

Love Is Trusting

'It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. '

1 Corinthians 13:7

Billy Connelly said: "Never trust a man, who when left alone with a tea cosey.... Doesn't try it on."

Graham Greene said: "It is impossible to go through life without trust: that is to be imprisoned in the worst cell of all, oneself."

Trust is what connects us to God and others. Without it we go through life imprisoned in a cell of isolation.

Trust can be difficult. To lean your full weight of trust into someone can feel scary. Judy trustfall illustration.

When someone trusts you and believes in you it brings out the best in you. I remember 6 months after I qualified as a pharmacist, I applied for a Pharmacy manager job with Lloyds in Cowdenbeath. I was too newly qualified to be entrusted with a management position but applied anyway. I remember being up against people who were much more qualified and had much more management experience than me. I was quite shocked when I was offered the position. I was not only shocked but very grateful. As a result of being trusted and believed in I applied my best effort to do the very best I could. I came in early and stayed late. I did everything I could to bring excellence and improvements to the pharmacy and to meet all the Key Performance Indicators I had been set. I really enjoyed that job and it grew me immensely. It was tough for sure and had lots of challenges and problems to resolve. But there were also lots of laughs. Like the night I brought the staff to the Vine Church to see the Watoto African Children's choir and the staff were telling each other off for swearing. One day after I was day off, they told me they believed a ghost was in the back stock room because they kept hearing a sigh when they went back there to fill up their stock. Tell story.

To be believed in is powerful. To be trusted is empowering. Trust and belief in people can bring the best out of people. I believe it did for me in my first management job. Being trusted in makes you want to be worthy of that trust. The love you feel through trust and belief compels you to try and please the person who has put their faith and trust in you. It brings out the best in you.

Booker T. Washington said:

"Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him."

Sure, we can also be motivated by pressure, by fear and by intimidation. But our performance comes from two very different motives. When motivated by fear your

performance is anxious and afraid of messing up. When motivated by a trusting love in you, it casts out fear and you are motivated by a desire to please and serve the one who has put their faith in you.

God's love is perfect. He loves you and trusts in you. His love always trusts. He wants you to be compelled by love and not fear. 1 Corinthians 13:7 tells us love always trusts. God has chosen you. He has put His full trust and belief in you. And God's love is a trusting love. In fact, God's love always trusts. Another way of putting it is God's love never loses faith in you. You may be thinking. Wait a minute. How can God always trust me? And what does it mean that love always trusts? What about when I fail? What about when I break his trust? What about when I am doing terrible? What about when I'm not doing a good job of loving Him and people? What about when I am sinning? Does God's love always trust and believe in me? The amazing thing about God's love is that it is not based on your level of trustworthiness or goodness but is based on the depth of His love and grace towards you as a loving Father. And that love, that trusting love is unchanging even when we let Him down.

Our bible is packed full of stories about a God who put his trust in people even though He knew they were not perfect, they would make mistakes and would fail, sometimes drastically. Does God only put His trust in perfect people who never fail? The Bible tells us otherwise. God put His trust in mankind giving them free will knowing full well that they would make poor choices that would hurt themselves and God. God put his trust in Moses who murdered. God put his trust in David who committed adultery and arranged a murder. Jesus put his trust in Judas selecting him as a disciple and Judas stole from the money box and betrayed Jesus. Jesus put his trust in Peter who denied him three times. The Father in the Prodigal son story put his trust in his son with his share of the inheritance and the son blew it. Our Bible is full of stories of a God of love and His love always trusts even though He knows His trust will be broken. God trusts people believing the best of them and for them and He continues to believe in them even when they mess up. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres.

I want to summarise very briefly what I have gleaned about "Love Always Trusts" from 1 Corinthians 13:7.

- Trusting Love takes the best and kindest view of all people in all circumstances as long as it is possible to do so.
- Trusting Love helps men and women to become what they should and can be.
- Trusting Love is not unduly suspicious.
- Trusting Love sees the Imago Dei (image of God) in others.
- Trusting Love sees the gold buried in others. It sees beneath the surface to hidden splendour and infinite capabilities lying buried.
- Trusting Love never loses faith.

