

# Trusting God even when life hurts – by Jerry Bridges

## Part 1: Can you trust God?

- I. Essential truths: (Lamentations 3: 37-38)
  - a. God is completely sovereign
  - b. God is infinite in wisdom
  - c. God is perfect in love
- II. The problem of not trusting God – Psalm 78:19-22
- III. God in difficult situations
  - a. Jesus and Pilate – John 19:10-11
  - b. Jesus in garden – Matt. 26:39
  - c. King Hezekiah – Isaiah 38:17
  - d. His infinite plans – Romans 11:3
  - e. Key is Knowing God – Psalm 9:10
- IV. The Providence of God
  - a. God is both sovereign and good
  - b. Not just “good” events
  - c. God doesn’t just intervene sparingly or occasionally
  - d. J I Packer’s definition:
- V. God sustains – Colossians 1:17
  - a. Isaiah 40:26, Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 147:8-9
- VI. God governs – I Chron. 29:12, Matt. 10:29, Daniel 4:17, 35
- VII. Is it God or Chance?

## Part 2 God in control

- I. God’s absolute control II Tim. 1:12
- II. God’s sovereignty is not always apparent (book of Esther)
- III. God does as He pleases (Ruth 2:1-10)
- IV. God’s sovereignty over people (Exodus 3:21-22 & 12:35-36)
  - a. God prompts people Ezra 1:1

- b. God restrains people Genesis 20:6
- c. Does God permit evil? Genesis 50:20
- d. The 'problem' of God's sovereignty
  - i. God does not condone sin
  - ii. People are responsible for their own actions
- e. Our response to God

## The Sovereignty of God – part 3 & 4

- I. God's rule over the nations
  - a. A relevant issue
  - b. Sovereignty is not usually apparent
  - c. God ordains rulers
  - d. God controls decisions
  - e. God determines military victories
- II. God's power over nature
  - a. God controls the weather
  - b. Natural disasters
  - c. Physical afflictions
- III. God's sovereignty and our responsibility
  - a. Not fatalism
  - b. Sovereignty and prayer – Phil 4:6, Acts 4:24, 28-29
  - c. Sovereignty and prudence – Acts 27:22-26
    - i. (David and Saul as an example)
    - ii. (Nehemiah as an example)
  - d. God's sovereignty not limited by man's failures – Esther 4:14
- IV. God's Wisdom
  - a. God brings beauty out of ashes
  - b. God's Holiness through Adversity
  - c. God does not explain – Job
  - d. God's ways are incomprehensible
  - e. God's wisdom is greater than our adversaries

## Trusting God – Part 5

- I. God's Wisdom
  - a. God brings beauty out of ashes
  - b. God's Holiness through Adversity
  - c. God does not explain – Job
  - d. God's ways are incomprehensible
  - e. God's wisdom is greater than our adversaries
- II. Knowing God's Love – Romans 8:35-37
  - a. God's Love at Calvary – I John 4:9-10
  - b. God's Family Love – Romans 8:15-16
  - c. God's Love in Christ – Rom. 8:39
  - d. God's sovereign love
- III. Experiencing God's Love
  - a. His love in discipline
  - b. His unfailing love
  - c. His constant presence