

THE TRUST TEST

Proverbs 3:1-10

"Do I *really* trust God?"

1. Take A Personal Inventory (Ps 139:23,24; Prov 3:5-10)

"God, look deep into my heart and find out everything that I am thinking. Don't let me follow evil ways, but lead me in the way that time has proven true." Ps 139:23

Three observations

- i. God alone knows everything about me.
- ii. Only God can lead me correctly.
- iii. Taking inventory begins with me.

Proverbs 3:5-10

2. Recognize God As Your Source

Ex 19:5; Haggai 2:8; Dt 8:18

"**My God** shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus" Phil 4:19

3. Understand God's Principles

3 stewardship principles

1. The Who's the Boss Principle (Psalm 24:1)
2. The Give and Grow Principle.

"Some say dedicate your heart to something and the money will follow; but our Lord put it the other way around. 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.' If your treasure is dedicated, your heart will be dedicated. If it is not, your heart won't be either. It is as simple as that." Stewardship, Timothy Johnson

3. The 'Do or Stew' Principle.

"The person who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything." Samuel Johnson

"No enterprise can exist for itself alone. It ministers to some great need, it performs some great service, not for itself, but for others; or failing therein it ceases to be profitable and ceases to exist." Calvin Coolidge

"We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give." Douglas M. Lawson

4. The 'First Fruit' Principle.
Prov 3:9. ; 1 Cor 16:2

5. The "First Love" Principle.
"God loves a cheerful giver."

I have found that...

We can give without loving, but
We cannot love without giving.

A loving relationship asks: "How much can I give? "

Legalistic religion asks: "How little can I give

6. The "Sow-Reap" Principle. Luke 6:38

Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap." Now notice this next phrase, "But by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. Prov 11:24

7. The 'Channel of Blessing ' Principle.

Our life is to be like a river, not a reservoir.

"We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give."

4. Surrender Everything to God

Luke 16:10; Jeremiah 17:5-8

"He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much."

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like..." -- "He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes, and he will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives." (Jeremiah 17:5-6)

"Blessed is the man (or woman) who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

5. Test God's Promises

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much." Mother Teresa

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so that there will be food in my house.... Test me now on this,' says the Lord of Hosts. 'If I will not open for you, the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing until it overflows." Malachi 3:9-10

In the area I obey -- God blesses.

In the area I disobey -- God disciplines.

Take a Personal Inventory

Recognize God as your Source.

Understand God's Principles

Surrender ALL to God.

Test God's Promises