

The question needs to be asked in our Message Churches, "Can we trust God too much?" Is there such a thing as going TOO FAR in the matter of trusting God? Do we have any scripture where God ever rebuked any of His Saints for trusting in Him too much? When the physical lives of His people were at stake, and it was their choice to either maintain their testimony or turn back, were they ever rebuked for laying their life on the line? How far should our Creator be trusted anyway? Is there a place, or a time, when we have gone far enough in our trust so that it would be scripturally right to stop trusting? Where does the Bible say the line can be drawn? Or, is there such a line?

These are not idle questions that can be read and then easily forgotten, but they are of utmost importance! In view of what our Prophet said about our Faith needing to be made PERFECT we must, with all honesty, answer the above questions personally.

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, PAGE 33, "I did this for a purpose, I am working out something. It's taking this charge of faith and going right back to begin, and come in, see. To kind of raise faith in a bracket where you have never noticed it that way before. Not just "A" faith but a PERFECT FAITH, built up in here (the heart). And watch a perfect God with a perfect heart, keep a perfect promise, by His perfect Word, which is sharper than a two edged sword, and a discerner of the thoughts of the heart. And what? We are coming now to the perfection, because the people has to come to this in order for the

HOW FAR SHOULD GOD BE TRUSTED?

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Rapture. That's what is holding it away right now, is waiting for the church to come into that PERFECT RAP TURING FAITH" (End quote)

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH PAGE 24, "When Satan tempts us we are to resist him IN A PERFECT FAITH, in a perfect Word, like Jesus did. The Word of God is perfect. We are to have PERFECT FAITH in this perfect Word." (End quote)

Our Prophet was only teaching what Paul taught!

I Thes. 3:9-10, "**For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, AND MAKE PERFECT THAT WHICH IS LACKING IN YOUR FAITH.**"

Paul said that he had been praying night and day that he could visit these Thessalonians, so that he could, by further teaching, make them PERFECT in their Faith. In all ages, God has seen fit to lead His Bride to places of laying their life on the line for His sake, but he had also brought them one step at a time to the place where they, "**Loved not their lives unto the death.**" (Rev. 12: 11) Their Faith was a thing of steady growth.

Jesus said in Luke 22:23, "**I prayed for thee that thy Faith fail not.**" A Faith that never fails is one that never finds a place to stop trusting, and here the Lord prayed

that Peter would come into this Perfect Faith. James said, in James 1:6-7, "**But let him ask in Faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.**" Verse 7, "**For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.**"

Our Prophet, William Branham, spoke of how God tested Abraham to that final point (of plunging the knife into the heart of his beloved Isaac).

QUOTE: POSSESSING THE ENEMY'S GATES PAGE 7, "Then if He let Abraham be tested to that final point, He's got to test you and me to that final moment, that time of decision when everything is away from you. You have to stand alone there. Hallelujah! That's it!" (End quote)

And Brother Branham received more than one test to that final point himself. Let him tell about when the Lord took his wife and baby.

QUOTE: AND KNOWETH IT NOT, PAGES 25-26-27, "I said, 'Doc, I ain't got no more strength. Couple hours of calling for my baby, Sharon, run her out there...Just to see her in spasms—it wouldn't stop. They put a needle in the spine; they punctured it, brought the sign up—tubercular meningitis....."

I said, 'What's the matter?' He said, 'You can't see her. She's dying, Bill.' I said, 'No, Sam, not my baby.' He said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Don't even ask for her, Bill, if she

would ever live she would be afflicted. She would always be drawn up, and she would be afflicted all of her life." He said, 'She's got meningitis. Don't go around her. You'll just kill Billy by doing it.'

I said, 'Sam, I have got to see her.' He said, 'you can't do it, Bill, I forbid you. Now, you know how much I think of you. You're my buddy and everything; how much I think of you and how much I believe you, Bill, but don't go to that baby. If you do that, that meningitis is on her. She'll be gone in a few minutes, and we'll bury her. Bill, I just feel so sorry for you.' He called the nurse over and gave me some kind of medicine. He said, 'I don't see how the man's standing up.'

I stood there a little bit. He brought the medicine in and I sat down in the hall. He said, 'Sit,' and the nurse said, 'I want you to drink this, Brother Branham.'

I said, 'Thank you, just set it down there a minute.' When she left, I poured it over in that spittoon; set the glass back down. I said, 'Oh, God, what have I done?' You're a good God. Why did you let her die and letting me holding her two little arms like that; begging Him for her. Why did You let her go? There's Billy laying there dying, and here she is dying! What have I done? Tell me! Well, I might as well go with them.' I opened the door and no nurse was there and I slipped down in the basement. That was before the hospital was fixed. Screens, no screens, on the windows hardly; flies on her little eyes. Had a piece of mosquito bar, we call it-netting-put over her face. I shoed the flies off; laid there. Her little eyes, she was suffering so hard 'till they were crossing.

Then, Satan moved up by the

side of me, there. He said, 'Did you say He was a good God?'

I said, 'Yeah, I said that.'

