

UNITY
CHURCH OF BAKERSFIELD
"A POSITIVE PLACE TO GROW!"

Today's Lesson
***Living in Process:
Trusting God***

Power Point notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

Living in Process: Trusting God

When Jesus talked about trusting God, he put it this way:
"With God all things are possible."

Not some things, not most things, but **ALL** things.

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And for those caught up in the human condition about trusting God here is an affirmation that, if Jesus was here today might teach:

Trusting God brings forth divine solutions that bless me and others.

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There's a story that is told about a young Abraham Lincoln and the day he learned to trust God:

Abe and his business partner Barry were sitting on the front porch of their store talking about their failing business.

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"How much longer do you think we can hold out, Abe?," asked Barry.

Abe replied, "Not too much longer I guess." Then he added, "You know, I wouldn't mind it so much if I could just do what I want do. I want to study law. I'd like to be able to sell everything we've got and pay all our bills and have enough left over to buy one book, Blackstone's Commentary on English Law; but I guess that's too much to ask."

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Within minutes a wagon loaded with household items pulled up in front of the store. The driver said, "I'm moving my family West, and I'm out of money. I've got a good barrel on here that I could sell for 50 cents." Abe stepped off the porch and walked around the wagon and stopped when he came to the man's wife, who looked at him pleadingly, her face thin and emaciated.

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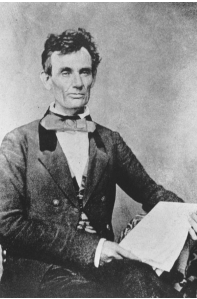
Abe put his hand in his pocket and pulled out the last 50 cents he had and brought the barrel saying, "I reckon I could use a good barrel."

Throughout the day, Barry kidded Abe about the barrel he brought. Later that evening Able walked out the porch to gaze at the heavens. Looking over at the barrel he decided to pull the top off and look inside.

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Looking inside he saw the bottom filled with papers so he reached in and shuffled around in the papers. As he did his hand touched something solid. He pulled the object out and held it in porch light. Abe stood petrified in the light. He was holding the Commentary on English Law, by Blackstone.

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Abe is reported to have said, "I stood there holding the book, looking up toward the heavens. There came a deep impression on me that God had something for me to do—and He was showing me now that I had to get ready for it. Why this miracle otherwise?"

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We are not here by accident, for God does have something for each of us to do. Our participation is to trust the process in spite of appearances to the contrary.

How much do we really trust the spiritual principle known as divine order? How many of us really trust God to lead us, protect us, and provide for us? How many of us trust God to bring forth divine solutions that bless us and others?

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Here are four questions to think about:

- 1) If you were the favored child in the family and your siblings knew it and disliked you for it by treating you badly, how would you respond?
- 2) If others around you plotted your downfall by spreading rumors and accusations so that you fell out of favor and you were treated as if you no longer existed, how would you react?

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3) Finding yourself in a new environment, working hard to succeed, only to have someone attack your honor and falsely accuse you of wrongdoing, what would you do?

4) Then later, being asked by the same people that attacked you, to become their friend and to help them during their time of need, would you do it?

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These questions come from the story of Joseph found in the book of Genesis, Chapters 37 - 46 of the Old Testament. Here are the highlights of the story of Joseph trusting God.

1) Joseph is the favorite child of Jacob, "But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him (Gen 37:4).

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2) His brothers plot to sell Joseph into slavery and tell their father he was killed by a wild beast.

3) Joseph finds himself working for an officer of Pharaoh's court and ends up doing a great job. Then one day he's noticed by the his master's wife. She tries to seduce him and he says no. She get's upset over the rebuke and creates lies about him to her husband and he's thrown in jail.

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4) While in jail he shares his gift of reading dreams. Word spreads and Pharaoh, who is troubled by his dreams, asked to see Joseph.

5) Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams, they come to pass, Joseph is now a national hero and rises to power.

6) Famine hits the land and one day Joseph's brothers show up for a hand-out.

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7) He recognizes them but they don't recognize them. So he decides to have some fun with them by accusing them of being spies. Giving them food and sneaking money into the bags only to have then stopped and searched for stealing. He lets them go but not before revealing himself:

8) "So Joseph said to his brothers...do not be distressed, or angry, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life...what you meant for evil, God meant for good."

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Now if there was anyone who had the right to feel victimized and justified in getting his revenge on those who did him wrong, it's Joseph.

Trusting God he was able to share his love in the celebration of life with his family.

Meta: This story is about trusting the process and principle of divine order. Joseph is seen as 1) the preserver and 2) truth that can't be destroyed.

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In The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, Charles Fillmore states:

Joseph, our high ideal of Truth, came down into the Egyptian darkness of sense consciousness, and under the law will finally raise it into spiritual light. The several visits of Joseph's brothers to buy grain, and the bringing of the family into Egypt for final reconciliation is symbolic of our spiritual journey of trusting God to guide, protect, and support us (pg 367).

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Joseph's story is our story too. Whenever we feel threatened, attacked, unloved, or unwanted by anyone or anything we can stand firm and know that God's plan for humanity is for absolute good and we are a part of that plan.

All we need do is affirm what the spiritual teachers knew and Jesus affirmed:

Trust God Because With God All Things Are Possible.