

Trusting In the Lord's Deliverance's

by Dan Young

This sermon emphasizes the importance of learning to trust in the Lord, highlighting the need to trust in God's faithfulness over our own understanding or abilities. It discusses the blessings of trusting in the Lord, the consequences of trusting in oneself or others, and the need to deepen our roots in God through seasons of dryness. The sermon also touches on the significance of bearing spiritual fruit, seeking healing from the Lord, and being faithful in times of affliction and persecution.

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:7, Proverbs 3:5, Revelation 22:1, 2 Corinthians 1:8, Psalm 1:3, Galatians 5:22

Topics: "Trust in God's Faithfulness", "Spiritual Growth in Dry Seasons"

Description

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Transcript

There's a verse there that says, how I've proved him over and over, and I'd say, I'd almost like to sing that a little differently sometimes, I would say how he's proved himself faithful over and over to me, and we sing that song, I'm glad I've learned to trust you, that's a wonderful place to be, if you can say that in confidence for me, I have to say I'm glad that I'm learning to trust in you, and that's something we have to learn as we walk with him, we have to learn to trust in him, we should trust in him and not be afraid. It says, blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, his tree will be like a tree planted by streams of water, and he will not grow weary, and I wanted to read a little bit about that from Jeremiah, and you know, we live in a day and age where our test of faith comes through trusting in the Lord, and in Jeremiah 17, he was going through the exact, he was going through the exact same thing, he was going through a situation where he was being persecuted or going through difficult sufferings and trials, but it was, it was causing him to put his trust in the Lord, to see the Lord's deliverances, and we have to, we have to learn that, and unfortunately the only way to learn that is for him to take us through different seasons and circumstances where we learn to trust in the Lord and not in our own strength. A lot of the time we trust in our own abilities and our own strength, our own understanding, but it says, cursed is the man who trusts in his own understanding, or cursed is the man who trusts in the flesh.

It says, trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't lean on your own understanding, so a lot of the time we're in situations where we have our own understanding, we have our own reason, we have a better way of doing it, I shared that last week, where we like to do our way, but we have to do it according to the Lord's way, and we have to learn to trust him in those circumstances, to say, Lord, I'm trusting you to lead me and guide me in the path that I do not know, in a path that I do not know. It says right here in Jeremiah 17, verse 5, it says, cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. Now, this is one thing that you can trust in men or you can trust in people around you, you can trust in anything, but you can also trust in yourself, and I think sometimes this also refers to it, where it makes flesh his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord, where you rely upon yourself, and really, this was ultimately the test that Adam and Eve had in the garden, the sin that was from the beginning, was where they had to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and no longer were they depending on the Lord, they were depending on their own understanding to solve the circumstance, and so we can do that, we can trust in ourselves, in our own ways, rather than learning to just sit and rest and wait on the Lord, and this is something that the Lord has to deal with in our lives, and he has to sanctify us of this, and he has to cleanse us of this confidence that we have in our flesh, this confidence that we have in ourselves, and the only way to do that is for him to allow us to go through dry seasons, for him to allow us to go through empty seasons, where we don't sense the presence of the Lord, where we don't sense his presence around us, the spirit of God doesn't seem to be moving as it once did, I know when you're first born again, you experience waves of the love of God, you experience waves of his presence, and every time you pray, it seems as though there's an answer, and it seems like it comes right away, and it gives you such joy and fervency, but as you grow with the Lord, he removes himself, he doesn't answer those prayers right away, in fact he allows you to go through dry seasons so that our roots would go deep in him, so that we learn to not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead, there's so many passages in the Bible about trusting in the Lord, and we need to remember that it's him who's going to deliver us, it's not our own hand who's going to solve our situation, it's him who's going to help us, the battle truly does belong to the Lord, it says right here, he will be like a bush in the desert, and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitants, I mean if you drive a few hours here up towards Kamloops, and you go into the desert there, it's literally a dry and barren land, there's no life there, except for snakes and other things that live underground maybe, but other than that, there's no real joy being there, it's not a safe place to be, and this is what happens when a man does not trust in the Lord, he trusts in himself, it's not healthy for you, and some of us wonder why we are dry spiritually, some of us wonder why it's difficult, some of us wonder why we're lacking, and it might be because we're relying on ourselves and we're not trusting in the Lord to do the work in our lives, you know one of the greatest tests is to be patient, trusting the Lord and being patient, they go hand in hand, did you know that? Trusting the Lord and having to wait for the answer to come, they have to go hand in hand, and that's a difficult place to be, because it really stretches your ability to trust the Lord, it really stretches your capacity at which you know the Lord, why haven't you answered this prayer yet, why haven't you come to meet with me yet, where have you been? And so we have to, the Lord brings us through that circumstance so that we no longer trust by the things that we see, we no longer trust by the hearing of the ear, we won't trust in our circumstances, we learn to trust in Him, but that's usually not the case with us, we rely on the flesh, we rely on our finances, we rely on our ability to do certain things, to solve problems, because many of us here are very capable of solving the problem, many of us here are very capable of changing our circumstance, we are, we can do this, this, this and that, and unfortunately the Lord has to allow those things to fail, so that we learn to say Lord it's only your hand that's going to deliver me at this time, it's only your hand that's going to do the work, and we have to be able to allow the

