



VII

7 MARKS of a DISCIPLE

DEVELOPING A TRUSTING HEART

COLOSSIANS 3:15

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Introduction: Last time we discovered the third mark of a disciple: an obedient heart. But we will only fully, joyfully, and consistently obey a God we fully trust. There is an inseparable link between obedience and trust, which is why the fourth mark of a true follower of Christ is “a trusting heart.”

I. Understanding “Faith” and “Trust”

A. By Scripture (Habakkuk 2:4; Hebrews 11:6)

Habakkuk 2:4b “The righteous will live by faith.”

Matthew 17:20 “And He said to them, ‘Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you.’”

Luke 5:20 “And seeing their faith, He said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven you.’”

Luke 7:50 “And He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

B. By Contrast

1. Faith is not the ability to predict the future.
2. Faith is not the absence of any doubt.

Definition: Faith is believing that God will do what He has promised... and acting accordingly.



II. The Command For A Trusting Heart (Colossians 3:15)

Definition: A trusting heart allows our confidence in God's character to govern our inward emotions and our outward behavior.

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

A. "The Peace of Christ"

Colossians 3:5 "Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry."

Colossians 3:8 "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth."

John 4:34 "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.'"

1 Peter 2:23 "While being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously."

B. "Rule in Your Hearts"

III. The Benefits Of A Trusting Heart

A. Trusting God's Love Provides Freedom from Guilt Over Past Sins (Romans 5:1)

John 15:9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love."



Romans 5:1 “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;”

B. Trusting God’s Power Provides Freedom from Panic About Present Circumstances (Luke 8:22-25; Isaiah 43:2)

Luke 8:22-23 ²² “Now it came about on one of these days that He and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, ‘Let us go over to the other side of the lake.’ And they launched out. ²³ But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended upon the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger.”

Luke 8:25b “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?”

Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

James 1:2-4 ² “Consider it all joy my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.”

C. Trusting God’s Wisdom Provides Freedom from Worry About the Future
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Jeremiah 29:11 “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’”

Psalms 46:10a “Be still and know that I am God.” NIV

Conclusion