



Crkva
cjelovitog
evandelja

Kneza Branimira 11
10 000 Zagreb, Hrvatska
cce@cce.hr

T 01 4920 726
F 01 4813 871
www.cce.hr



HOLY TRUST

Ivan Rukavina,
February 2010.

CEO Pulpit Series is sent out monthly free of charge. If you would like to be added to our mailing list and receive these messages on a regular basis please send your request to: ceo@cce.hr

“So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you.”
(Proverbs 22:19)

Recently I was convinced that trust in God is one of the most important elements of the Christian faith and walk with Christ. Actually, I am convinced that distrust, lack of faith in God is serious and destructive sin and can cause much damage in our life. I can confirm in my own life that it is impossible to live without faith. We must make decisions and seek counsel and protection; we need security, comfort, wisdom and help, which is why we must trust in someone or something.

Life is filled with various questions and dilemmas; we are faced with sundry challenges,

conflicts, and trouble. It is no wonder that we need faith. However, the most important question is not whether or not we trust in someone or something, but in whom or what we trust. We realize in whom or what we trust when we are faced with practical questions in our everyday life.

1. WHO DO WE TURN TO?

To whom or what do we first turn to when we need counsel in making decisions for our

✦ Our decisions in handling our finances, lifestyle, organizing our time, and raising our children reveal to us in whom we trust. Trust is that which counsels us in what we do and where we go.



finances, career, or ministry? Where do we turn when we are in trouble and are facing a crisis? Who is our security in times of suffering and sorrow? Who is the first person we confess to and share our most intimate secrets, dilemmas and frustrations with? These are some questions that help us realize who we lean on in our life. Actually we can see where our trust lies in every area of our life.

Our decisions in handling our finances, lifestyle, organizing our time, and raising our children reveal to us in whom we trust. Trust is that which counsels us in what we do and where we go. Trust is the foundation on which we make our everyday decisions, large and small, for, decisions in our family, finances, and every detail of our life. Faith enables us to walk through life, face troubles and crises and encounter everyday problems and challenges.

2. TWO UNIVERSAL SOURCES – FALSE AND HOLY TRUST.

We are continually tempted by various sources of trust. Someone is constantly fighting for our attention. The choice is ours. We can decide today in what or whom we

will trust. Let us take a look at what we are offered as the object of our trust. I believe that there are only two universal sources of trust for every man. The choice between false trust and holy trust. Holy trust is trust in God and trust in what His Word says. False trust consists of an entire spectrum of various sources of trust.

First, the false source of trust that tempts us everyday is trust in culture and a worldly system. We live in a culture. We are in contact with it everyday and at times it can seem as if it is nearly impossible that over time this culture and world in which we live do not become our hope. The media, news, Internet, and television aggressively attempt to impose on our standard of living. Actually, many answers to life's questions can be found in our culture and world, numerous and various ideas on how to manage our finances, how to raise our children, and how to solve our health, emotional, psychological and spiritual problems. Counsel is literally screaming at us from all directions.

It is very hard to remain indifferent to all of these instant aids that this worldly culture has to offer us. Patches to quit smoking, self-help books, financial advisors on how to get rich quick, information on how to become successful overnight are just some of the slogans and instant aids of this modern society. Formulas for healthy weight loss, good looks, and stay-

★ Faith enables us to walk through life, face troubles and crises and encounter everyday problems and challenges.

ing fit are themes of most of magazines for men and women. In fact, it is difficult to find an area of our life for which we cannot receive counsel, direction or training from our society. Child rearing and sexuality have long been themes elaborated on by popular documentaries and sitcoms. False spirituality and false teachers capture the minds of thousands of our fellow-citizens who, unquestionably, fill every arena of our city to hold seminars.

We may ask ourselves how we can remain indifferent and why we should not receive counsel, wisdom and answers that this culture has to offer. More importantly is how simple and easy it is to access them. As Christians we must stop, ask ourselves and see what God says about trust in this culture. When I read God's Word I always see the same answer. God does not want for us to trust in the answers that this culture and world offer. God reveals to us that this culture is based on a value system of fallen man and the influences of the princes of this world of Satan. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience." (Ephesians 2:1-2)

The Bible is full of examples of God's chosen people who walked away from their creator and turned to the godless cultures

of that age seeking counsel and timely help.

"Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin; Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt! They were all ashamed of a people [who] could not benefit them, Or be help or benefit, But a shame and also a reproach." (Isaiah 30:1-2, 5)

God's people often repeated the same mistake. They were inclined to be opened to the culture and influence of other nations that God had strictly forbidden; worshiping other gods and various pagan practices came through the influence of culture and a worldly system. The Israelites had a way to hear from God, they had the Urim and

★ As Christians we must stop, ask ourselves and see what God says about trust in this culture. God does not want for us to trust in the answers that this culture and world offer. God reveals to us that this culture is based on a value system of fallen man and the influences of the princes of this world of Satan.



prophets, they had Moses' law, but they chose to put their faith in a false source of trust!