Lord to break us in that place, that's a wonderful place to be, that's actually a good place to be, that's where you want to be, so that you learn to trust in God, His word, and that He is faithful, and that He will finish the work that He started, this is how you grow spiritually, babes don't, they don't grow spiritually, they grow a lot as a baby, because they're constantly in need of their parents, or their mom's nourishment, things like that, but as you grow older, you don't grow as fast, the majority of kids growing, but it's up to about 13, and then they start to grow a little bit, a little bit, and that's how we get stronger in the Lord, is when we learn to come to a place where we don't always sense the presence of God, but we learn to trust Him anyways, it says right here, blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord, blessed is the man or the woman who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord, it's the Lord who's going to do it, Lord I'm putting my trust in you, I'm learning to trust you, but it's you who's going to deliver me, He will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream, and will not fear when the heat comes, but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in the year of drought, you know, last year we had a year of drought here, it was a, it was, it was a very hot place here, I've never experienced heat like that in my life, I remember for three days in my house, I was, I was so, I was so upset, because it was so hot, we don't have air conditioning, and our upstairs was like a sauna, and I'm like, oh Lord, I can't handle this, and, and, but this person here, in a spiritual time, in a spiritual time, he says here that he will trust the Lord, and he will not be anxious in a year of drought, and you know, so often we get anxious, and last year you see a lot in the news, it's promoting, oh man, we need to be anxious about these things, but this person here, who's trusting in the Lord, will not be anxious in a year of drought, and us spiritually, when we're going through dry times spiritually, and we don't sense the presence of the Lord, and it seems as though there's a spiritual drought in our life, and it doesn't be, there's not a lot of life coming from us, what do we do in those situations? Do we try and make something happen, or do we need to trust in the Lord? We need to trust the Lord, and your roots will go deeper, you will start to feel more of the water of the Lord, the life of the Lord coming to you, but it's not our job at that time to just hoard the water for ourselves, it's not at that time for us to maintain this, and some of us have been withheld the Spirit of God, because we are not willing to give, we're not willing to pour out our hearts for other people, we're not willing to open the door for other people, we're not willing to do that, we're so closed, and so the Lord sometimes has to stop the stream.

Whenever you have a sea that has no outlets, and you have a bunch of inlets, that sea becomes stagnant and dead, and the Lord will close that off if we are not willing to open the gates and allow that water to flow out. The Bible says that he who waters, or she who waters, will themselves be watered, and so we need to be willing to open up our hearts to extend our hands, to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to be willing to share the gospel with people, to tell the people about Jesus, to be a testimony and a witness, we need to be willing to not only that, but to help and reach out to our brother and our sister in need, to pray for those who persecute us, to pray for those around us who give us a hard time, we need to pray for them, and thank them, and ask the Lord to open our hearts to do that. It says right here, they will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor cease to yield fruit.

Now, I want to turn to Revelation. Some of us, we would say that we are lacking fruit in our life, and Revelation 22, the last chapter of the Bible, and we need spiritual fruit, we need to grow spiritually, guys. When the Lord comes to our tree, does he find fruit? When does he find the fruit of the Holy Spirit? And you know what will happen, is if you are trying to produce fruit in your own strength, the Lord will allow those dry seasons to come, so that you produce no fruit.