- Trusting Love is a commitment to have faith in a person or thing.
- Trusting Love seeks to give the most favourable interpretation the truth will allow.
- Trusting Love is always “believing the best” (*Augustine*)
- Trusting Love is not gullible but has faith in people.
- Trusting Love is exemplified and modelled by Jesus Christ who is Love.
- Trusting Love edifies and builds others up thus releasing the power of the Holy Spirit in lives and churches.
- Trusting love does not trust everyone indiscriminately. The Bible encourages us to love and trust others but also advises using wisdom and discernment in deciding whom to trust. (Matt.10:16 “...so be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” Prov.14:15, 22:3; Jer.17:5; Psa. 118:8-9)

As we think about trusting love think about how God loves you with a trusting love. Jesus showed trusting love when he called 12 ordinary men to be his disciples. Jesus saw beneath the surface of the nets and boats and fish and tax collectors’ tables to the hidden splendour and infinite capabilities lying buried within these ordinary men. He saw the ordinary jars of clay but saw deep within them lay a precious treasure. Jesus never lost faith in his disciples as he loved them with a trusting love trusting them with knowledge, secrets, plans, teaching, anointing and kingdom responsibility. He sent them out before they felt ready or equipped. He never lost faith in them when they asked silly questions, argued on the road, struggled to stay awake during prayer, denied him or ran away out of fear. His trusting love and empowerment knew they would make mistakes and fail at times, but he trusted them anyway. This trusting love in them empowered them and helped them to become all they could be and gave them confidence. This trusting love of Jesus in them compelled them to become better not out of fear but out of reciprocal love and a desire to be worthy of the trust placed in them. Jesus saw the gold buried deep within them. Even in the sons of thunder he recognised if the thunder could be redeemed for the kingdom that passion and zeal could be put to good use. Jesus continued to believe the best for his disciples even when he saw the worst.

Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son which shows a father who lavished trusting love on His son. Even when the son returned the father’s love never stopped believing in him. Why? Because love always trusts. Love always trusts and continues to believe in another even when they fail and mess up. How could the father trust the son again? Love risks being hurt and let down but knows the risk is worth it. Jesus was hurt and let down many times but continued to love with a trusting love. His trusting love resorted people when they failed and he continued to believe in people despite their struggle and weakness.

Walter Anderson said:

“We're never so vulnerable than when we trust someone - but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy.”

Trusting Love takes the best and kindest view of all people in all circumstances as long as it is possible to do so. And sometimes it is not possible to do so. This is why the Bible encourages us to love and trust others but also advises using wisdom and discernment in deciding whom to trust. Trusting love does not trust everyone indiscriminately.

Today we are focussing on God's trusting love for us and trusting love for others. We can continue to have trusting love for others when they mess up, hurt us and fail us like Jesus did.

We see Jesus showing trusting love to Zacchaeus. Jesus saw the gold not on Zacchaeus's table or wrist but in his heart. He saw the *Imago Dei* withing Zacchaeus. He saw within him hidden splendour and infinite capabilities. Jesus believed the best for Zacchaeus. As Jesus shared trusting love with Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus felt believed in and trusted. He was built up and edified and the power of the Holy Spirit was released because love edifies and builds up.

In fact, if you read 1 Cor.13:4-7 carefully and compare it to the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Gal.5:22-23 you will see all of the 1 Cor.13 characteristics of love in the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit releases the love of God through you to those on the other side of you. When you continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Spirit are evident in your life and practiced on others you release the love of God to others. That trusting love that is released through you by the power of the Holy Spirit drives out fear in others and edifies them or builds them up. So trusting love edifies and builds others up and releases the power of the Holy Spirit in lives and churches.

This is what happened to Zacchaeus. He was touched by Trusting love, He was touched by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. He experienced over a meal; joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control and the power of the Holy Spirit was released in Him and brought salvation to him. Trusting love experienced through Jesus edifies and transforms Zacchaeus.

'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.' Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. '

Luke 19:9-10

Jesus has compassion on the lost more than frustration or anger. He has compassion because he loves them with an everlasting love:

'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. '

Matthew 9:36

Trusting love has compassion on lost, harassed and helpless people because it sees beneath the struggle, beneath the harassment, the stress, depression, anxiety, helplessness to the treasure within.

Trusting Love walks by faith and not by sight.

