

# Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

“In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.”  
Psalms 10:4 NIV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;” Proverbs 3:5  
NIV

Whose understanding do you trust? Who or what are your thoughts on? What or who do you seek?

The bottom, fundamental question is: do we even realize we make mistakes against God? Even if you’ve known Jesus for 89 years, you still sin, unfortunately. You probably aren’t committing “big sins”, like murder or substance addiction, but “small sins” like slander, gossip, and a critical spirit; none of which are found in the Kingdom of God. (“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” Revelation 21:8 NIV) Note here in Revelation that the sexually immoral and those who are “unbelieving” or “cowards” toward their faith in Christ are on an even playing field in terms of sins against God - right in line with “liars”. God doesn’t smile at what we like to call small sins while He rains down fire and sulfur on bigger sins... that’s a teaching from society that makes us think we’re better than another person because “at least our sins are palatable.” Well, our sins may be common, but they aren’t pleasing God because it leads us to trusting ourselves or someone else more than we trust Him.

What does God teach us about sin, then? “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”  
Romans 3:23 NIV

Where He says “all”, He means “the really bad people.” Kidding!! He means “all”! Not one group of people more than another, not one political party more than another, not one religion more than another, not one age group more than another, but ALL have sinned! And if someone says they’re without sin, they sin all the more (1 John 1:8). So if we’ve all sinned, what hope do

we have to be made right with God? Some may even ask, why bother trying to please God if He's just looking for me to screw up anyway?

Dear friends, God is not waiting for you to screw up, and He's not waiting for you to try harder to be more perfect either. Just like you can't clean a fish until you've caught it, God is simply wanting and waiting to be restored with you: "For the wages of sin is death," Romans 6:23a NIV. God didn't create hell for us, He created hell for Satan and Satan's angels. He desires that none should be there. But the consequences of sin are spiritual death.

God couldn't love you more than He does right now: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 NIV

God cannot love you more because He already loves you perfectly: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." 1 John 4:18-20 NIV

And there is good news! God made a way to be restored - God made a way for a relationship with you that's full of trust, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, love, joy, peace, patience, and self-control (Galatians 5:21-22). You don't have to create a way on your own because God already made a way through Jesus Christ: "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23b This means you don't have to clean yourself up before you come to God - He loves you how you are and loves you too much to let you stay separated from Him.

How do you receive the gift of Jesus Christ? Well, it's a gift, which means it's free, but it also means you have to decide if you're going to accept or receive the gift. "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.'" Romans 10:9-11 NIV

And IF you accept that gift, REJOICE: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-2 NIV

What about you? Whose understanding do you trust? Who or what are your thoughts on? What or who do you seek?

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 NIV

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8 NIV

Seek the Lord. If you haven't ever made a commitment to seek the Lord, to pursue Him, and to live your life through Him, or if you've gotten really far off track, I invite you to do so by praying:

“God, I know that I have sinned against you and deserve the wages of sin, which You say is “spiritual death”. But I praise You that Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness - the gift of eternal life! Help me live my life changed for Your good and for Your purpose. Teach me Your ways. Amen!”

If you prayed that and meant it, tell someone. Declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord! Besides, any big decision worth making is a decision worth sharing.

Worship:

“Jesus, Thank You” by Katy Nichole <https://youtu.be/mcsuPSPAWPA> [youtu.be]

“Ain’t No Grave” by Bethel and Molly Skaggs (yes, Ricky Skaggs’ daughter 😊)  
[https://youtu.be/nGncW\\_ueyHA](https://youtu.be/nGncW_ueyHA) [youtu.be]

“Done” by Tauren Wells <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAV6UeIw7R0>

“Soul Worth Saving” by Apollo LTD <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejeP6W-eBro>

Love ya’ll – praying for each of you!

Brittany Laing