You want to know why? Because it will be a glory to you. You say, I did this, or I did this, and I did that, and the true fruit of that in your life, and you would say, well, I don't do this, I'm relying on the Lord, I'm trusting the Lord, the true fruit of it is that you judge people who don't do the same things that you do. The true fruit of it is that you will look down on other believers.

That is the fruit of spiritual pride, and the fruit that's being born on your tree is not the fruit of humility, or fruit of grace, or the fruit of the Holy Spirit, it's actually the fruits of death, because you're looking down, and people, when they come around you, they don't want to be around you, because you're spiritually proud, and you know what, the Lord, who's wonderful and patient with us, He will continually break us down, and humble us, and allow us to fail, so that we start to bear that fruit of graciousness, of kindness. When people come to meet us, they can say, man, I was refreshed being around that brother, I was refreshed being around that sister, and that's something that we should strive for in the new year, you know, that's what I want. I would love to be more broken, I would love to be more gracious, but that's not something I'm going to do on my own strength, it's something that the Lord is going to do in my life, but I would also like to trust that whatever circumstance the Lord brings me into, that I can say, Lord, I'm learning to trust you more in this situation, and God knows what each of us need for this coming year.

He knows what each of us need for today, and we have to learn to trust Him, and say, Lord, this circumstance is not very fun, I don't like it, but I'm going to learn to trust you, I'm going to trust you that you have my best interests in mind, and that you're going to help me in this situation, and you're going to pour out your blessings on me at this time. I think of Joseph, who was put in prison for how many years? He was put in prison for for a number of years, but it says in that place that that iron entered his soul. It says he was afflicted in bonds, and Hosea says that he was afflicted in bonds and chains, but iron entered his soul, and he got spiritual strength, but that was through a time of affliction, and as we go through times of affliction, the Lord desires to produce spiritual strength in our lives, and it says right here, chapter 22, verse 1, it says, He showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

I remember I would talk to my brother Alim, and he would tell me about going to the nice rivers where he would get to fish, and I remember one time, you know, I was grateful, you know, I got to go visit him there, and the water was so clear, and you see it, and it actually gives you joy when you see clear water like that, and you can actually see the fish in the water. It actually gives you peace and joy. You're like, man, this is such a calm place.

I like this. Whenever we would go up to the creek, where we would lead Bible studies on Wednesday nights, we would go there. There's a huge river that runs right by their property, and we would go down and look at it sometimes, and the water would be so clear, and you're like, man, this is such a wonderful thing to see, but here it is in heaven that it was clear as crystal coming from who? From the throne of God and of the Lamb.

That's where we need to be drinking from, from the throne of God and the Lamb, and it says in the middle of its street and on either side of the river was the tree of life. Now, this tree of life is a tree, I believe, where we are learning to depend on the Lord, and this is something that we need to do, and that's where the tree of life is. Jesus imparts life to us, and that's because we're walking in step with Him, yielding its fruit every month, and we talked about that.

They will not cease to yield fruit in the year of drought, but these guys yield its fruit every month. Every single month it bears fruit. Now, I want to ask you a question.

I want you to ask yourself this question for the Lord. When was the last time that I bore fruit for you? Can you show me this, Lord? Because some of us, we have a high mind of, I know I do, I have a high mind of being spiritual, but when I look at the actual fruit that's produced in my life, that's when I start to question and say, Lord, how spiritual am I? I can sometimes judge other pastors. I can sometimes judge other preachers, and I can say, oh, well, that guy says the wrong thing, or that guy says the wrong thing, but then when I look at the fruit in their life, and I see some fruit.

Now, we talk about personal fruit, but there's also spiritual fruit. When I look at their life, they've done so much more than I have for the gospel, and now that's not the measure by which we say we're spiritual. It isn't, but you look at that, and we can sit there and think ourselves to be spiritual, but we've done nothing for the Lord.

We have no fruit to speak of, and it should burden us that that is the case. Now, in that situation, it shouldn't discourage us. We should say, Lord, I need you to do something deeper in my life, because obviously there's a lack of fruit in my heart, and it must mean that I've been drinking not from the stream of God, or from the river of God, or from him, or I've been drinking from other streams.

I've been drinking from the stream of the world, where the streams are muddy, where there's nothing clean to take from it, where I've been drinking from the stream of pride, of religion, and it's not producing any life in me. We need to look inwardly, you guys, and ask ourselves this question. Why is there no fruit in our life? I have to ask myself this question.

