled with worry/chaos.
3. Even when our lives are frantic God is calmly accomplishing His will.
4. Because of that and because God gives us Himself we can be calm and confident that God’s got it.

**The last one we’ll look at connects all of this together…UNCHANGEABLENESS**. **Slide 33**

1. **Unchangeableness-** God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations, Malachi 3:6-7a. **Slide 34-35**
2. You always know where God stands on an issue; He doesn’t change His standards/promises.
3. You can always count on God to be who He is and do what He says; He’s not a hypocrite.

**That’s just a few of the incredible attributes of the God we say we believe in and supposedly given our life to. So, the question is, why don’t we trust Him?** I need to be lovingly blunt when I answer this while admitting that I’m always having to check myself on these things. **The 1st is… Slide 36**

1. **WHY WE DON’T TRUST GOD**
2. **Apathetic-** life is good, no problems that we can’t handle, we don’t need God.
3. **Selfish- Slide 37** we don’t want anyone else telling me how to do life, including God.
4. **Deceived- Slide 38 kind of goes along with being selfish**, we believe what our hearts/minds/others are telling us is best for us, or that we’ve got our lives nailed down, or we don’t need God.
5. **Lazy/Distracted- Slide 39** I know what it takes and just don’t want to put the time in; other things are more fun, which goes back to selfishness.

**As I’ve evaluated my life and talked to people who are struggling with life these seem to be the top excuses.** Ultimately, each of these lead to the biggest reason why we don’t trust God and that is- we don’t know Him. **So, for those who are tired of the struggle and want to experience all that God is and all that He promises, how can you KNOW God? First you must know God’s Son- Jesus Christ. Slide 40-41**

1. **HOW WE KNOW GOD**
2. **We Must Know God’s Son, Matthew 11:27**
3. **Do you know Jesus Christ personally?** Have you truly placed your life into His hands, or are you just playing the church game- attending church rather than being the church?
4. Only you and God know that for sure.

**Once you know Jesus personally then you must know God’s Word- the Bible.** **Slide 42** This is a logical step because it’s only in the Bible that we learn who God says He is and how He operates.

1. **We Must Know God’s Word- the Bible**
2. That means reading it daily, meditating on it- asking, **How would my life look differently if I applied what I read to my life?**
3. That means being here on Sundays, Thursdays, taking the GROW Class when it comes around again.
4. **We Must Live Out God’s Commands- Test Them**
5. Put what you’re learning about God to the test- work to think as He says to think, respond to those who anger you the way God says to respond to them, turn to Him when tempted to sin rather than try to fight it on your own and give in.
6. It’s only when we see God work out what He say in the Bible that we move from knowing about Him to knowing Him personally at work in our life.

**You’ll only know if you can trust God if you get to know Him personally through time with Him in His Word and then taking steps of faith to take Him at His Word by living life His way.**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS So what are our TAKEAWAYS this morning? They’re pretty straight forward. Slide 43** As the band comes up the 1st you have to trust Him as your Lord and Savior and then once you’re in relationship with Him you begin learning more about Him and how to do life His way.

1. **Come into a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus.**
* Tell Him you know you’ve sinned and need His forgiveness.
* Tell Him you want Him to be your Savior and Lord.
* Ask Him to forgive you and tell Him you believe Him when He says Jesus took your eternal punishment for you on the cross.
* Mark that on the blue side of the Connect Card/place it in the bucket
1. **Slide 44 Take 30 minutes this week to meditate on God’s attributes by thinking through the following questions- How does this attribute of God impact my area of struggle?** If I believed this about God what would I do differently in my life?

**PODCAST:** Why Should I Trust God? There are several good reasons so check it out. Proverbs 3:5-8

(Don’t worry about putting all the other verses up on the podcast form, people can print off the notes if they want them.)