

Trusting God in a time like this.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Proverbs

- is a wisdom book.
- ' for attaining wisdom and discipline; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life.' (1:2,3).
- Character traits to promote and traits to avoid in life.

Who do we trust in life?

- Children – naturally trust the parents
 - Spouses, friends, colleagues - learn to trust each other.
- Trust need to be earned in relationships.

Trust lacking..

- The abused child will grow up not trusting his parents or caregivers. (Star, Nov 2011)

Trust lacking..

- A man sets himself on fire outside a bank in the northern port city of Thessaloniki, Greece, (Sept. 2011).



A person we trust



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, DG MOH

Proverbs 3:5-6

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding.
- In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.

'Trust'

- Firm belief (faith) or confidence in the honesty, integrity, reliability, justice etc. of another person.

(Webster's New World Dictionary)

Trust in the Lord (3:5a)

- A firm belief (faith) in God
- A confidence in God.

belief (faith) in God

'Faith... is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.'


(Hebrews 11:1)

- Belief in God whom we cannot see

Certainty

- And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

believe that He exist
and is good



Jesus said to him, Thomas,
because you have seen me,
you have believed:
blessed are they that have not seen,
and yet have believed.

JOHN 20:29

John 20:29

- to trust when our prayers appear unanswered (not yet)
 - to wait patiently in faith.
- faith is no longer needed when prayers are answered.

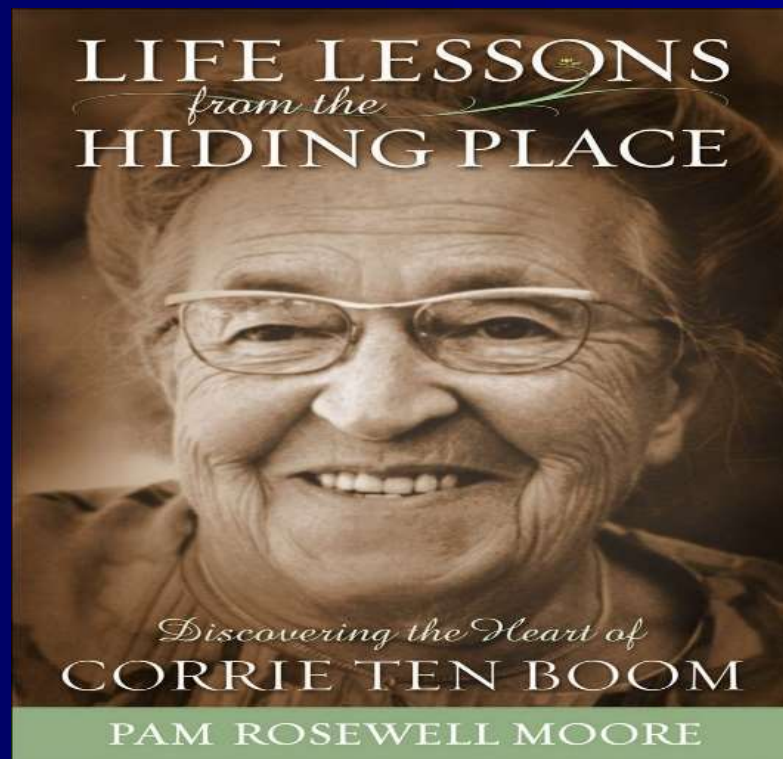
confidence in God

- Ask confidently in prayer
 - ` This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.' (I John 5:14-15)

- Ask confidently in prayer
- Receive mercy and help
- ` Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.' (Heb 4:16)

Train trips with her father

- Confidence in her father.



Developing confidence in God

- Like a toddler learning to walk
- Start with the 'baby' steps. This develops into a confident walk by faith.

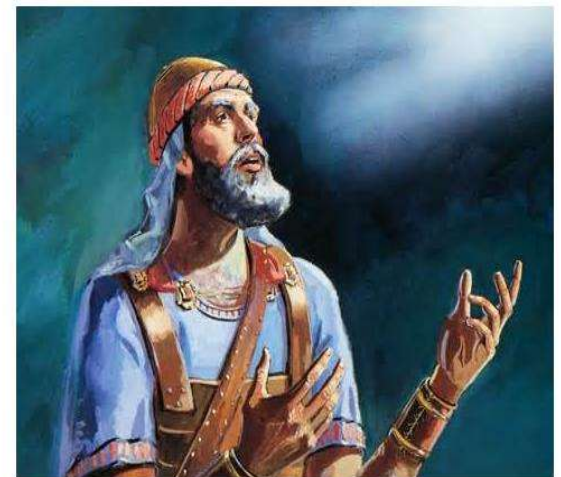


- “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 18:3)

**Child-like faith and
confidence in God**

With all your heart

- “But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.” (Nu 14:24)



How do we learn to trust God?

