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Trust Built by Relationship

I always get nervous when someone tells me that God told them who their spouse would be. One young man felt that a famous Christian singer was going to be his wife but he had never met her. Another woman had prepared and sent out invitations to all of her friends and family for a wedding to a well known single evangelist. The problem was that they were not in a relationship and the poor girl had believed that God spoke to her the date and time of the wedding, so she trusted that God would also do the same for the evangelist. She stood at the altar in her wedding dress as all of her guests wondered where the groom was. He had no idea about any of this and was out preaching somewhere.

Others have told me that they know a person is their spouse because of a spiritual leading and when I look at the other person I am shocked that they think they will make a good mate. I would then ask them a few questions about the person and try to find out if they really know who they are “supposed to marry.” Simple questions about character, personality, and maturity could not be answered. I've found that most of these people have a difficult time in relationships and don't really understand that it takes work and time to get to know someone.

I have found that most of these people have a fear of rejection so they attempt to establish a relationship on something other than closeness with a person. It is difficult for them to become vulnerable to someone else so they search for a different path so they don't have to face their fear. However, it is impossible to know anyone without spending time with them and working on building intimacy and trust. I share with them how God will always help you pick someone but really you should get to know each other first before you run to the altar. They say, “love is blind”, but also that, “marriage is an eye opener.” It takes time to really get to know a person especially when it comes to belonging to a spouse for the rest of your life.

When I met my wife it took time for us to get to know each other and to trust each other. Our trust in each other has grown but it has taken us years of spending time together, making decisions together and living as one. Yes, we have made mistakes with each other but we had become partners and we became stronger each day. The heart of any relationship is the ability to trust your life in the hands of the other person. Relationships are built by taking the time and love to work together and the bonds of that love will grow stronger and stronger.

This is how it works with each relationship you have in your life, including your relationship with God. James 4:8 reads, “***Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***” He loves us with all of His heart and His deepest desire is for us to build a loving relationship together. Many believers are in fear of intimacy with God and they are afraid that He will reject them because of their faults and weaknesses. I was one of those people and I discovered it is an empty Christianity to serve God but not trust my life into His hands. I was acting like the person trying to get married without knowing my mate. **I was attempting to develop a relationship with God without drawing near to him.** Doing good things for God cannot replace relationship with Him. I discovered that God never wanted my service and it was never about what I could do to advance His kingdom. The whole time He was really after me becoming a partner with Him.

He wanted to work together with me, make decisions together and walk together. He wanted to prove to me that my mistakes wouldn't push Him away from me. He longed for us to build an intimate personal relationship between the two of us and that meant me learning to trust Him. Just how much are we able to trust God with our lives? This is a question that must be answered personally by each of us. The reason this is such a difficult question is because it can't be answered by knowledge or doctrine.

Every believer knows the right answers. "I can trust God to the ends of eternity", one might say, or "I can trust God through everything and anything", someone else may answer. We have the correct answers but can we really live a life of trusting God? Many people want to give their lives over to the direction of God but when they have to actually obey Him, for some it can be the most fearful thing they have faced. I've had many people ask for prayer to help them to obey God and yet trust doesn't come from a prayer line. Psalms 63:1-8 says, "*A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.*"

Trust can only be built by relationship; there is no specific formula or prayer that can take the place of spending time with Him and obeying what He says. I know that we all make mistakes in trying to listen and obey but at least you are trying to obey Him. He can work with mistakes. God can always work with our mistakes but disobedience removes us from His help. Faith always works when you are in His will.

I remember when I was eighteen years old and at a point of making a life altering decision. It was one of the earliest struggles of trusting God. He was asking me to pull away from some friends and I was having a difficult time obeying Him. I didn't know if I could trust Him with my future. What if I obeyed Him and lost everything? What if I did what He asked and it still wasn't good enough? What if I missed Him and it really wasn't God speaking to me?

These were questions that rolled around in my young mind. It was after I listened and obeyed that He proved to me that I could trust Him. Throughout the years it has been one little decision after another that has helped to cultivate a relationship with my Heavenly Father where I can trust everything He asks of me even if I do not understand. He has never let me down. His deepest desire for you is to walk with you in perfect harmony and as you take the time to know Him and His voice you will discover just how much He really does love you.

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