Eventually, it is time to be sober and realize that we are living in the enemy's world in which the course of this world and an unclean spirit that animates and controls through a corrupt human ancestry rule. The worldly system and culture that surrounds us has a pagan character and an ungodly nature.

One false source of trust that can become a great trap in our lives is faith in various outward circumstances. Position, power, authority, and first impressions seem like important biblical terms. However, when these things become our source of trust they can cost us our relationship with God and His plans for our life. "Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20:7)

In Bible times, kings and their armies did not have any value and strength without God. They could not go to war or acquire territories without God. We know

that the Israelites' enemies were mightier, more powerful, and had better-armed militaries, but they were not able to overcome them in war because the Lord of Hosts was with the Israelites.

What represents our horses and armies today? Are you a member of a great council of society or the largest church in town? Is this your life's source of trust? If you have a reputation, position, authority, and power this should not be the source of your trust. Is it your workplace, your membership, your relatives or loved ones, your status, standard of living, your position, authority or power?

Riches are one of the most dangerous false sources of trust of our time. Money, in and of itself is good, useful, and needful, but when it becomes the source of our trust it can entice us and lead us on a wrong path. "He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage." (Proverbs 11:28)

Another dangerous and false source of trust, which the Bible clearly warns us about, is trust in man. When we live our life in such a way that our decisions and our faith are placed exclusively in man we will find ourselves in a very dangerous position. Friends, parents, family, ministers, and spouses are people God has placed in our life for a reason. Each one has his own role and specific influence in our life. God uses people and speaks through them in giving us counsel. Through them he warns,

★ Riches are one of the most dangerous false sources of trust of our time. Money, in and of itself is good, useful, and needful, but when it becomes the source of our trust it can entice us and lead us on a wrong path.

comforts, rebukes, and encourages, but when man becomes a source of our trust we put him in place of God and we come under a curse. “Thus says the LORD: “Cursed [is] the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD.” (Jeremiah 17:5)

In comparison with God, every human aid is null and void. “Give us help from trouble, for the help of man is useless.” (Psalm 108:12) If there is a person in our life in whom we have more trust than we have in God then we are living in a dangerous state. If we have more trust and security in those we can see than in God whom we cannot see then we are not walking by faith and are not pleasing God. God is a jealous God and longs for fellowship, intimacy, and relationship. Not one person on this earth should replace our Lord!

In wrapping up this presentation on false trust, I must mention the most dangerous source of false trust. The greatest barrier to holy trust is self-reliance. God’s Word never encourages us to trust in ourselves. “There is a way [that seems] right to a man, but its end [is] the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12) On the contrary, God’s Word teaches us that we ought not to trust in ourselves, but in the Lord. “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? [There is] more hope for a fool than for him.” (Proverbs 26:12)

People today have too much trust in themselves. This is one reason why we

are sometimes miles away from God’s plan for our lives. Sometimes we trust more in ourselves than in God, and this is one of the most dangerous places we can be. “Woe to [those who are] wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:21) The territory of our soul: mind, will and emotions, is momentarily being renewed and must be submitted to God’s Word. The mind and intellect are one of the greatest hindrances to our trust in God. A great deal of what happens to us in life has a spiritual character and cannot be explained by our intellect.

Our mind is limited and often cannot answer even the simplest of questions. It can seriously deceive us. When it comes to trust, the Bible does not encourage us to include our mind or to ponder it. While God gave us a mind and intelligence to use, but never encouraged us to allow our mind to be our source of trust. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5) We cannot believe our own hearts because they are by nature corrupt and in the process of change. God is changing our hearts, but we must not trust in them. “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will

★ The greatest barrier to holy trust is self-reliance. God’s Word never encourages us to trust in ourselves.



be delivered.” (Proverbs 28:26) We cannot even trust in our emotions because they are like our mind, in the process of being renewed. Our emotions are often changing and sometimes unstable. We cannot believe or trust in them. “Why are you cast down, O my soul? And [why] are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him [For] the help of His countenance.” (Psalm 42:5)

Experience is also a good thing and is very helpful while we travel through this life. However, not even our experience should be our source of trust. We can then only ask ourselves; in what should we place our trust? How can I live my life making decisions, being certain that I am on the right path? God’s Word has the answer to our life’s dilemmas. God’s call for us to trust in Him is very serious and direct. The book of Proverbs gives us life’s wisdom on trust.

✦ It is time to be sober and realize that we are living in the enemy’s world in which the course of this world and an unclean spirit that animates and controls through a corrupt human ancestry rule. The worldly system and culture that surrounds us has a pagan character and an ungodly nature.

