

P107

Grace Notes Program
SERIES: INTIMACY with GOD
TITLE: TRUST GOD'S HEART
SONGS: Keep Your Eyes Upon the Cross
Trust His Heart

What do you do when things don't go your way - or adversity strikes?

Do you lose faith in God?

Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek continues her series 'Intimacy with God' by discussing the important issue 'Trusting God's heart'.

Today I want to talk about a key element in building and maintaining our relationship with God - TRUST.

Intimacy with God involves TRUST - even when He seems to SHATTER our dreams.

The story of Job perfectly illustrates how we CAN and SHOULD act toward God when confronted with adversity.

When Job's world came crashing in on him...what did he do?

**- he arose, TORE his robe...shaved his head,
FELL to the ground...and he WORSHIPPED..**

How could He do that?

- Because he trusted in the OVERCOMER rather than in the OUTCOME of the situation.

Here's what he wrote:

Job 5:17-18...Blessed is the man whom God corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but HE also binds up. He injures, but HIS HANDS also heal.

God's discipline is not always because we've sinned. It can be to channel us in the right direction. The neat thing about this verse is that though the discipline comes from the HAND of God, the comfort comes from HIS HAND as well.

We need to trust God with our disappointments.

They're often divine appointments to intimacy and the calling he has for us.

In Isaiah 45:3 God says...

**I will give you the treasures of DARKNESS and the hidden wealth
of SECRET places.**

**There are treasures to be won in these places that can be gained in no other
way.**

Land that knows only sunshine becomes a desert.

God is more concerned with our ultimate blessing than our present comfort.

**And we can be consoled that while Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up
OUR CROSS and follow Him, he never told us we had to bear the Cross He bore.
So when you're going through rough times, don't lose hope, just keep your eyes
upon the cross.**

***** **WRITERS: B. Stewart/D. Dunn**

***** KEEP YOUR EYES UPON THE CROSS *** LENGTH: 4:05**

VERSE 1

*There are days when Heaven seems so far away
A dream almost too good to be true
When all I say and do takes me farther from You
I forget the vows I made.
Then I wander far away.
When the road from Bethlehem to Calvary
Seems much too long and far to hard to climb
Then I hear Him gently say...
"Follow Me, I am the Way.
Don't look back for an instant.
Look ahead in the distance".*

CHORUS

*Keep your eyes, keep your eyes upon the Cross
It will guide you when you are lost.
It will shine in the night - a beckon of pure light
Keep your eyes, keep your eyes upon the Cross.*

VERSE 2

***From the manger to the Cross there is a winding road
And truths to learn along the way
There are miracles and mysteries
Faith to build if we believe
But the final destination,
Is the Cross of our Salvation.***

(repeat chorus)

***So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it someday for a crown - for a crown.***

We are all creatures of habit. Habit makes us want to stay where we are because we're comfortable. It may not be a good situation but at least it's something we know.

When God wants a change, he'll do whatever it takes, and use whomever he chooses to cause it. Take the children of Israel, for example. They were in bondage in Egypt, working as slaves for a people who only thought of themselves. God had a better plan, so he caused the Egyptians to despise his own people and eventually usher them out of the land. It's interesting...God directed the will of unbelievers to accommodate His will. The Hebrew children were thrust out of a flourishing land to a dry, barren desert.

From the human perspective, it would seem like God made a mistake. Shouldn't they have been moved immediately to the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey?

Think of other Bible 'greats', whose favored status changed, and were forced into a desert experience. Jacob's father-in-law became jealous. It was time for Jacob to face his brother, Esau. Elijah, who ran from Jezebel, rested by and drank from a brook in the desert. It eventually dried up. It was time to tell King Ahab what God had in store.

Even in my own life, there were times when I felt like I was going through birthing pains, as God put me in uncomfortable places to produce an ultimate blessing for me.

I was reorganized out of an elite business position to spend time at home, with no immediate goal in sight. It was during that seeming down-time that I wound down, found out who I really was, was there for my son, and prepared myself for the ministry God eventually had in store for me.

I sang with a group for many years and was given opportunity to sing solos. I probably would have stayed with that group forever, but God wanted me out on my own, so he changed my favored 'soloist' status to that of a background singer. The withholding of what my heart so desired to share, caused me to branch out on my own with my husband. Both experiences were disquieting, and they hurt, but God worked it out for His Glory and gain for us both.

Desert living is needed to cause us to RELY on the Lord, and to groom our faith. It causes us to look for God's presence and provision, unlike any other time in our life. He shows himself more to us in our weakness than in our strength. And He gives a special measure of grace to help us cope. If we don't kick and scream while we're going through it, we'll learn tremendous lessons.

Heb. 12:7-11 says...

Endure hardship as discipline. God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father. If you are not disciplined then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our GOOD that we may share in his HOLINESS. No discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful. Later on however, it produces a HARVEST of RIGHTEOUSNESS and PEACE for those who have been trained by it.

INTROSPECTIVE
by Barbara Sandbek

***If the light of your life seems to flicker and falter
especially when difficult times appear.
If the weight of your load's like the Rock of Gibraltar
and you cannot have joy for you only have fear.
Then turn your cares over to God, your Creator
He made you...He knows you...He'll carry your load
Trust Him and see how He makes all things happen
for good as you travel down life's windy road.***

Romans 8:28 says...

**And we KNOW that ALL things work together for good to them that
love God - to them that are called according to His purpose.**

And what is His purpose?

Verse 29 states...That we be conformed to the likeness of His Son.

**If you're a parent, you'll understand this better when you think of the many
times you've said to your child..."I'm doing this for your own good". We may
make mistakes in our assessment of what is good for our kids, but our perfect
Heavenly Father never does. We may not understand the way He works, but
one thing we can be assured of....we can TRUST HIS HEART!**

******* WRITER: Babbie Mason
*** TRUST HIS HEART *** LENGTH: 4:06

VERSE 1

***All things work for our good
Though sometimes we can't see how they could
Struggles that break our heart into
Sometimes blind us to the truth***

VERSE 2

***Our Father knows what's best for us
His ways are not our own
SO when your pathway grows dim
And you just can't see Him
Remember - you're never alone***

CHORUS 1

*God is too wise to be mistaken
God is too good to be unkind
So when you don't understand
When you don't see His hand
When you can't trace His plan - trust His heart.*

VERSE 3

*He sees the master plan
And He holds your future in His hand
So don't live as those who have no hope
All our hope is found in Him*

VERSE 4

*We see the present clearly
But He sees the first and the last
And like a tapestry, He's weaving you and me
To someday be just like Him.*

(repeat Chorus 1)

CHORUS 2

*For He alone is faithful and true
And He alone knows what is best for you
So when you don't understand
When you don't see His hand
When you can't trace His plan - trust His heart.*

**For more information about the ministry, write to
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For a copy of this program, send \$7.00 and ask for program 107.

Join us again next time. Barbara will continue her series on "Intimacy with God".