



SHE SHALL BE CALLED

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER:



Hi sisters! I hope you found our last newsletter to be edifying & most importantly, God-honoring! This month, we are focusing on what it means to trust in Jesus. The content included in this newsletter specifically centers on examining trust from the biblical perspective. Take time to read through each section and allow God's Word to penetrate your heart as you read. As always, we'd love to hear feedback from you. Please don't hesitate to connect with us. Email your ideas and/or recommendations to info@sheshallbecalled.com. We are overjoyed to serve you! And don't forget to check out our website at: www.sheshallbecalled.com

Grace and Peace,

Portia

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The SSBC community is currently studying the gospel according to John! Join our Facebook group to participate in this study.
- SSBC will sponsor a give-a-way this month! Join the group, follow us on IG, and "Like" us on Facebook for details.
- The SSBC Podcast gained two new hosts last month! Join Portia, Jasmine, and Khadijah every other week for good, Christian conversation!



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WHERE DO YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST?

BY LARA D'ENTREMONT

READ

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call." Psalm 20:7-9

REFLECT

Psalm 20 is a royal psalm that would have been sang before battle. It was a prayer and a proclamation—a prayer for victory and a proclamation of God's faithfulness. In the final verses, the Israelites proclaim, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (v. 7). The opposing armies probably had large chariots, well-trained horses, and skilled fighters. Going into battle, they may have placed their confidence and ability to succeed in these tools. But that's not where the Israelites placed their trust. Instead, they put their trust in the Owner and Creator of all the resources of the earth: God. They knew their victory did not hinge on their abilities, but hinged on God's sovereign and powerful hand. If He desired that they would be victorious, nothing could stand in His way. And if He desired that they fail, they could do nothing to overthrow His hand. So, friend, where do you place your trust? In the midst of difficulty, suffering, conflict, disaster, and the unknown, have you put your trust in your own chariots and horses? Have you placed your trust in your bank account, your spouse, your friends, your education, your knowledge, or your health? Or have you placed your confidence in the only sure place: the eternal, sovereign, all-powerful God? Today, whatever it is you are facing, I encourage you to stop and ask yourself, "Where is my trust? Where is my confidence?" Check your heart and see what you are relying on. If you have been relying on other things, stop and repent of that. And then start putting your hope back in God. Pray to Him first, seek out of the counsel of his Word, and rest in Him.

PRAY

God, I am sorry for my foolishness of trusting in anything other than You. I am sorry for the times I have trusted in the things You created and gave me rather than trusting in You as the Creator and Giver. Help me to turn away from worshiping those things, and instead worship You. Teach me to trust in You first and above all. Thank You for being my Mighty Savior in all my battles.

YOUR TURN

Take some time and think through the heart question, "Where have I laid my trust?" When difficulties arise, where do you turn first? What is your comfort in the midst of suffering? What are you placing your hope in?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Lara d'Entremont is a child of God, a wife, and a Biblical counselor in training. As someone who has been made anew by God and completely transformed by Him, she wants to point you back to that same gracious Savior. You can visit Lara on her blog, Renewed In Truth.

(This devotional was originally posted via Whole Magazine:
<http://www.wholemagazine.org/devotionals/where-do-you-place-your-trust>).

THE ONE YOU CAN TRUST

BY PORTIA COLLINS

All throughout Scripture we find the trustworthiness of God completely affirmed. Unlike man, God is 100% faithful to His promises to His people and has never done (nor will He ever do) anything to prompt us to be untrusting of Him. For the believer, trusting God is non-negotiable. The whole of our faith is built on our trust in God. One primary way that we can grow our trust in God is by studying God's Word to observe examples of His trustworthiness, and praying that the Holy Spirit will enable us to absorb and truly believe all that God has revealed to us through Scripture.

TRUST IN HIS POWER & MIGHT

Imagine the Israelites running for their lives. I'm sure they could see their adversaries chasing them not too far behind. I can fathom the fear they must've felt as the Egyptians closed in on them. And then suddenly, out of nowhere, the perfect escape route is instantly made available to them as God parts the Red Sea and makes a straightway path for them to cross. And not only does this path serve as an opportune way of escape for the Israelites, but it also serves as one of the most well-known "boobytraps" in history. Just as the Egyptians began to pursue the Israelites across the path, God closes the sea and the Egyptians meet their destruction. As we can see, God was faithful in saving the Israelites from persecution by the Egyptians. It was not by the Israelites' power or might that they escaped the Egyptians. God was the sole source of this victory. This is just one showing of God's power and might. As you walk through Scripture, with every flip of a page, you'll see God's powerfulness displayed over and over, again.