- 'lean not on your understanding (negative) (3:5b)
- In all your ways acknowledge him (positive)' (3:6a)

Unreliable understanding:

- It is limited
 - cannot foresee future events and disasters.
- It is influenced by our experiences / circumstances – abused child

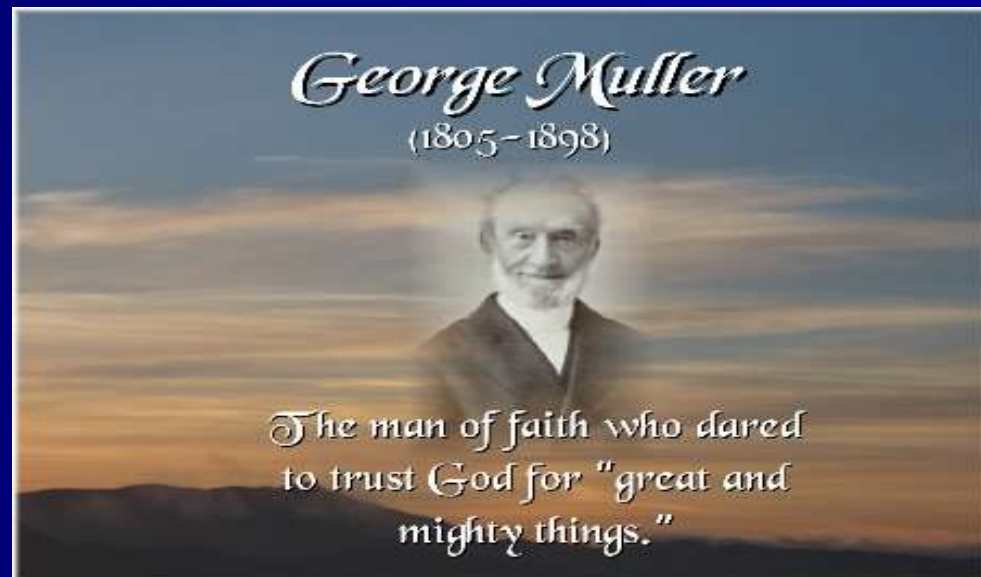
Acknowledge God always

- acknowledging God in all our ways
 - His understanding is limitless.
- Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go.' (The Message)

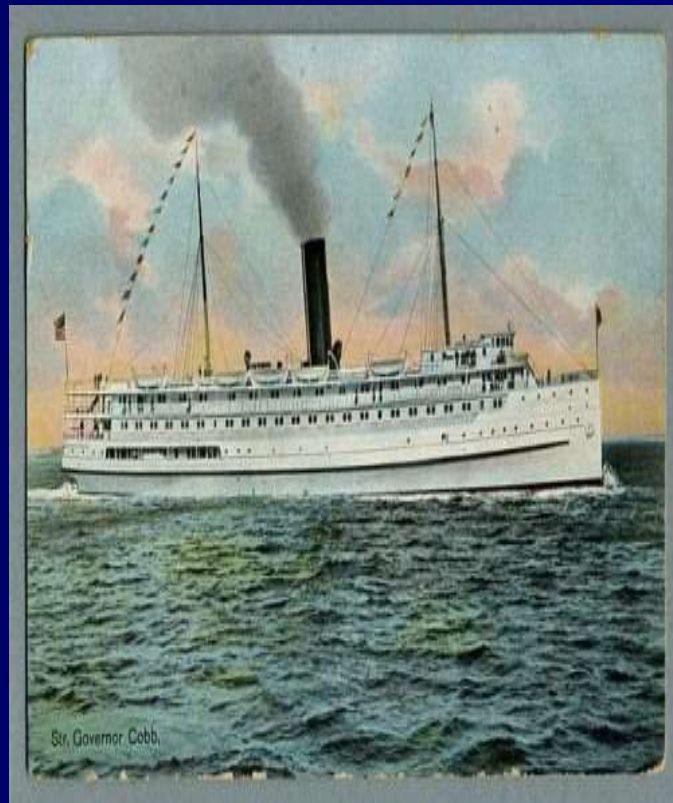
- Trust in God's understanding.
- Listen to Him in everything we do.

