

Gunston Bible Church
Pastor David Bennett
17 March 2019

“Got Trust/Hope?”

Good morning Gunston Bible church, it is good to see your smiling faces this morning, we are continuing on our Series “**What you Got**” we started with “**Got Excuses**”, last week we covered the topic “**Got Obstacles**”, this week we will deal with the issue of Trust or Hope called “Got Trust.”

Illustration:

I think back to what seems like just yesterday, however after I think about it, it was quite a while ago, a little over ten years ago, to be exact, I am talking about an event in January of 2009, it was very, very cold that morning and Shirley and I departed around 430 AM in order to get to the metro and make our way to Washington DC in order to take part in the festivities. It was the inauguration of President Obama.

I have to remind you, I did not vote for him, and am in no shape form or fashion endorsing the Democratic Party, but since we were here in the National Capitol Region (NCR) we wanted to see the crowds, wanted to be part of history, wanted to see the sights and sounds.

There was a cross section of America attending this event, and almost everyone interviewed expressed similar ideas.

Some were elegant, while some spoke with hesitation, some with proper English, while other had a country twang, each with a very similar message that seemed to be centered on one word... “**HOPE.**”

Their **HOPE** was not centered on the word of the Lord, their **HOPE** was on **CHANGE!**

To the thousands interviewed, **HOPE**, was a new face in the white house, the expectation was that life would be better for them, they were counting on a government, that had failed to do for them what they had **HOPED** for.

They were depending upon the government, the congress, the President, for change, they **HOPED** for a better day, as it was right around the corner.

Getting back to the crowds of the inauguration, these people came from all over the United States as well as many from abroad to see the change. They were like sheep, looking for something that they had not found.

They were looking for a man or a government to do something for them; they were **HOPING** that President Obama would wave his magic wand and give them what they needed to be happy.

Fast forward to today, and we are still looking for and in need of **CHANGE**, **HOPE** is still a central theme, but we need to ask ourselves what are we placing our **HOPE** in?

Illustrations:

From Parade magazine comes the story of self-made millionaire Eugene Land, who greatly changed the lives of a sixth-grade class in East Harlem. Mr. Lang had been asked to speak to a class of 59 sixth-graders. What could he say to inspire these students, most of whom would drop out of school?

He wondered how he could get these predominantly black and Puerto Rican children even to look at him. Scrapping his notes, he decided to speak to them from his heart. "Stay in school," he admonished, "and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you." At that moment the lives of these students changed. For the first time they had hope.

One student said, "I had something to look forward to, "**HOPE**" something waiting for me. It was a golden feeling." Nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school.

WE could look back to those that crowded the lawn and streets of Washington DC looking for Change looking for hope and if we are to be honest with you, a lot of times in many churches across America, we see that same look on the faces of those attending as we did that morning at the inauguration.

We see people searching for, longing for a change as some come to church for a fix, they need change and are full of **HOPE**.

- ✓ They want a shot of inspiration,
- ✓ Wave the same magic wand,
- ✓ They want a Religious experience

And then they are gone, just like all those that left the inauguration, and they go back to their own walks of life, and most of the times do not experience what they were looking for.

Everyone faces limitations in life, such as, education, relationships, finances, abilities, communication or perceptions.

When you come to such an obstacle, at whose resource do you look to in order to determine if you will overcome it or fail?

Does fear set in when you try to predict how you will fare?

One of the major causes of fear is relying on what the Bible calls the arm of the flesh.

This is focusing on trusting in his own abilities to cope and deal with challenges you can recognize if you are operating in this area when you look to yourself or natural plan and not to God.

What do you trust in?

Who do you trust in?

When the chips are down, where do you turn to?