It says here, they yield its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. The leaves of that tree were for the healing of the nations. Now, you see today, many people are running around to and fro, looking for healing, trying to make the world go to be a better place, but it's not going to work.

The only thing that changes our lives and brings healing in our lives is this river of God, this tree of life, this Jesus. It's a picture of Jesus. It's a picture of Jesus.

It's a picture of his church that's yielding its fruit, and we need to ask ourselves personally, Lord, there's a lack of fruit in my life, a lack of spiritual fruit, and I'm asking you to do something in me, and it might mean that we've been looking and trusting in other things rather than trusting in the Lord. I'll finish in this last verse in 2 Corinthians 1. You can't be ashamed of the gospel in this year, especially in Canada. You know, they've just passed new laws.

They just passed new laws in Canada starting January 1st. You're not allowed to talk about homosexuality as a sin to people who may be practicing those things. It's against the law, and you know, it's a sad place to be in this country when you no longer preach the gospel.

There will come a time when the Bibles won't even be allowed, and they changed the Bibles. We need to expect that. We need to say, Lord, like this is a terrible situation, and this is in Canada.

In other countries, they've already experienced stuff like this, but now we have our turn, and so sometimes these things can produce fear in my heart, and we need to trust the Lord that, Lord, you're able to preserve me, but I need to be faithful in the time that I'm in right now to seek your face because you've

given me a time of plenty, and there may be a time of famine coming, and in that time, I may need to trust the Lord. God will judge our nation, I believe, because of our sin, but he also starts first with the church, and he will first start looking at us inwardly, individually, and he will start to say, okay, there's things in your life that I need to clean up first before he starts to deal with the country as a whole, and so we need to, as a person, as a Christian, we need to examine ourselves. We need to search our hearts, and I was looking at it.

I need to examine myself. I'm searching my heart, and I'm starting to question myself, why is there lack of spiritual fruit in my life? Why do I find more joy in all these other things than I do in the Lord? Well, it's a spiritual condition. That's the problem, and we need to ask ourselves that question.

Why is it the same with us? Why do I find myself getting bitter at people? Why do you have that? Why do you have self-pity? Why do you have self-pity thinking that your friends have rejected you and forsaken you when they haven't? We have to overcome self-pity. One of the biggest challenges I know that sisters even struggle with sometimes is self-pity because they think that they're on their own, and nobody cares. No, brother and sister, the Lord cares, and you need to put your hope in the Lord, and you need to shake those thoughts out of your mind.

You need to let them go. You need to cast them to the ground because God values you. He values you, and He loves you, and those are things that we need to battle with in this new year, but in 2 Corinthians 1, right here, it says this, verse 8, for we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia that we were burdened excessively beyond our strength so that we despaired even of life.

Now, this is a man who is preaching a new covenant message. He's preaching apparently that he has great faith, and we all are edified by the words of Paul, but Paul came to a place that he was even despairing of life. How many of you guys have ever been in a situation where you're just like, I can't handle this anymore.

I'm burdened so much. I don't know what to do. I'm tired of life.

I'm tired of life. I've been there, but this man here was persecuted for the sake of the gospel. They despaired even of life because of the suffering that they were doing that.

It was very difficult, but we haven't yet experienced that. You want to know why? Because we're learning to cast off the weights and hindrances that we experience. Those are the burdens that we experience.

The love of the world, the love of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the boastful pride of life. These are things that we experience, and we have to cast those off. We have to throw those away so we can run the race that's set before us.

Paul was suffering for the gospel's sake. Until we learn to overcome in the natural sense, I don't believe the Lord will entrust to us spiritual ministry where we can go and preach the gospel to people because we're not spiritually strong enough. We're not actually prepared for it because when our faith is tested in the simple situations, we fail and we don't trust in the Lord.

But when it's tested in great situations, we're not ready for it yet. But yet in our mind, we think that we're more spiritual than everybody else because we can't receive from anybody else. We can't receive from anybody.

We can only receive from ourselves or from somebody else or from the Lord. A true test of spiritual pride is you can't receive from anyone. You can't learn.

You can't listen to instruction. That's a terrible place to be. The Lord will not pour out his spirit to you in that place.

