

TRUST (Faith, Faithfulness)

Monday, 8/30/10 – Read Psalm 37:3-5 and Galatians 5:22

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: Our English translation includes “faithfulness” as one of the fruits of the Spirit. This is a translation of the same word that is typically translated “faith” and literally means “TRUST.” This week let’s focus on trust (and faith and faithfulness). ... Today’s reading twice says “trust in the Lord.” What do you think it means to trust in the Lord? How do you trust God? ... This psalm also speaks of delighting in God and committing our lives to God. Does this help you understand “trust in the Lord”?

Tuesday, 8/31/10 – Read Ephesians 2:8-9

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: God loves us without conditions and accepts us as we are. That’s grace. Grace becomes effective when we trust it. That’s faith. Both of these (grace and faith) are gifts of God. Even our trust in God’s grace is inspired within us by the Spirit. Trust (faith, faithfulness) is a fruit of the Spirit. ... Do you trust God’s grace? Do you count on God loving you without your having to earn it? ... If you’re not quite there yet, pray today that the Spirit of God will deepen your trust.

Wednesday, 9/1/10 – Read Isaiah 40:31

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: HOW do you trust God? How do you express your trust in God? Sometimes that means waiting on God, waiting on God to reveal the next step you are to take. ... Is there a decision to make or a difficult problem to solve? Is this a time to WAIT on the Lord? Pray for guidance. Pray for clarity. Pray for God to reveal the next step. You may need to pray like this for a time -- while you wait for God’s purpose to come clear. ... And remember: it is those who wait on the Lord who mount up with wings like eagles.

Thursday, 9/2/10 – Read Matthew 7:24-27

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: HOW do you trust God? How do you express your trust in God? ... According to Jesus’ teaching in today’s reading, it’s not yet enough to hear his words or even to believe them. What’s needed is action. ... Is there some situation in your life where you know what God wants you to do but you haven’t done it yet? ... Will you today take one small step? Just do one thing to put the Lord’s words into action. Write down the action you intend to take today.

Friday, 9/3/10 – Read James 2:14-18

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In yesterday’s reading Jesus said that it’s not enough just to hear his teaching. We also have to act on it. Today’s reading makes the same point. Trusting God (faith) is ineffective until it becomes action and behavior -- or “works” in the language of James’ letter. Faith/Trust is “shown” in action. (Notice the specific actions that are

mentioned: caring for those who have real physical need for shelter and food.) ... Write down three or four of the actions or behaviors that demonstrate your trust in God.

Saturday, 9/4/10 – Read Mark 2:1-12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Look closely at verse 5 in today's reading. It says that Jesus saw their faith. What did the four friends do which made faith visible? ... Have you seen faith in someone's behavior recently? What were they doing? Why do you think their behavior was a demonstration of faith?

Sunday, 9/5/10 – Read Galatians 5:6

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: What really matters? To you what matters most? ... Today's verse suggests that the only thing that really counts is "faith working through (or made effective through) love." Notice that it doesn't say faith all by itself but faith expressed through love. Do you agree? Is that what really matters? Think of a recent example when your faith has been expressed in loving action.

My Faith Journal, August 29, 2010

Outcomes #9

Just Do It

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.