George Muller (1805-1898)

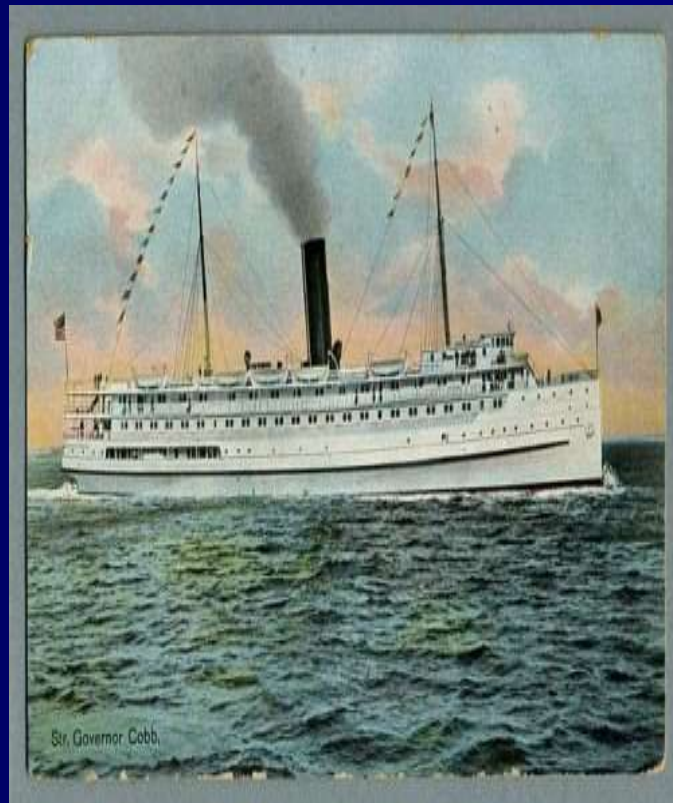
- A German pastor
- Christian evangelist and the Director of Orphanages in Bristol.



Story of George Muller and the captain of a steamer.



Engagement
in Quebec,
Canada



my eye is not on the
density of the fog,
but on the living God

He will make straight your path (3:6b)

- “..who controls every circumstance of my life.”
- who our God is. (His ability)
- He acts on our behalf. (good intentions)

Know who God is

- Isaiah 51:15-16

- I am the LORD your God, who churns up the sea so that its waves roar – the LORD Almighty is his name.

- I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand- I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth.

- He is the LORD Almighty, our creator.
- He rules over nature
- He gives us His Word and protection.

He acts on our behalf

- Isaiah 64:4

Since ancient times no-one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

No eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on your behalf of those who
wait for him.

- Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Reason why prayer must be answered

- 'I have always believed in the ability and willingness of God to answer my prayers..' (George Muller)

Do we ignore human abilities?

- Be thankful and use our God given abilities, but depend on His wisdom and guidance.
- 'Do not be wise in your own eyes.'
(3:7)- The Message

Gideon Defeats the Midianites.

- Midianites' army 135,000 men (8:10)
- God trimmed the Israelite army to 300
(32,000 —————> 10,000 —————> 300)

Judges 7



- Gideon had a big task.
- God built his confidence one step at a time
 - Fire consume offering, 6:20-21
 - Wool fleece test (and reverse test),6:36-40
- Dream of victory,7:9-14

- No mountain is too big for God.
- He will equip us and guide us if we acknowledge Him in everything we do.
- He will give us victory.

God can and will fight for us.
We can trust in Him.

Trust in the Lord

- Believe wholeheartedly by faith not by sight
- Develop a confidence in God is able and willing to help us in a time like this.

- Not depend on our own ability and understanding of the circumstances
- Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go.'

A man in a dark jacket is sitting on a large, grey rock on a hillside, looking out over a vast, white sea of clouds. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

"I have no idea where I'm going.

I do not see the road ahead of me... But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you... I know that you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it...

Therefore will I trust you always... You are ever with me and will not leave me to face my perils alone."

- THOMAS MERTON

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