

Trusting God: Chapter 3

Central Idea

Developing Trust

1. a. Do you believe that God is active in the daily affairs of your life?

b. What evidence do you see, from your past or present for His involvement in your life?

2. There is an invisible war being waged between God and Satan, and our lives are often the battleground. What do the following passages say about Satan's ability to touch us?

Job 1:12

Job 2:6

Luke 22:31

3. God never permits people to act contrary to His Sovereign will. How do the following verses support this statement?

Proverbs 16:9

Proverbs 19:21

Lamentations 3:37

James 4:13-15

4. What conclusions about God and what He does can you draw from these verses?

Job 42:2

Psalms 115:3

Psalms 46:10

Daniel 4:34-35

5. In his book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Rabbi Harold Kushner concludes that God cannot be both sovereign and good, and so Kushner chooses to believe in a God who is good.

a. What do you think about Rabbi Kushner's conclusion?

b. How do you reconcile God's goodness and His sovereignty? That is, if God is able to prevent evil, and if He is committed to good, then why doesn't He prevent evil?

6. We need to be very sensitive in teaching others about the sovereignty of God and encouraging them to trust God when they are in the midst of problems or pain. It is much easier to trust in the sovereignty of God when it is the other person who is hurting. We need to be like Jesus, of whom it was said, "A bruised reed he will not break" (Matt. 12:20). Job lost his children, his wealth, and his health. His friends preached to him about God's sovereignty. Read Job's response to his friends in Job 6:14-27.

a. What did Job's friends do wrong? How did they "bruise" him?

b. If you had a friend in Job's position, how would you deal with him when he questioned God's sovereignty and goodness?

Trust in Action

Choose one to do this week.

1. Choose one of the following Bible characters and read his or her story. Briefly summarize how God guided the events in this person's life. Remember that these stories were given to us for encouragement (Rom. 15:4). What God did for these people He will do for you.

- Ruth 1-4
- Esther 1:10
- Joseph, Gen. 37, 39-45

2. Think of someone you know who is in a difficult situation. Express God's love to him or her in a tangible way.

- prepare a meal
- write a note of encouragement
- offer to help with household repairs

3. Memorize Romans 8:28-29