

Trust in God

We are called to trust God in all aspects of our lives. Trusting God means having faith in His goodness, reliability, and power, even when faced with difficult circumstances. It's a decision we make to rely on Him and Him alone, knowing that He is a loving, just, and all-powerful God. Trusting God means choosing to act in obedience to His word, knowing that He is guiding and leading us. When we trust God, we will find that inner peace that passes all understanding.

Reflect on the following Bible verses:

Isaiah 12:2-6: "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense, he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: 'Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Proverbs 3: 5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

A Prayer of Trust in God

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with humble hearts, grateful for Your unwavering love and mercy. In the quiet of this moment, we seek Your presence, for You are our refuge, our strength, and our light.

Lord, You are the rock on which we stand. When the storms of life surround us, we find peace in knowing You are our anchor. Guide our steps, steady our hearts, and help us trust in Your perfect plan. May Your wisdom lead us through each day, and Your grace sustain us when we falter. Help us remember that we are never alone, for You are always near, walking with us in every trial.

Lord, renew our spirits with Your love, and grant us the strength to serve You faithfully. In moments of doubt, remind us of Your promises, and in times of joy, let us offer all praise to You. We surrender ourselves into Your care, knowing that Your will is good, Your purpose is perfect, and Your love never fails.

Lord, help us to rest in the assurance that Your plan for us is greater than anything we could ever dream of and that You are able to do "Immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). Give us the courage to move forward in faith, and to rest in You and the peace that comes from trusting in You alone.

In Your holy name, we pray, Amen.



Hope In God

Having hope in God means believing that He is all-powerful and all-knowing; that He is perfectly good and loving. It is a confident expectation that our future is in God's hands and is based on His faithfulness and promises. Hope provides strength and perseverance, allowing us to face all of life's challenges with confidence and patience. Our hope in God is more than just a wish or desire; it's a belief that God will fulfill His promises and that He has a plan for our lives.

Focus on these bible verses:

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

A Prayer of Hope

Gracious and Faithful God, You are the source of all provision, and the builder of every lasting foundation. As we journey together through this capital campaign, we place our hope in You. We do not rely on our own strength or resources, but trust in Your abundance and timing.

You have placed this vision in our hearts— a vision to create new space, to grow in reliance on You, and to serve our community; and we believe You will see it through. Fill our hearts with the peace that surpasses understanding, and renew in us a spirit of courage, that we may wait with trust, and walk forward with confidence in Your grace. Let our hope in You be unshaken and a testimony to Your faithfulness. When we feel weary, renew our hearts with the hope of what You are building among us. May this campaign not only raise funds, but increase our faith in You; strengthening our church, blessing our community, and glorifying Your name.

With joyful hope we look forward to the fruit You will bring forth. Thank You, Lord, for leading us every step of the way. We place our lives in Your hands, and our future in Your care. For You alone are our refuge, our strength, and our eternal hope.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



Renewal in Christ

As Christians, we are transformed by the renewing of our hearts and minds, moving beyond conformity to the world's patterns and standards. This transformation is only through the grace of God, the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is a life long process because, in our fallen state, we continue to revert to our old sinful ways. We are called to repent, seek God's forgiveness, and receive the transformation and renewal that comes from Him, our Almighty, triune God.

Reflect on the following Bible verses:

Romans 8:10-11: But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Isaiah 40:28-31: Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Prayer for Renewal in Christ

Gracious and Loving God, we come before You with hearts in need of Your mercy, a spirit longing to be made new. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ – the One who makes all things new. In Him, we lay down our weariness, our burdens, our failures and fears; trusting that You will transform our hearts and renew our spirit.

Breathe Your Spirit into us, Lord. Wash us clean with Your grace. Restore what is broken, rekindle what has grown cold, revive what has been lost. Let the old pass away, and let us walk in the light of new life – clothed in Your righteousness, anchored in Your truth, and filled with Your hope.

Make us more like Christ. For in Him, we are not condemned – we are redeemed; we are not forgotten – we are loved; we are not alone – we are part of His family. In Him, we are transformed, renewed, and given eternal life.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Believe

We have discussed the renewing power that comes from our great triune God – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. But there is so much more that God gives us by believing in Him. As the following Bible verses show, believing in Him makes us right with God, gives eternal life, and provides answers to our deepest, most heart-felt prayers. I love this reading from Rick Warren:

Everyone is going through something right now. You may be going through days of darkness and depression and doubt and despair. If that's you, I dare you to believe. You may be going through days of worry and weariness. I dare you to believe. You may be going through days of confusion. You don't have the slightest idea what you should be doing with your life or what direction you should be going. You don't even know the next step to take. I dare you to believe. You may be going through days of grief, and your heart has been torn wide open. I dare you to believe.

By believing, God brings us light to overcome our darkness, peace to overcome our anxiety, clarity to overcome our confusion, and hope to overcome our grief. Thank you Lord Jesus.

Focus on these Bible verses:

John 3:16-18: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (NIV)

Romans 3:21-24: But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. (NLT)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of faith – a light that shines in the darkest places, strength that lifts us when we fall, and hope that anchors our souls. Lord Jesus, we believe in You – not just with words, but with hearts wide open. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Through You, we are made whole, forgiven, loved, and called Your own. In moments of doubt, remind us of Your promises. In seasons of fear, stir up the courage that comes from Your Spirit. Let our belief be bold and unwavering, not because we are strong, but because You are faithful.

We believe that in You, all things are possible – that the broken can be healed, the lost can be found, the dead can rise again. Let us live as people of faith, demonstrating our belief in You as we walk in grace and are empowered by the truth that Christ lives in us.

In Your holy name we pray, Amen.