

Intro: I was recently called over to my supervisor to look at the score I had received on a call. As many of you know, I work in insurance in a call center. It makes sense to have calls monitored and evaluated. “My call got judged?” I asked. She was surprised, and almost offended that I would use the word “judged.” “I don’t like that word” she said.

Judgment is often a scary thing, and one that many people dread. But we have no reason to fear judgment if we simply choose to trust and obey. I can remember as a child skipping my homework until the last 10 minutes before mom came home. Oh, how I wanted to avoid judgment! But when I had actually done my work, I could not wait to be judged! Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey. He is the judge, but that does not have to be scary, Jas 4:12.

I. Define Terms

- A. Trust: a state of mind and heart. Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.
- B. Obey: an action. Comply with the command, direction, or request of (a person or a law); submit to the authority of.

II. What does it mean to trust the Lord? Define what it means to trust the Lord

- A. Trusting Him to provide for our earthly needs (Phil 4:19) (Matt. 6:19-21, also vs. 25-34.)
- B. Trusting Him to provide for our heavenly needs (John 14:3)
- C. Trusting Him with those we love. (Emotional needs) Look to David as an example. The Psalms are full of examples of emotional turmoil and turning to the Lord to sustain the writer.

Challenge: The key to trust is action. If someone assures me that the cookie they have just offered me is “the best one you will ever eat,” it becomes a simple matter to determine whether or not I trust them. Do I follow their suggestion? Do I take the cookie? Not to make this topic overly simple, but God often makes claims and waits for us to trust Him enough to follow through on them (Ps 81:13-16). The simplest and most straightforward definition of trust is one word: obey.

III. What does it mean to obey the Lord? Define what it means to obey the Lord.

- A. What blessings does He have for those who obey Him? He often says that there are blessings (Prov 16:20) but what are they?
 - 1. Deut 28
 - 2. Each command usually has a blessing attached (such as honor thy father and mother that thy days may be long, Exo 20:12)
 - 3. Prov 20:11, we come to be known as His, John 10:37
 - 4. Ps 119:105, obedience leads to more faith, step by step. Do the next right thing.
- B. How can we discern what is His leading and what is pressure from those around us or other influences?
 - 1. I have been told that I have a problem with over-complicating matters on more than one occasion. Don’t let that problem sidetrack your walk with Christ. Discernment is a key to the Christian faith, but 99% of the time the answer will be found directly in scripture. Here’s the rule of thumb: keep it simple.

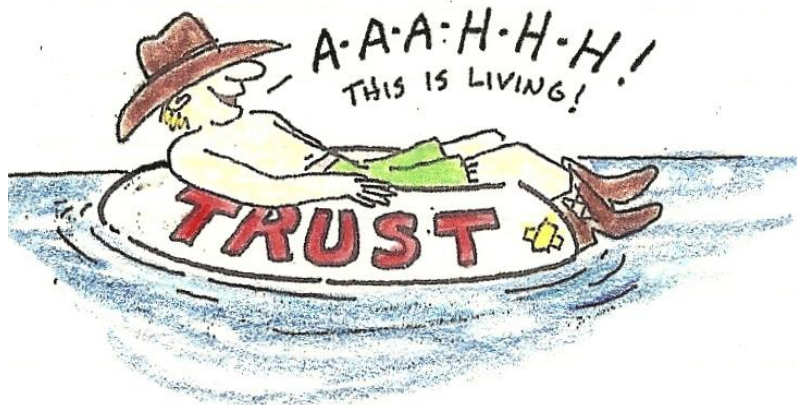
2. As an example, if you ask me what God wants me to do, all of the following are valid answers that give real world direction:
 - a) Micah 6:8
 - b) Eph 4:32
 - c) John 13:34
 3. Don't get bogged down looking for career advice from God when you can find very real direction you still need to apply to your life in scripture. God made us fully capable of figuring out how to implement His command to, for instance, go into all the world and preach the gospel.
- C. So what does obedience look like?
1. This is actually simpler than you would think. (Jas 4:17)
 2. Don't worry quite so much about knowing everything there is to know, just do what you know to do.

Final Challenge: Trust leads to obedience and if you don't have obedience in your life, then you aren't trusting Him.

Close: If you want to gain trust, take a leap of faith and obey Him. It will always prove true. After that, trust becomes far less difficult and complex.

Final Song: "I Surrender All," or "Trust and Obey."

"...Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!"
PSALM 34:8 NKJV



Sermon video: <https://www.facebook.com/CovenantBibleFellowship/videos/1305983742864295/>