'Did you say He was a Healer? Well, why did your father die in your arms over there, and you called him a sinner....calling for his life. Why did your brother die in your other brother's arms, out there, and you standing in the pulpit preaching a few weeks ago? Then why didn't He answer you? You said He loved you. He saved you.'

You couldn't tell me there's no God because I already seen Him. But he was telling me, He didn't care for me.

He said, 'There lays your wife; your babies will be there pretty soon. Your daddy's buried. Your brother's buried. Your wife's going to be buried, now, tomorrow, and here's your other baby dying. He's a good God. He's a Healer. You made a sap out of yourself. What did it do?'

It was working from the outside, now, to this first man.

'And you were liked amongst the people; but what are you now? A religious fanatic.'

That's right. I was. See, these things begin to move together. The outside reasoning and the Spirit moving these things together. 'That's right, Satan.'

'Then, did you say He was a Healer?'

'Yes, yeah.'

'And you begging and crying and the people telling you it wasn't so, that you're all off the line. Your own turns you out for this. Your own Baptist Church down there, put you out the door for the very same cause.'

'Yeah.'

'Your daddy buried; your brother buried. Your wife lying there to be buried, and here's your baby just about 15 minutes longer,

and she'll be gone. And He's a Healer? Your own flesh and blood; one word from Him would save the baby's life. 'He's the Healer,' you said. The people tried to tell you. Their preachers told you, you were all messed up; you were all insane. You've become a religious fanatic, and you said He loved you. Could He love you?

Everything he was telling me was the truth. Everything that he would say would fall right in line. See, here? I was just then about ready to say that, 'That's the way He has to act, then I won't serve Him.' Just as I said that there was something came from somewhere else. Way down on the inside said, 'Who are you to begin with? The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away.'

See, that's that inside man. Don't reason at all. I looked back and I thought, 'How did I get on Earth? I came from a bunch of drunkards. How did I get here? Who gave me life? Who gave me that wife? Who gave me that baby? Where did my wife come from? Where did my life come from?'

I said, 'Though He slay me, yet I'll trust Him.' I said, 'Get away from me, Satan.'

I laid my hand over on the baby, I said, 'Sharon, Honey, I'll lay you on your mother's arms in a few minutes when the Angels of God will come to take you away.'

The Word of God shall never fail. It'll triumph no matter what that is. Then I knew there was something inside of all these things...something inside of all emotions, everything else like that; there was an inside man that held in that hour, nothing else could have done it. Every reason, everything that they showed, everything proving it was wrong, and I was in the wrong, but the Word of God that was predestinated before the

foundation of the world, held on the inside." (End quote)

To the Prophet's natural mind, it seemed that he had gone far enough in trusting God, but the Holy Ghost that lived in his soul came to his rescue and strengthened him, showing him that there is never a right place to stop believing. The Prophet is now with his family that passed on before him, but even before he moved into that dimension himself, he knew that God's "NO" in answer to his prayers was the right way. To Perfect Faith, God's "No" is just as good as His "Yes." Though our hearts be broken, and our lives seem not worth living, we can stir up that real Faith and know our God is "Just" in all that He does.

The more we catch the revelation of His total Perfection, the more we will trust in His judgments. He has never made a mistake; he has never done anything, nor allowed anything, that will not work together for good to those who love Him. The Tie Post that the Christian life is fastened to is "Trust in God."

Gen. 18:25, "**.....Shall not the Judge of all the Earth do right?**"

Psalms 19:8, "**The Statutes of the Lord are RIGHT.**"

Psalms 111:7, "**His works are faithful and Right.**"

Psalms 119:75, "**Lord.....Thy Judgments are RIGHT.**"

Psalms 119:127-128, "**Therefore, I esteem all Thy precepts concerning ALL THINGS to be RIGHT, and I hate every false way.**"

Pro. 4:11, "**I have led thee in the RIGHT paths.**"

From these scriptures, and many more that could be listed, we see that whatever He has willed to come to pass is the absolute perfect way. The thoughts of man can never improve upon the way our

God handles the circumstances of our lives. Someone may ask how we explain all the evil we see happening in the Earth. The answer is we don't attempt to explain it! We just take His word that promises that it will all work together for good to those that love Him and trust Him. (Rom. 8:28)

Without Faith in God, the unbeliever accuses Him of many things, but the Believing Bride trusts Him in all matters. If not now, they soon will, because He is giving them many opportunities to do so. One trial over, and with our Faith strengthened by having seen Him deliver us from the hand of the fowler this makes way for a yet more severe test, until at last we understand that there is no circumstance that can separate us from His great Love. (Rom. 8:35-39) He is with us all the way to the end.

How far can we go in the matter of trusting God? The answer is, "We can go as far as He requires us to go!" It is not for us to REASON with God about His Word, it is our business to believe it and obey it. When God ordered Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice, Abraham had much room for "reasoning and arguing" about that command. To Abraham's natural mind, it was not in line with God's promise which said, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Surely, the question was in Abraham's mind, "How far can I go in the matter of trusting and obeying God?" We can know that the enemy brought that question. The Bride must answer it.

