



January 15, 2017

Psalm 20 – 21

“Trusting God

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Most of us know we *should* trust God, but how many of us actually *do* trust God when life gets challenging? The word “trust” appears more than 200 times in the Bible, and more than 50 times in the book of Psalms. The theme of trusting God is a predominant one in Scripture, and it’s the topic of today’s study from Psalms 20 and 21. In Pastor Gary’s message today, he reminds us that when we go through seasons of distress, that’s the perfect time to *trust* God!

Historical Background

1. **Psalm 20** is a petition from David to God, and **Psalm 21** is praise from David to God.
2. The tone of these psalms changes from worry, concern, and distress, to gratitude, thanksgiving, and praise.
3. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word trust in this way: “The belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, or effective.”
4. Pastor Gary changed the definition to redirect our thinking.
 - a. “Trust is the belief that God is reliable, good, honest, and effective.”
5. **Psalm 20** is considered to be a national anthem of sorts, because David wrote it to encourage the people of Israel during a time of national distress.
 - a. Pastor Gary said the type of distress they were experiencing is not known.

6. The mention of Zion in [Psalm 20:2](#) is a reference to the hill of Jerusalem, and it was nearby that the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant were located, and so it was that David encouraged the people to trust God.
7. In [Psalm 20:6-8](#), David clearly indicated that the nation's strength was not to be found in the size or might of their army, but their faith, hope, and trust should be in God.
8. Pastor Gary said: "... the reason why David declares this, you see, is because he put his trust, his faith, his hope, his confidence... not in that which is seen, but in that which is unseen. In an invisible God David would run [to] and cling [to] and rely upon. [David's trust was] not in a visible army, but in an invisible God."
9. Like the people of David's time, we tend to rely upon things we can touch, see, and hear, because we live in a physical, tangible world.
10. [Psalm 40:4](#) - *"Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods."*
11. David understood the command God gave to Moses, approximately 400 years before David was born!
 - a. [Deuteronomy 17:16](#) - *"The king... must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself..."*
 - b. The command was given so that the king would not think that victory his simply because he had superior military strength.
 - c. In [1 Chronicles 18:1-4](#), we see that David took this command seriously, because he hamstrung all but one hundred horses, which was a visible demonstration of the fact that he recognized that Israel's strength was in God.
 - i. *"In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines [Gaza Strip along the Mediterranean Sea] and subdued them, and he took Gath and its surrounding villages from the control of the Philistines. David also defeated the Moabites [Jordan and Saudi Arabia], and they became subject to him and brought tribute. Moreover, David fought Hadadezer king of Zobah, as far as Hamath, when he went to establish his control along the Euphrates River [Iraq and Northern Syria]. David captured a thousand of his chariots, seven thousand charioteers and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He hamstrung all but a hundred of the chariot horses."*
12. [Psalm 33:16-17, 20](#) - *"No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all*

its great strength it cannot save... We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."

Three Examples Of Misplaced Trust

13. Misplaced Trust In Our Wealth

- a. **Psalm 49:6** - *"those who trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches?"*
- b. It's important to remember that having money, possessions, and resources doesn't guarantee that we won't have any problems in life.

14. Misplaced Trust In Ourselves

- a. **Psalm 49:13** - *"This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings."*
- b. Pastor Gary said: "We esteem people who are fiercely independent, but the problem with being fiercely independent is that often we have no room for God. And, we've learned to be so stinking fiercely independent that we don't know how to be dependent upon God. And, so, we think [to ourselves], 'I'll fix this and it will be all up to me, and I'll manage my life's problems. I'll take care of this. I'll just do it myself. [That is] until [we] begin to realize that [we] simply can't do it [ourselves]. [We] need God."

15. Misplaced Trust In Others

- a. **Psalm 146:3** - *"Do not put your trust in princes in mortal men, who cannot save."*
- b. We should trust people and give others the benefit of the doubt.
- c. We should believe in others and hope the best, however, there will be times when people betray us and lie to us, and in these times, if all of our confidence is in others, we will be extremely disappointed.
- d. Pastor Gary said: "There is a difference between trusting people and putting your trust in people. Your trust needs to be in the Lord."
- e. **Isaiah 26:3** - *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."*
- f. **Proverbs 3:5-6** - *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Trusting God

16. Who He Is

- a. **Psalm 33:20-21** – *“We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.”*
- b. Pastor Gary, stating the obvious, said, “You cannot trust someone you do not know!”
- c. In the Bible, God is known by more than 900 names and titles!
- d. We learn something about God’s character and nature in every name and title given to him in the Bible.
- e. **Psalm 8:1** – *“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”*
- f. Pastor Gary said: “The more you understand his name and the more you see how he is revealed throughout the pages of the Bible, the more you appreciate him. Because, to know him is to love him, and to know and love him is to trust him. The more you know him the more you will be able to trust him.”

17. What He Says

- a. **Psalm 119:41-43** – *“May your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.”*
- b. **Psalm 145:13b** – *“The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.”*

18. How Much He Loves Us

- a. **Psalm 13:5** – *“But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.”*
- b. **Psalm 52:8** – *“But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God’s unfailing love for ever and ever.”*
- c. “God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” – Augustine
- d. **Lamentations 3:22-23** – *“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*
- e. **Psalm 91:2** – *“I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’ ”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Psalm 20-21](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. What are some examples of people or things you've relied upon?
4. Is there a difference between the people or things you've trusted before and after you became a Christian?
5. Share examples of times when people have disappointed you.
6. What does the Holy Spirit want you to "hamstring" so that you'll move your trust away from people and/or things?
7. Share examples of times when you experienced the faithfulness of God.
8. Allow the people in your group the opportunity to share a specific situation they are dealing with right now that requires them to trust solely upon God.
9. Read and discuss [Isaiah 26:3](#), and focus on the peace that God promises to those who trust him.
10. Read and discuss [Proverbs 3:5-6](#).
11. How is the Lord making "*your paths straight*" because of your trust in him?
12. Read and discuss [Psalm 33:20-21](#).
13. Ask four people in your group to be ready to read and pray the Scriptures as you close your K-Group meeting.
 - a. [Psalm 13:5](#)
 - b. [Psalm 52:8](#)
 - c. [Psalm 91:2](#)
 - d. [Lamentations 3:22-23](#)

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).