3. HOLY TRUST IN GOD

Holy trust is trust according to God’s standards and perfect will; it is trust in God and God alone! God is the source of our security, wisdom, and counsel. There is not one small decision that is small enough that it is unimportant to God, neither is there a big decision that God does not care about. God is interested in every area and detail of our life. Anything that speaks contrary to that is a lie straight from hell. You will find all your answers in God. Some answers are revealed in His Word, some answers God will give us in various ways, and some He will wait to give to us when we enter into eternity.

In the Old Testament there are three main words that help us understand holy trust. The Hebrew words *yachal*, *chacah*, *mibtach* and *batach*, which altogether are repeated 213 times in the Old Testament. God is serious in his direct message that we trust in Him.

The word *yachal* tells us that trust means to hope in God. Hope that implies watching and waiting. We must wait on God and His answer, reaction, and work amidst trouble, need, battle, and trials, and then finally waiting on His eternal salvation and redemption. “Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.” (Micah 7:7)

The Hebrew words *chacah* and *batach* imply trust and confidence in God and His

love, goodness, mercy, strength, and power. Because of that we can trust Him with our cares, problems, and anxieties. We can surrender to Him our ways, money, fears, and life's plans, desires, and visions. "The LORD [is] good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him." (Nahum 1:7)

The word *mibtach* implies trust in God in the sense of security and protection that we have in Him. This kind of trust persuades us to come and draw close to Him and His presence, glory, fellowship and intimacy, as well as taking shelter under the shadow of His wings. "I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, [And] established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; Many will see [it] and fear, and will trust in the LORD." (Psalm 118:1-3)

Trusting in God does not only mean to be obedient to God's Word and to answer His call, God has already promised wonderful blessings that result from holy trust! God's Word promises us that He rewards our trust in Him with great benefits. He will give us security and we shall not fall. "Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip." (Psalm 119:1)

By trusting in God we will not be ashamed. "Indeed, let no one who waits on

You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause." (Psalm 124:3) We will receive healing, help, and redemption. "O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit." (Psalm 138:3)

God also promises that we will experience His goodness "Oh, how great [is] Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, [Which] You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!" (Psalm 136:19) and great mercy "Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him." (Psalm 137:10)

We will have God's leadership. "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring [it] to pass." (Psalm 138:5), God will not only protect us and lead us, He will exalt us in due time to a place and position that he has intended "Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see [it]." (Psalm 138:34) and will give us true success that has true value. "He

★ The mind and intellect are one of the greatest hindrances to our trust in God. A great deal of what happens to us in life has a spiritual character and cannot be explained by our intellect.



who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.” (Proverbs 28:25)

In the end, God promises that He will draw near to us and hear us. “I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.” (Psalm 40:1) and He will give us protection from every trap. “For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.” (Proverbs 3:26)

The decision lies before us today. Everyday we can decide who and what will be the source of our trust. Life on earth brings us great challenges; we are placed in a position that we must choose how we will live. Everyone is fighting for our attention to give us counsel. It is hard to remain aloof and to choose that which is of value. Our habits of false trust often blind us and cause us to be deaf to the counsels of our Lord. The world and our culture tempt us, habits tell us to trust in ourselves, and believe in our

own intellect, experience and discretion. People around us are always ready to give us direction and counsel on how to live and make decisions. But, I believe that nothing is as valuable as living life according to God’s will and direction. God counsels us to trust in Him and to surrender to Him our needs, battles, and life’s questions. He is willing to cooperate with us. God is willing to lead us through life because He is the only one who knows what is best for us. He will never betray us!

We can be free from a life of bondage to false trust today; free from a life saturated with anxieties, cares, distrust, disappointments, and desperation. If we receive God’s call and trust only in Him we will be free because we will live a life of faith and holy trust.

★ Nothing is as valuable as living life according to God’s will and direction.

All material in this issue is subject to International copyright laws and may not be reproduced without prior written approval. Permission to reproduce may be obtained by writing to Croatian Evangelistic Outreach.

Copyright © 2010 CEO. All Rights reserved.

Private duplication of this message for friends and neighbors is authorized.



Gifts within the United States of America designated for this ministry are received by Spirit Life Ministries International P.O. Box 363 Hermiston, OR 97838. For further information visit www.slm-international.org or call (541) 567-4486. For tax-deductible receipts, please make checks payable to Spirit Life Ministries International and write **Croatian Evangelistic Outreach (CEO)**

in the memo of your check. Online payments can be made by PayPal to: drdean@lfc-hermiston.org Gifts outside the United States of America can be sent to: Crkva cjelovitog evanđelja, Kneza Branimira 11, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia. Bank Name: Raiffeisen Bank Austria D.D. Zagreb. Swift Number: RZBHH2XXXX. Account Number 2484008-2100013054. IBAN Number: HRO224840081102460506. Thank You.