

## Trust the Lord, Not Men

Let's face it. Times are tough. The economy is in the tubes. Recession continues. Job security seems to be dwindling. Inflation seems to be increasing. At the same time, cancer seems to be on the rise. Friends get sick and die. Families are struggling. What should we do in times like these?

**Jeremiah 17:5-8** provides a contrast:

Thus says the Lord:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,  
whose heart turns away from the Lord.

He is like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.” (ESV)

We can trust in men. Maybe our boss will protect us. Maybe the doctors can heal us. Maybe the government can fix the economy. Maybe our preacher or shepherds can tell us what to do. We can run to the bookstore and stockpile our self-help books, learning the latest and greatest of techniques to improve our lives and have hope.

While I have no doubt all of these things have a worthwhile place in our lives, they are not the answer. If that is where we turn, we will be like a shrub in a desert, desperately longing for a drink but choking to death. In fact, it may look like the world and everyone else is succeeding and thriving while we feel parched on the inside wondering what is wrong with us.

God is the answer. We must trust in God. We must lean on Him. When we don't understand why He directs us in a certain path, we must simply follow Him. His way works.

Don't be naïve about this. The heat will still come. Drought will still happen. There will be troubles and turmoil. There will be problems. We will face struggles. But no matter what we face if we trust God, acknowledging Him in our lives, and walk on His path, He will guide us through. We will have no need to fear.

Remember, God loves us. According to **Romans 8:28**, if we love God, He will make sure all things work together for our good. That doesn't mean nothing that we deem bad will happen to us. It simply means no matter what it is, we can trust God that He will weave it into our lives for our ultimate good of going to heaven. No matter what we face, we can put our hand in His, follow His lead, and He will care for us.

However, there is one warning we need to heed. **Jeremiah 17:9** goes on to say: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (ESV). We must be careful as we trust God that it is God we are really trusting. Too often we get a feeling and decide that must be God's guidance. Too often we interpret the seeming “signs” around us in order to push for the decision and path we really want. We must take care to lead our heart down God's path and not let our heart deceive us into believing we are on God's path when we aren't. As **Psalms 119:105** says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (ESV). If we want to be sure we are walking in God's path, not deceived by our own heart to trust in ourselves, then we must walk according to God's revealed word. He gave it to us to save us. Let's submit to it.

Remember, God's way will work, but man's won't. We can trust God.

PS: For a great visible illustration of this principle to drive the point home check out the following video:  
<http://edwincrozier.com/?p=2006>