

Extreme Faith

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Last week we used the illustration of extreme sports to begin a series - EXTREME FAITH - That examines God's call for us to have a relationship with him that is anything but normal. A relationship built on Extremes.

Like Extreme Commitment

1. EXTREME COMMITMENT puts God First
2. EXTREME COMMITMENT Believes it and Lives it out
3. EXTREME COMMITMENT Never Turns Back
4. EXTREME COMMITMENT Makes No Excuses
5. EXTREME COMMITMENT Isn't Based On What You Have to Offer
6. EXTREME COMMITMENT Focuses On Kingdom Work

Today we will look at another part of our faith that calls us to the EXTREME

EXTREME TRUST

Our key text calls us to EXTREME TRUST and is one of the most recognizable scriptures on Trusting God in the Bible.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Let's take a few minutes today to break down this powerful verse and see what it has to teach us about EXTREME TRUST

TRUST...

firm and unwavering belief, hope, confidence in and dependence on the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something:

Do You Trust in God?



Charles Blondin (born Jean François Gravelet, 28 February 1824 – 22 February 1897) was a French [tightrope walker](#) and [acrobat](#). He toured the United States and was known for crossing the 1,100 ft (340 m) [Niagara Gorge](#) on a tightrope.

He especially owed his celebrity and fortune to his idea to cross the [Niagara Gorge](#) (on the [Canada–U.S. border](#)) on a tightrope, 1,100 ft (340 m) long, 3.25 in (8.3 cm) in diameter and 160 ft (49 m) above the water, near the location of the current [Rainbow Bridge](#). This he did on 30 June 1859,^[5] and a number of times thereafter, often with different theatrical variations: blindfolded, in a sack, trundling a [wheelbarrow](#), on [stilts](#), carrying a man (his manager, [Harry Colcord](#)) on his back, sitting down midway while he cooked and ate an [omelette](#),^[3] or standing on a chair with only one of its legs balanced on the rope.^{[5][6]} (at night with lights attached to his balancing pole)

By the time he gave his final performance, in 1896, it was estimated that Blondin had crossed Niagara Falls 300 times and walked more than 10,000 miles on his rope. He died of complications from diabetes the following year. In nearly 73 years on this earth, he never had life insurance. No one, he'd always joked, would take the risk.

In THE LORD...

The idea of trusting in the Lord is discussed many times throughout the book of Jeremiah. Repeatedly the prophet declares the words of God that exposes their trust in false gods, the strength of man, lies, deeds & Riches and places of worship. But they refused to trust in Him.

Jeremiah 17:5

This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord.

Jeremiah 17:7

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

Extreme Trusts, trusts in God alone. Not Jesus and something else. (God gave me a picture the other day while I was praying about this message and it was that of a blackjack table with someone placing multiple bets on many different numbers and colors of the wheel in hopes of getting lucky. But the one who trusts in Jesus alone is like the person who puts all their chips on one spot on the table. That's EXTREME TRUST.

In John 14:6 Jesus declared that our trust must be in him alone...

John 14:6

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

With ALL your heart...

Do you trust him a little bit or do you trust Him completely?

Story of William Borden



And lean NOT on your own understanding....

To lean means to place weight in a certain direction. It's so easy to begin to fall back on our perspective our way of thinking rather than put all of our weight and trust in what God has already said

In ALL your ways (Acknowledge) submit to Him...

You trust him for this but not for that.

Salvation but not deliverance

Eternity but not provision

Heaven but not healing

Truth but not guidance

EXTREME TRUST, Trusts him for everything. No matter the circumstances or the need.
At all times and in all ways.

When it doesn't seem possible
When it doesn't make sense
When things keep getting worse
When the cost seems great
When those around you think it's crazy

And he will make your paths straight...

He will lead you. He will direct you. He will guide you and your going to be taken in the right direction. You're not going to be taken in all kinds of different directions. It will be the right path. It will be a good path and He will reward you for your trust in Him

Twice in the book of Daniel we are told that trust in God brought a successful outcome to the lives of those who put their trust in God.

Daniel 3:28, 30

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 6:23

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.