You want to know why? Because Adam and Eve did the same thing. They wouldn't listen to the instruction that God gave them. Don't eat from that tree.

And then they said, you know what? I can do this on my own. I'm going to do and eat this from that tree. And because of it, because of it, they became kicked out of the garden.

They no longer could have fellowship with God. And you know what? Our fellowship with Jesus breaks when we do the exact same thing. When we do the exact same thing, we need to have an honest and a true estimation of our spiritual condition.

I know some brothers, they think that they're so spiritual. And I know I do too. I can do the exact same thing.

But when you look at the spiritual fruit in their lives and the things that they've accomplished for the Lord, I have to say, you know what? We need to be honest with ourselves. It would be like me on the basketball team and I'm thinking I'm the best player, but I'm sitting on the bench. I'm sitting on the team.

I'm on the team. I have a jersey, praise God. I've been given a jersey, but I'm sitting on the bench.

I'm sitting on the bench and I do nothing. But in my mind, I think that I'm the best player in the world because I won't receive instruction. And every time the coach tries to teach the kid to do this, to do this, to do this, they don't listen.

They go do their own thing. They go and just say, I'm going to make my own decision. I'm going to play my own way.

And you know what's going to happen? You're going to stay on the bench. You're not going to be in the game. You're not going to be useful to the master because you're doing it your own way.

Paul was able to be entrusted with the spiritual riches of Christ because he was faithful. It was 14 years he went down to Jerusalem. And then a short while later, he was commissioned by the Lord.

Where are you at in your spiritual walk? Are you able to be prepared to be commissioned by the Lord? If you can't be faithful in the natural things, if you can't learn to receive instruction in the natural things, you won't be able to receive it in the spiritual things. And this is why I can say, Lord, you haven't used me in a greater measure. You haven't used me in a greater measure because of this.

I love everything else but you. We have to learn to get rid of those things so that one day we can learn to say when we are persecuted for the gospel, those things don't have a hold on my life. I could say, Lord, I'm ready.

I'm ready to serve you. You know, when you're young in the Lord, you think that you can take on the world. But as you get older, man, you start to realize your weakness.

You start to realize your failures. And that you can do nothing without the Lord. So we have, I hope that I learn it sooner.

I would probably experience more of his presence at that point. I pray that this year you have the desire, the presence of the Lord in your life. They despair even of life.

Indeed, we have the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. We don't trust in ourselves our own abilities. We have to trust in God who raises the dead.

He is able to raise the dead. It's amazing that he said that in that situation. Who delivered us from so great a peril of death and he will deliver us.

He on whom we have set our hope and he will yet deliver us. Hope on Jesus goes hand in hand with trusting in him. We on whom we have set our hope and he will yet deliver us.

I love it. He has delivered us, he will deliver us, and he will continue to deliver us. He has, he does, and he will deliver us.

You know, if you look at your life this past year, the Lord delivered you from circumstances. You know what? It's a shame to us because we don't write these things down. We try to remember them, but if you look back, you guys probably don't remember the things that the Lord did for you this year, but we don't write it down.

Some of us may, but I haven't. There was time in my life where I did. You know what you need to do? You need to set those milestones down on a piece of paper and you need to write it down a little notebook.

The Lord answered this prayer. The Lord did this for me and you know what? We will start to realize that the Lord has delivered us and our trust in him will grow. Our trust in him will grow as we look back to the things that he's done.

Some people say don't ever look back. No, I want to look back to see if all the times that the Lord has delivered me, all the times that he's brought about a change, and every single time I'm questioning him or I'm grumbling or complaining, I need to get in that book and I need to realize what he's done, and then I'm going to turn my complaints into praise, and you become more spiritual when you can praise the Lord, and if he doesn't deliver you, praise God. You know what? I'll finish here.

He has, he does, and he will. That testimony that I told you to listen to of that Diebler Rose lady, wonderful testimony, but she says this, that true faith is not when you have hope realized and it gets given to you, the things you hope for. True faith is when that thing that you hope for doesn't get given to you.

He withholds it from your hand, and yet you still trust the Lord. You still praise the Lord, and I cried when I read that, because I heard that, because I was like, man, that is such a strong spiritual place to be. When you realize those things that you hope for and you don't get them, you can still say, thank you, Lord.

Thank you for doing what you're doing in my life. I'm going to trust you and realize that this is good for me in the end. Thank you.

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