1. Putting your trust in **Man**?

Jeremiah 17:5-6 (NASB), ⁵ *“Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man who trusts in **mankind** and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant.”*

When we trust in our natural capabilities and strengths to deliver us, we place our confidence in and get our allegiance to ourselves instead of God, in doing this our hearts depart from him

Job 8:13-14 (ESV), ¹³ *“Such are the paths of all who forget God; the **hope** of the godless shall perish. ¹⁴His confidence is severed, and his trust is a spider's web.”*

The person who trusts in man is likening to a desert plant, (Tumble weed) a piece of desert scrub. They are dry and bear no fruit.

All their effort is out into getting a tiny bit of moisture. They live on the salty, barren, uninhabited land. They were made for hard living in a rough land.

They separate from their root in autumn, tumbling across the dry ground spreading their seeds as they go.

They are considered noxious weeds, which in layman's terms are plants that are injurious to agriculture, crops, and animals.

In other words, a man who looks to his own means and abilities, and not to God, brings negative things to not only himself but everyone he contacts.

Being a tumble weed is not God's plan for us, he wants us to bear fruit and be blessed.

Proverbs 29:25 (NASB), *“The fear of man brings a snare, but he who **trusts** in the Lord will be exalted.”*

Where do you place your **HOPE** in? Another Biblical way of saying **HOPE** is **CONFIDENCE**.

Where is your confidence?

We have just seen from the above verse that when it is placed in man, it is cursed.

When you walk with **CONFIDENCE** it is a great thing!

Being part of God's plan, you stop running around looking for **HOPE**, looking for someone or something to satisfy your **HOPES**, your desires.

Additionally, depending on the Arm of the flesh causes us eventually to come to an end of ourselves.

Getting back to the point, we will see at some point, everything we have or that we own will not be enough, it will never satisfy.

When people recognize their flesh is not powerful enough to solve their challenges they often turn to futile activities

- ✓ Some destroy themselves through drugs or alcohol abuse
- ✓ Some destroy themselves through irresponsible financial behavior
- ✓ Some destroy themselves through eating disorders
- ✓ Some destroy themselves through work or other activities designed to occupy their minds
- ✓ You can fill in the blanks

When all the above cannot satisfy, or numb the pain any longer, as a last resort they finally turn to God

1 Corinthians 1:19-27 (NASB), ¹⁹ *“For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”* ²⁰ *Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?* ²¹ *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-*

pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,”

Before a Balloon is filled with Helium or air it has no life of its own, however, once helium fills the balloon it has the potential to fly high.

Most of the time when you go to the store or carnival to buy one of those balloons, they are not flying around because they are tied down. They are tied down to something intended to keep them on the ground.

Many Christians are aware of the Holy Spirit they have inside but are tied down. They can't fly high because they are tied down. Walking in the flesh keeps them from experiencing their potential to fly high.

What do you trust in?

Who do you trust in?

Who do you turn to?

The first point we talked about was, putting your trust in man, the next point is...

2. Putting your trust in God

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NASB), ⁷ *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose **trust** is the LORD. ⁸ “For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.”*

Being blessed or as other translations say “Being made happy” is an action statement. Happiness is not an instant condition; happiness is a process that develops and continues when maximum metabolized **TRUTH** circulates your soul.

Happiness is a process, as stated earlier it is not an instant condition, because learning and applying **TRUTH** takes time.

It is a process, a little today and a little more tomorrow, we continue to grow by applying the Word of God over our life.

In contrast to the tumble weeds on the dry and barren land, the one who puts their trust in the Lord is likened to a strong fruit tree, planted by the waters.

Such a person is like a tree by the waters where God provides an endless source of blessing and strength, flowing all the time, no matter the circumstances.

When you trust in and hide in the Lord, although years of drought may dry up around you, those frustrating imitations will not touch you.

Our God is able!

You will continue to increase, flourish and develop fruit

Remember those that trust in themselves are **CURSED** and live in parched places, a desolate wilderness.

Terrorists, rumors of wars, a poor economy, plummeting stock market, sickness, unemployment, and many other traumas or circumstances may

surround you, however if you are planted in the anointing of God, you will still know his goodness

Does your life resemble an **Oasis** or a **Desert**?

