

Bible Verses on Faith and Trust

1 John 5:4-5 - For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our (your) faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

How does our faith overcome the sin, evil, and destruction of the world? What is the object of our faith that fulfills this promise? And how can we have more faith? What do we need to do to experience this overcoming power in our lives? Or are we simply believing in our heads and not living out that belief in our hearts? And if so, what would it look like to believe Jesus is the Son of God who has conquered sin and death and now lives in us forever? Is there more to the overcoming life in Christ that I am missing?

I am a "whatever" that is born of God. And I believe Jesus is the Son of God. Yet I cannot say my faith has overcome the world. I still struggle and sin. I have my doubts and live in lukewarmness more than not. I believe there is more to the Christian life than I have experienced (there has to be), yet I don't know how to move from where I am to where I want to be in my relationship with Him. Sound familiar?

1 Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

What is the "good fight of faith"? Who or what are we fighting? And how do you take part in that fight?

Jeremiah 17:7-8 - "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus - Philippians 4:6-7.

Nahum 1:7 - The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows (*yāda*) those who trust in Him.

The LORD is good (of moral excellence), a stronghold (refuge, fortress, shelter, a place where one turns for assistance or protection) in the day of trouble (distress, anguish, an oppressive state of physical, mental, social, or economic adversity); and He knows (*yāda*) those who trust in Him.

What does it mean, "He knows those who trust in Him"? The Hebrew word translated know is *yāda* and is translated in the Septuagint as *ginōskō*. So what does this passage say now? And what are the implications for you and me in the times in which we live?

"I am the good shepherd; and I know (*ginōskō*) My sheep, and am known (*ginōskō*) by My own. As the Father knows (*ginōskō*) Me, even so I know (*ginōskō*) the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep" - John 10:14-15.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know (*ginōskō*) them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. (why) I and My Father are one" - John 10:27-30.

Note the qualifier: "those who trust in Him." The word *trust* means "to seek, to take refuge. The word is used literally in reference to seeking a tree's shade or protection from the heat." It is also translated elsewhere in the Old Testament as "take refuge, put their trust, put my trust, sought refuge, take shelter, and trust or trusts."

Read in context. Note the judgments of God on a former repentant city that returned to idolatry, violence, and sin (3:1). But also note how God promises His love and attention to those who trust Him, even while living in a nation/city under judgment. Can you see any parallels to our situation today? Do you see how our Lord can rescue the righteous from His judgment even though they live in a culture under His judgment? Do you believe that is true, even today?

For the LORD knows (*yāda*) the way (*derek* - path, journey, manner of life and course of conduct) of the righteous, but the way (*derek*) of the ungodly shall perish - Psalm 1:6.

Trust in the Lord... Delight yourself also in the Lord... Commit your way to the Lord... Rest in the Lord... Wait on the Lord... Psalm 37.

Psalm 56:3-4 - Whenever I am afraid, I will (present) trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), in God I have (past tense) put my trust; (therefore) I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? - Psalm 56:11.

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? - Psalm 118:6.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? - Psalm 27:1.

I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears - Psalm 34:4.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? - Romans 8:31.

Proverbs 16:3 - Commit (to dedicate or trust entirely) your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established (to make firm, to stand in an upright position, to be conforming to fact and therefore worthy of belief).

Commit (to dedicate or trust entirely) your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass - Psalm 37:5.

There is more than just trusting God with our ways and works, we must "trust also in Him." And God, not us, will bring it to pass (to accomplish and make complete.) Why? So He gets the glory and not us. Which is the way it should be (see Galatians 2:20).

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct (to become smooth, straight, right) your paths - Proverbs 3:5-6.

Psalm 91:1-2 - He who dwells (to sit, inhabit, endure, stay) in the secret place of the Most High shall abide (to rest, make our home, live, tarry) under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

But simply saying that is not enough. We must act on what we claim we believe. If God is our refuge and in Him we abide and completely trust, then there is no place in our life for fear, doubt, worry, and faithlessness.

Psalm 62:7 - In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man brings a snare (trap, bait, a lure placed in a hunter's trap), but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Hebrews 13:5 - Let your conduct be without covetousness; (how) be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

What is more desirable than knowing God is with us forever? Marriages fail, businesses go bankrupt, economies collapse, loved ones die, children leave home, and wealth and beauty fades, but God promises that, in these things (and even more), to never leave or forsake (abandon, leave, neglect) us. And there is nothing we can do that will cause Him to stop loving us as our Father. Nothing.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord - Romans 8:38-39.

Psalms 73:25-26 - Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Is this the cry of our hearts? Do we desire on earth nothing more than His presence? And if so, what could God do through our brief life on this earth if we are totally committed to Him?

"The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to him. With God's help, I will be that man." - D.L. Moody.

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared (implies prior action and forethought) for those who love Him" - 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live (where) in the flesh I live (how) by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

What does it mean to "live by faith in the Son of God"? And how do we go about doing that in this life?

Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep him in perfect peace, (qualifier) whose mind is stayed (to be made secure, to uphold, sustain, support) on You, (why) because he trusts in You.

Psalms 9:10 - And those who know (*yāda*) Your name will put their trust in You; (why) for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Note: And You never will. Since Hebrews 13:8 declares the Lord is the same yesterday (when this promise was written), and today (at the time and place in which we struggle), and tomorrow / forever (which is full of uncertainties), and since He has not forsaken those who sought Him in the past, we can know with certainty He will not forsake those who seek Him today and in the future... forever.