

SERMON PRESENTED BY BRO. ODUMA IKECHUKWU ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2020

TOPIC: CAN THE LORD TRUST YOU?

INTRODUCTION

Trust is being confident about something or someone. When we trust someone, it means that we are confident that such person is trust worthy, reliable, consistent and dependable. In our relationship with God, we are encouraged to trust God with all our hearts (Prov. 3:5) because he cannot forsake those that seek him (Psalm 9:10, Heb. 13:5).

The question now is not whether we can trust God. Indeed, he is trustworthy. The question is rather, "Can the lord trust you?" A careful reflection on this important question will surely help us to assess our stand in the faith that we profess in Christ Jesus.

When Aaron and Miriam challenged Moses, God said to them: Hear now my words: If there is a prophet among you I the Lord, will make myself known to him in a vision, I speak to him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses, he is faithful in my entire house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark saying: and he sees the form of the Lord (Num. 12:6-8).

God is simply saying, "I trust my servant Moses." God is today looking for Christians He can trust in all circumstances, reliable and dependable Christians.

DISCUSSIONS

CAN THE LORD TRUST YOU TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION AND GLORIFY HIM?

It is certain that temptation is relevant in our growth and development in the faith. No one goes through the Christian journey without meeting with temptations. James says, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the trusting of your faith produces patience (James 1:2, 3)". Again, blessed is the man who endures temptation for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who loves him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he himself tempt anyone (James 1:2, 13).

It is important to Christians to understand that God chooses to allow temptations to come to us in order to test and prove our faith in Him. He however provides the way of escape (1 cor. 10:13). In this regard, we have a lot to learn from the life of Job (Job 1@:6-22)."

Satan claimed that Job only feared God and became a good man because of the way God protected him, thereby challenging Job's strength and character. God eventually permitted the test to be carried out to prove Job's faithfulness to him. And after all his children and possessions were taken from him Job said; "naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The lord gave, and the lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1:21) the scripture says; in all this, Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong (Job 1:22) how many people today can reason and

behave like Job in such circumstance? We must make conscious effort to take a look at our lives. There are temptations confronting us from every corner, because Satan is challenging our faith. The question is "can we stand the test? Will Satan be right in his claim against us that we only fear God because of divine provisions and protection available to us? Can the Lord trust us to prove ourselves when the challenge is presented against us? Can the Lord trust us to overcome temptations?"

CAN THE LORD TRUST YOU TO FULFIL YOUR PROMISES TO HIM?

It is not out of place for one to make promises to God. All through the pages of the scripture there are records of people who made promises and vows to God, such as Jephthah (Judges 11:30) Hannah (1 Sam. 1:11) Jacob (Gen. 28:20) etc. The Lord is certainly interested in fulfilment of the promises and vows made to Him.

Jesus had told His disciples about his impending arrest and death, and stated that all of them would stumble because of you, I will never be made to stumble. Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you" (Matt. 26:33-35) it was quite disheartening that despite making this promise Peter still denied knowing the Lord three times (Matt. 26:69)

How many times have we, like Peter, turned our back on the Lord after promising to stay faithful to Him? How many times have we reneged on our promise to live for Him and serve Him all the days of our lives? We are bound by whatever promise we make to the Lord. The only way to go is to endeavour to fulfil those promises to the Lord; can He trust us to fulfil them?

CAN THE LORD TRUST YOU TO CARRY OUT FAITHFUL SERVICES TO HIM.

Services to God are the responsibility of every Christian. It attracts blessings from God. "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing (Psalm 100:2)

Therefore, my beloved brethren be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the look of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58)

There are many things that need to be done for the progress of the kingdom, the church. Souls in darkness will have to be brought to the knowledge of truth for their salvation. Brethren should always be willing to support and carry out certain projects meant to advance the cause of Christ. Members should always co-operate with the leadership of the church to carry out their responsibility effectively to enhance growth and expansion. Sound teaching should always be encouraged in the church to promote edification etc. For all of these to happen, God needs reliable and faithful Christians He can trust to do them. Can the Lord trust you to effectively be involved in carrying out these services?

FRIEND, CAN THE LORD TRUST YOU TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light (Matt. 11:28) this is a general invitation extended to all, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23) it is an invitation that requires humble obedience to the voice of (Matt. 7:21-23) without which salvation is not guaranteed. Now it is not the will of God that anyone should perish but that all should come to

repentance. True repentance from past sins (Acts 17:30), public confession of faith in Christ as son of man (Mark 16:16) and being faithful till death (Rev.2:10), will surely guarantee eternal salvation in heaven.

The Lord's plea is "beloved, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and you with me (Rev. 3:20) can the Lord trust you, dear friend, to respond positively to his plea and invitation by surrendering your life for Him? Indeed he is saying to you, "beloved, now is the accepted time; beloved now is the day of salvation

CONCLUSION

Any relationship without trust cannot last, be it human or spiritual relationship. The Lord is interested in our relationship with him. He wants us to be truly faithful to Him, such that He can trust us anytime, any day. So, are you sure the Lord can trust you?