We can thank God today that Father Abraham decided that there was no right place to stop trusting his God. He obeyed the command and left it up to the Lord how He would keep His promise! His choice earned for him the title "The Father of Our Faith." Over

and over in the scriptures, God has shown us that it is perfectly safe to obey Him, even when we cannot understand. Joseph continued to love and trust His God while he sat in a dungeon for several years, falsely accused of rape. Do we suppose he understood what God was doing? I think not. To understand everything is to do away with the element of Faith.

Paul, crawling out on the shore after a terrible storm had wrecked his ship, was bitten by the most poisonous snake on the island. After all he had been through, don't you suppose the thought was brought to him, "This is the final blow, now you will die!" But Paul knew that even then there was no right place to stop trusting his God. So, he flung the reptile off into the fire and kept walking and trusting.

How far should the Three Hebrew Children go in their trusting the Lord? They had refused to bow to the false image. They had heard the death sentence concerning the fiery furnace. They had been bound and were being carried toward it. Do you believe they were praying as hard as they ever did in their life? Put yourself in their place, they were human just as we are. We know they were praying for the Lord to stop the men from actually throwing them into the furnace, but they suddenly found themselves sailing through the air towards its open door. Was this the time to cast their Faith aside? What if they had done so? Then the flames would have devoured them in a moment! With their lives on the line, they found no place to stop trusting!

When Daniel refused to stop praying according to the king's law, he was sentenced to the lions den. Don't you know he was praying, "Lord, You wouldn't let them throw me in there would you?"

How would you have been praying? But, he was lowered into the pit just the same. What if, on his way down, he had decided, "This is far enough to trust the Lord." Then he would have been devoured by the lions. How far should we go in trusting our God? As far as He requires! We will never loose by it, even if He takes us out of this world.

Gideon was told by the Lord to take 300 men and attack an enemy army who were camped in a valley, the number of which were like grasshoppers for multitude, and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude. (Judges 7:12) After making certain that he had his orders straight, Gideon obeyed the Lord. In the natural realm, it was certain death for Gideon and the 300. If God did not move in their behalf, they would be surrounded by an overwhelming multitude and instantly cut to pieces. How far should they go in the matter of trusting their God? It was after they decided to put their lives on the line that God delivered them with a supernatural deliverance.

In the days of Queen Esther, when King Ahasuerus had made a decree to kill all the Jews in the land, Esther put her life on the line for her Jewish people. Disobeying a strict law of the King, she appeared before him without having been called. The penalty for such an action was death, unless the King chose to grant a pardon to the guilty person. Standing in the court in the king's presence, and without his permission, Esther waited. If the King accepted her presence, she would intercede for the Jews, if he rejected her bold intrusion, she would die. She had decided to go all the way in trusting the Lord. Her testimony was, "**If I perish, I perish.**" (Esther 4:16)

Stephen, accused of blasphemy, nevertheless, preached the Holy Gospel to those disputing him. At the end of his long discourse to them, he took his life in his hands and said, "**Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost, as your Father's did, so do ye. Which of the Prophets have not your Father's persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murders.**" (Acts 7: 51-52)

For his obedience to the Gospel, they gnashed on him with their teeth, and stoned him to death. Did he go too far in trusting his God? No! For his faithfulness, he looked up, even as the stones fell, and saw the Glory of God, and Jesus standing on the Right Hand of God. (Acts 7:56)

In the scriptures, we find story after story of the Elect and Called of God placing their lives on the Altar for the Lord's sake! It was God's choice to confront them with such decisions. Was He asking them to go too far? The carnal mind concludes that such treatment is unjust, but the spiritual mind knows that "**All His precepts, concerning ALL THINGS are RIGHT.**" (Ps. 119:128)

How far has the modern church come from "**The Faith that was once delivered unto the Saints?**" Listen to the testimonies of some who are in our glorious Message, and we see that they suppose the most dangerous thing that can be done is place their total being in God's Hands. No Friends, that is not the most dangerous thing. Far more dangerous than that, is to be found placing some part of our lives into the hands of men.

Jer. 17:5, "**Thus saith the Lord, cursed be the man that**

trusteth in man and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord."

James 1:8, "**A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**"

Ps. 118:8, "**It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.**"

Isa. 2:22, "**Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for wherein is he to be accounted of?"**

How far should we go in the way of trusting the Lord? There must be no stopping place for the Bride. Let the rest reason and falter, but let the Bride, "**Love not their lives unto the death.**" (Rev. 12:11)

A PERSONAL NOTE TO OUR READERS

Our new book "CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY of the SEVENTH SEAL REVEALED" is back from the publisher and ready to be mailed. It contains subjects related to the Seventh Seal, such as The Third Pull, The Tent Vision, The Seven Thunders, etc. As usual there is no charge for the book and we pay the postage. To receive your book, please submit a written request. To our good Brothers overseas, we need your name and full address TYPED OUT and placed in with your request. We are often much confused trying to read your writing. Please help us with this. If you have not received an answer to a previous request, please be patient with us, our office is overflowing with requests and we are doing our best. Our heartfelt thanks to all who support us in whatever way.

In Christian Love,
Brother C.W. Wood

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