Where is your trust placed in?

Trust in God and flourish, or look to yourself and wither away

Romans 8:31 (NASB), *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”*

Destructive fears are produced not only by trusting in the arm of flesh but also by believing information that comes from sources other than God.

Many people, sadly to say but at times entire congregations have allowed themselves to become weighed down by fear, because they focused on how circumstances looked

This type of fear has significantly increased as people have glued themselves to their television sets, watching all the horrific things happening all over the globe

The media is often the bearer of bad news the more dramatic or horrific the larger the ratings, when this is the majority of your diet and this is what you ingest, you will typically have a negative attitude, rather than allowing ourselves to feed upon a different source

Illustration of a first Sergeant verses a Master Sergeant

Philippians 4:19 (NASB), *“And my God will supply **all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

Proverbs 3:5 (NASB), *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your **own** understanding.”*

What do you trust in?

Who do you trust in?

Who do you **turn** to?

The first point we talked about was, putting your trust in **MAN**, the last point was putting your trust in **GOD**, the next point is...

3. Walk by **Faith** not by **Sight**

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB), *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

God wants us to face every **obstacle** or challenge in our lives with faith, not relying upon what we see with the natural world but rely upon what his word says.

In order to do this we still need to have what is called a healthy realism, this is where we see the world as it is and do not ignore the situation that we are facing, but take it in context with the Word of God.

In other words I would not simply ignore the circumstances like walking out into a busy freeway, never minding the oncoming traffic but say my God will protect me.

Another example would be to stop taking your medicine when you are diagnosed with a disease, or refuse treatment, by saying the same thing, my God will protect me.

This is not what the above verse is talking about by walking by faith, this is just foolish.

Instead of denying the problem exists, we need to **PRAY**, speak the Word of God over those areas to bring them into the alignment with his Word.

And then listen intently to God and do what he tells us to do about them.

Again, let me say we **DO NOT** ignore the circumstance, but **acknowledge** it, realizing that the circumstances are real, and yet we know we serve a God

that is **ABLE**, therefore we speak the word of God over them and move forward with his authority by faith.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NASB), ¹⁸ ***“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”***

The evening of September the 11th 2001, after terrorists attacked the United States President George W. Bush pleaded in his remarks to the nation.

Tonight I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security have been threatened and I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalms 23, ***“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me.”***

The president recognized the extremely difficult situation we faced, however, he encouraged us with the Word of God, admonished us not to walk in fear because God is with us in the midst of our challenges, we are able to focus on the greater one who is with us.

When we rely more on what the world is telling us rather than what the Word of God is telling us we have a tendency to fall into a very negative place.

The issue is that if we digest too much information from a source other than God, we can somehow start to believe all we hear or see and make ourselves believe that it is truer than the word of God.

When you develop this mindset you not only doubt what the word of God says and his ability but you also transfer your trust into facts, figures and calculations that prove he cannot perform his promises.

Remember when the spies were sent into the promise land found in Numbers 13-14 the majority of them came back with the very negative (and yet true) report that the land is filled with giants and huge fortified cities that we can never take, and yet the two said, ***“We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it, let us take the land as God has promised it to us.”***

Who are we **trusting** today, where is your source of strength and information?

We need to remember the power of his word to change your circumstances, when you overlook God you are inclined to adopt an attitude of pessimism because you begin to believe and account things as they naturally appear.

However when you place your trust in God and engage his promises for your life you rise above the circumstances and allows him work in and through us.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB), ***“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”***

Romans 8:15 (NASB), ***“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption** as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”***

James 1:5-8 (NASB), ⁵***“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him **ask of God**, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubt is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”***

What do you trust in?

Who do you trust in?

Who do you turn to?

Do you put your trust in **MAN**,

Do you put your trust in **GOD**,

Or do you walk by **FAITH**?

Let us pray...