Love is Trustful. It always trusts and never loses faith. We are to love God with all our hearts, mind souls and strength and love our neighbour as ourselves.

How do we continue to love and trust God when we face disappointment? What about when you or a loved one is seriously hurt by someone, how do you continue to trust God and walk by faith and not sight? What about when you face a serious diagnosis or accident, how do you continue to trust God? How can you and I continue to love and trust God while going through the depths of suffering? List to Carl share his story of his trust in God:

<https://youtu.be/7UXscq8dBPA?si=RBmQGfkhSaqASilz>

Carl said at the end: “When we trust the Lord, it’s the path of joy.”

Lynsey and I had to learn to trust God when we lost our first son. From the 12 week scan to the birth at 36 weeks to the birth of our next child it was a path of learning to trust God and walk by faith. WE trust God when we believe His grace is enough and that he is with us in every fire and trial and difficulty and with his help we can come through the other side. This trust connects us to God. Without it we imprison ourselves in a cell of isolation. We walk by faith we fix our eyes on Jesus and not the problem and leave the outcome in His hands.

Play video from 6:50 mins: <https://youtu.be/QS04WbSnxok?si=r3ceBq7e09vsoKrU>

We see examples of trustful love all throughout our Bibles. Think of Noah building the ark, Abraham walking up the mountain to sacrifice his son. Joseph in Potiphar’s house remaining faithful, Moses’ parents putting him in a basket on a river, Daniel in the lion’s den or Jonah in the belly of a whale. In fact, Hebrews 11 is a hall of fame to people who showed and modelled trustful love of God.

These are examples to us how to continue to trust and believe in God through every challenge, trial, and difficult circumstance in our lives. When we are driving in fog and can’t see ahead, trusting love is knowing our loving Father has the steering wheel.

Corrie Ten Boom puts it this way:

“When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.”

'Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. '

Proverbs 3:5 MSG

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock. Lord, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws; our heart's desire is to glorify your name."

Isaiah 26:3-4, 8 NLT

Trusting love in God is the way to perfect peace. When we follow and obey God's laws and ways we are showing trusting love that God is all knowing of what is best for my life. Satan attempts to get us to move from trust in God to doubting God and that started in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 when he sowed doubts into Eve's mind. He sowed doubt about God's word and ways and he continues to do so today. We need to recognise Satan's lies in our heads and the truth is love always trusts God and His word and ways:

Jeremiah 17:7,8

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Let me finish by reading a quote from a book called "Love Is – A Yearlong experiment of Living Out of 1 Corinthians 13 love" by Kim Sorelle.

"I am referring to loving people so much that you value their opinion, knowledge, and wisdom because love always trusts.

You can ask for advice because love always trusts. You can let your guard down, ask for help, and break away from cynicism because love always trusts.

At first this seemed naive in some ways. But I found that believing people, trusting their truthfulness, changes things. Before learning this, I would be cautious, suspicious even, trying to sort truth from fiction. Once I started living love that always trusts, conversations changed. In fact, conversations not only changed, they happened.

Communicating with someone when you are not constantly looking for lies is marvelous. When you realize that their beliefs and opinions are just as valid to them as your beliefs and opinions are to you, confrontations become conversations.

Conversations help reveal truth. By living trusting love in listening, it is amazing what you can learn.

What I found is that living love that always trusts brings out the best in people. Being trusted makes you want to be worthy of that trust. We all want to be trusted. Mistrust can eat at your soul. Trust someone with a key to your house and they become your home security system. Trust someone to take care of your pooch when you go away to the tropics and you will come home to a happy, well-groomed dog. Trust someone with extra duties at work, a new project to complete, a meeting to plan, and it is surprising how people come through and quite often go above and beyond because you trusted them...

Love that always trusts, trusts that someone's got your back, you are not alone. It can be so easy to jump ahead when an answer isn't coming at the right time on your gotta-have-an-answer-now watch.

But God knows everything, God cares wholly, God loves unfailingly, and love always trusts.

Lord Jesus, help me to trust with love that trusts. Help me to be trustworthy. Help me to take people at their word, loving them enough to trust them.”¹

¹“Love Is – A Yearlong experiment of Living Out of 1 Corinthians 13 love” by Kim Sorelle.