

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

December 30, 2007

Pastor Bob Wine

THE GOD WE CAN TRUST

"... provides a deep sense of peace and confidence that we are on the winning side."

2 Chronicles 15:7

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... finding a deeper trust in God.

For most of his life, David set an inspirational example of a man who could trust and obey God in the darkest of circumstances.

"Learning to trust and obey God in the daily issues of life"

1. WE ARE _____ TO TRUST GOD

- Our independent nature causes us to doubt God's integrity.

Matthew 5:23-24 Do you trust that Jesus knew what He was talking about?

Matthew 18:21-35 Do you trust His warning, and forgive others quickly from your heart?

Romans 12:20-21 "If your **enemy** is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."

- When faced with a stubborn enemy, everything in us says God's strategy simply won't work today.

- Trusting God's ways is hard for any of us, yet it is absolutely _____ in our journey with God.

- It is in those dark, emotionally charged moments in our daily life when we discover how much we **really trust God**.

2. OUR _____ GROW GREATER TRUST

- Solomon never discovered personal worship, but rather, worshipped a distant God, which leads to negative effects.

2 Chronicles 15:3 "For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law."

- Asa's (Solomon's grandson) heart was revolutionary.

2 Chronicles 14:3-4 "He removed the foreign altars and the pagan shrines. He smashed the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles. He **commanded** the people of Judah to **seek the Lord**, the God of their ancestors, and to **obey his law and his commands**." NLT -- The written law was missing!

2 Chronicles 15:2b “The Lord will stay with you as long as you stay with him! **Whenever you seek him, you will find him.** But if you abandon him, he will abandon you.” NLT

2 Chronicles 15:5-6 “There was so much confusion in those days that it wasn’t safe to go anywhere in Israel. Nations were destroying each other, and cities were wiping out other cities, because **God** [Elohim] was causing trouble and unrest everywhere.” CEV

• God forces you to _____ whether you will trust Him and His Word, or your own creative resources.

2 Chronicles 15:7 “be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded.” NLT

3. GOD _____ AUTHENTIC TRUST

• Dark moments are _____ to grow greater trust. And, as you release that trust, you too will be rewarded.

• Are you going to take quick action to do what He asks, or are you going to try to do it your way?

• The reality is that your faith in God resolving, delivering, and empowering is on the line.

Proverbs 28:25 “**trusting** the Lord leads to prosperity.” NLT

1 Corinthians 2:9 “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” NLT

Romans 10:11 “Anyone who **trusts** in him will never be put to shame.”

• Probably the most valuable reward you get from choosing to trust in God is the inner freedom and confidence that enables you to deal with conflicts constructively, and in the midst of that, point others to authentic security and peace.

Isaiah 26:3 “You will **keep** in perfect peace all who **trust in you**, all whose thoughts are **fixed** on you!” NLT

God alone is totally trustworthy in the long haul.

MY ACTION PLAN:

God typically puts you into a dark time when your trust in Him will be “on the bubble.” That is how He matures you. Don’t procrastinate changing. Plan today to stretch yourself to learn to know God’s heart, to hear His voice, to follow His ways.

- Get into a purposeful personal life-coaching relationship: reading God’s Word and learning to hear His voice - then learn to apply what you are learning.
- What do you intuitively sense God is asking you to trust Him for in your life today? What will you risk doing today that will put your trust in God into action?

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of December 30, 2007

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

TODAY’S FOCUS

1. If you were to measure your faith on a scale of one to ten with ten being the best, where would you score yourself? Explain.

2. What keeps us (you) from trusting God with the things that matter the most? [Matthew 5:33-34; 6:24; 13:22; Romans 8:7-8; Galatians 3:3; Titus 1:15-16; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15]

What helps us (you) to trust God with the things that matter the most? [Psalm 13:5; 27:1; 31:14-15; 56:3-4; Proverbs 3:5-7; Romans 12:1-2; 13:14; Philippians 3:7-8; 2 Timothy 1:3]

GETTING THE POINT

1. Read 2 Chronicles 15:1-7. What was the key to Asa growing deeper in his faith? Can you see the crossroads he was at? How can it help you grow deeper in your trust and help you to obey today?

2. **Focus on 2 Chronicles 15:5-6.** Why did God cause the trouble? What is God’s motive behind the ordering of our circumstances? Could it be to break our independent nature? How does that work? [Psalm 66:10-12; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 5:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10]

3. Discuss this thought. “*When you do whatever God’s Word tells you, you are trusting God more, not the church or other people. Our faith in God resolving, delivering, empowering is on the line.*” [Hebrews 11:6]

How does God reward authentic trust? [Proverbs 28:25; Isaiah 26:3; Matthew 25:21-23; Luke 14:10-11; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Romans 10:11]

A LOOK INSIDE

1. How are you doing at learning how to trust God in the everyday things of life? List at least five things you can practically do to begin to deepen your trust in God more. [Philippians 4:6-9; Luke:15:17; John 10:26-27; 14:1,15; Hebrews 10:24-25]