TRUST IN HIS IMMEASURABLE & UNFAILING LOVE

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The revelation and evidence of God's love for us is illustrated through Christ's death on the cross. God did not wait until we did something spectacular to save us; instead, He saved us in the midst of our sin. He showed His sincere, unmerited love to us by sending His Son to atone for our sin before we got it right. In his book "The Cross of Christ", John Stott eloquently captures the essence of God's love by stating the following: "God could quite justly have abandoned us to our fate. He could have left us alone to reap the fruit of our wrongdoing and to perish in our sins. It is what we deserved. But he did not. Because he loved us, he came after us in Christ. He pursued us even to the desolate anguish of the cross, where he bore our sins, guilt, judgment, and death. It takes a hard and stony heart to remain unmoved by love like that" (p.85).

TRUST IN HIS WAY OF SAVING US

Since the fall of man, we've been a rebellious people. We have broken the laws of God in ways unimaginable. We rightfully deserve death. But God, in His brilliance, executed the perfect plan of justice and mercy. The cross is where God's love and justice meet. In Christ, the full penalty of sin was paid. And simultaneously, all who believe were imputed true righteousness and placed in right standing before God. There is nothing that we could have done or can do to justify ourselves before God. It is only through Christ's righteousness that we are reconciled to Him. Christ's atoning work on the cross was sufficient, substantial, and satisfactory. He took on the full wrath of God and received the full measure of punishment for sin on our behalf. And in the most merciful way, He clothe us in righteousness and placed us in right standing before God. God saved us! And we can fully trust that God's way of saving us is sufficient and satisfactory! Praise be to God for His grace and mercy!

What's New with SSBC?

BIBLES



JOURNALS



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I AM THE WAY, & THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE

(John 14:1-14 ESV)

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. 12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

THINK ON THIS...

Do you truly trust God? Do you have complete confidence in Christ and His way of saving us? How do you respond to the trials of life? Is it fear or faith? Most of us will agree that we should trust God; however, many of us struggle to do so. Satan tries every day to destroy our faith by tempting us to doubt. But we must ALWAYS be reminded of the object of our faith: Jesus Christ. Christ did not and cannot fail! He has secured victory once and for all. When we trust in ourselves we often waver, but when we place our faith in Jesus Christ (the sure foundation), we will not waver! We can fully trust all that He has accomplished and rest assured that, as believers, we will one day be with Him in paradise.

THINGS TO DO AS YOU STUDY

- Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through your study time.
- Research the background information: Author, Audience, Date Written, Genre, Purpose.
- Take time to read the entire book of study.
- Read the selected text repetitively. Jot down questions or confusing parts of the text.
- Ask yourself, "What is the intended meaning of the text?" Thoroughly examine what the author is seeking to teach in the passage.
- Discuss the text with women in your community at church or in your local small group.
- Examine how the text is applicable to your daily living? Observe the things noted about the character of God, the character of man, and the relationship between the two.



QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS

Question: "I have prayed for something so much and it's not happening. At this point, I am struggling to be happy because things are simply not working out the way I thought. How can I trust God if He won't answer my prayers and give me what I need?"

Answer: Psalm 33:4 (CSB) says,

"For the word of the LORD is right,
and all His work is trustworthy."

God can be trusted with every detail of our lives. Too often we forget that God is sovereign over all and knows everything (even the things that have not occurred yet). We can fully trust that God knows exactly what we need, when we need it, and will not withhold anything from us that is good or needed. Sometimes it may appear that God is not answering our prayers, but He might be building our faith and trust in Him all the more. The well-known Puritan preacher John Flavel wrote, "If the concerns of God's people are not governed by a special Providence, how is it that the most apt and powerful means employed to destroy them are rendered ineffectual, while weak, contemptible means employed for their defence and comfort are crowned with success?" Simply put, sometimes unanswered prayers are God's way of providentially protecting us from unseen evils. We don't know what to expect in life. We are not all-knowing like God. Therefore, it is imperative that we trust Him to lead and guide us in the right way. Instead of seeing an unanswered prayer as rejection and unlovingness from God, aim to see it as a blessing. Let your joy be found in the Lord and His gloriousness instead of your circumstances or what you perceive as lack. God loves His Children and will faithfully care for them. Rest in His ability to do just that!

HELPFUL LINKS

- www.gotquestions.org
- www.wholemagazine.org
- www.biblestudytools.com
- www.blueletterbible.org
- www.biblegateway.com

GOOD READS

- "Why Can't We Be Friends?: Avoidance is not Purity" by Aimee Byrd
- "How to Be Filled w/ the Holy Spirit" by A.W. Tozer
- "From Death to Life: How Salvation Works" by Allen S. Nelson IV
- "In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character" by Jen Wilkin

2 MINUTES WITH *Jasmine Holmes*



Jasmine Holmes teaches humanities at St. Augustine school. A Texas native, she obtained a B.A. in English from Thomas Edison University and has been a classical educator since her graduation in 2012. In addition to teaching, she is a published author and a freelance writer and has written articles for publications like Christianity Today, Modern Reformation and Desiring God.

Her husband Phillip is a Mississippi native who serves as head of marketing and communication for Reformed Theological Seminary and has been a member of Redeemer Presbyterian Church for almost a decade. They have a son -- Walter Wynn -- and are expecting their second child at the beginning of the new year.