

Can God Trust You?

Franklin Church of Christ
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AM Worship

Introduction:

We recently learned how we will live when we trust God. However, we recognize that in good relationships, trust goes both ways. Therefore, knowing that we can trust God, we need to ask if God can trust us. Can God trust you? When Paul explained to Timothy why God chose him, Paul, to be an apostle, the first reason he mentioned was “because He considered me faithful” (**I Timothy 1:12**). Paul is not referring to being a “faithful Christian” as we most often use the term. Rather, God recognized that Paul, though misguided at the time, was trustworthy. Because Paul was trustworthy he said Jesus “strengthened me...putting me into service.” As Paul was trustworthy, we also need to be trustworthy. God has chosen us as the stewards of His good blessings and He needs to be able to trust us with these stewardships. Examine six stewardships with which God entrusts and ask, “Can God trust me?”

Discussion:

- I. Can God trust you with the Stewardship of Resources?
 - A. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights (**James 1:17**). Every resource, every financial blessing, every material blessing is a gift from God. We do not deserve any of it. Yet, God has entrusted us with jobs that make money, with homes, cars, clothes and other material and financial goods.
 - B. **Luke 16:10-13** explains our eternity is wrapped up in the way we handle this stewardship. God will not entrust us with any true riches and resources if we do not handle our material blessings properly. The overarching principle Jesus teaches is that we must always remember that material resources are to be our tools not our master.
 - C. Being good stewards of our finances means managing your resources well to take care of your family and others who might be in need (**I Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28**). Additionally, it means demonstrating our thanksgiving to God by giving to accomplish His work (**II Corinthians 9:6-8**). Further, it also includes being generous and sharing God’s blessings with others (**II Timothy 2:17-19; Hebrews 13:16**). One thing being a good steward never means is hoarding our financial blessings to ourselves. God has blessed us so we can bless others. Can God trust you with this stewardship?
- II. Can God trust you with the Stewardship of Abilities?
 - A. **Romans 12:6-8** demonstrates this stewardship. Do not view this passage as an exhaustive list of abilities. It is not exhaustive, it is representative. Nevertheless the message of stewardship is conveyed. God has put abilities and talents in our trust. Some of us may work well as teachers, some as leaders, some as servants, some in giving, some in exhortation, some in mercy. While we all have responsibilities in all of these areas, we recognize that we have greater giftedness in some areas than others. Remember, to whom much has been given, much will be expected in return (**Luke 12:48**).
 - B. Why has God given us our abilities? **I Peter 4:10-11** explains God did not give us our abilities to grant us success in the business world. He did not give us our abilities to give us fame and fortune. He did not give us our abilities to make us political leaders. He gave us our abilities to serve others in order to glorify Him. Certainly if God grants us any of those other things because we have used His gifts wisely, that is God’s business. But again, we must keep everything in perspective. God has given us our abilities to glorify Him by serving others. Can God trust you with this stewardship?
- III. Can God trust you with the Stewardship of Opportunities?
 - A. In **I Corinthians 3:5**, Paul, addressing issues of personal evangelism, said, “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one” (NASB). The opportunities that come our way are gifts from God and He expects us to use them to His glory.
 - B. According to **Galatians 6:10**, God grants us opportunities to do good to others. Are we using those opportunities? God grants us opportunities to exemplify His gospel for others. Are we? God gives us opportunities to teach His gospel to others. Are we teaching?

C. Every contact we have is an opportunity, if nothing else, to speak words that lift up and encourage others (**Ephesians 4:29**). Every day is filled with opportunities to serve God by the way we behave and speak to others. Can God trust you with this stewardship?

IV. Can God trust you with the Stewardship of Relationships?

A. This may sound odd. However, our relationships are also gifts from God. Going back to **I Corinthians 3:5**, Paul understood that the relationships that gave him opportunities to teach were given from God. In fact, all our relationships are, whether family, friend, work or church related. Our contact with others is a gift from God and He expects us to be good stewards of those relationships.

B. How do we properly steward our relationships? We follow the teaching of **Philippians 2:3-4**. Being a good steward of our relationships means being the servants. It means viewing the others as more important. It means seeking the wants and desires of others. Being a good steward of our relationships means never viewing our relationships as tools for our own personal advantage. Rather, we are in the relationship to help the other person. When we work from this perspective, then we are stewarding our relationships well. Can God trust you with this stewardship?

V. Can God trust you with the Stewardship of Time?

A. Have you ever heard anyone say, "Oh, I'm just killing time."? We might as well be killing ourselves. As Benjamin Franklin said, time is the stuff life is made of. **Ephesians 5:15-17** explains that we must make the most of our time. We are to value time and view it as precious. We must not let it slip through our fingers. Every second that ticks by is lost forever. We cannot redeem the time that has already past. We can only make the most of the time that is right now.

B. Each and every moment should be spent seeking God's kingdom and righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**). That is, seeking God's rule in our lives. That means everything we do, at every minute of every day is motivated and governed by God's word and will. That does not mean that we will spend 24 hours a day reading our Bibles or in prayer. But it does mean that we will take habitual time to study and pray. Sometimes, redeeming the time is going to mean working as though for the Lord to provide for yourself, your family and the work of the Lord. Sometimes it will mean spending family time with your spouse, parents or children. Sometimes it will mean relaxing, allowing the Good Shepherd to replenish your strength. But we must never waste time.

C. Here is the amazing thing. How much of our time is wasted providing excuses for all that we are not accomplishing because we do not have time. We must remember that every single one of us have exactly the same amount of time. We each have 60 minutes per hour, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 52 weeks per year. The question is not what do I have time to do? The question is what will I do with the time I have? That is where stewardship comes in. We have to choose how we will invest our time. Can God trust you with this stewardship?

VI. Can God trust you with the Stewardship of the Gospel?

A. In **I Corinthians 4:1-2**, Paul viewed himself as a steward of God's gospel. His duty was to faithfully teach it. I know that we are not apostles. However, we are the tools God uses to pass along His word.

B. As the song we sing says, "Into our hands the gospel is given." What are we going to do with it? We are to be faithful stewards of this gospel. That means first of all that we must diligently teach it. As Paul explained in **Romans 10:13-15**, if we do not teach it, no one will be saved.

C. Not only must we teach it diligently, we must teach it faithfully. That is, we must teach what God wants to be taught. We are not allowed to twist the gospel message trying to provide good news through some plan other than God's (**Galatians 1:6-9**). "Into our hands the gospel is given." Can God trust you with this stewardship?

Conclusion:

We know we can trust God. He never lies and always keeps His promises. The more important question for us is can God trust us? Can God trust you? We are stewards and it is important that we be found trustworthy (**I Corinthians 4:2**). Remember the contrast in **Luke 12:42-48**. We want to be the faithful slave whom the Lord finds watching when He returns. Can God trust you as His steward?