

Resolved To Trust God

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Preacher: Jon Hueni

[0 : 00] Well, the place of resolution in the Christian life. That's our study. And what was the first resolution that we looked at last week?! If we're going to have biblical resolutions,! we looked at one resolution that the psalmist had in Psalm 119.

Anybody remember what that was? To keep God's commands and to do so with haste. I will hasten and not delay to keep your commands, to obey your commands.

I will resolve. I resolve to obey right away. And we see it in that word, I will. I will. The language of resolve.

Now today we come to another resolution that really goes hand in hand with that one. It is, I will trust him. I will trust him. Put together, these two resolves really form two of the most basic aspects of the Christian life.

We have a hymn by these two, don't we? Trust and obey. Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey.

[1 : 13] The Christian life is really quite simple. It's not complicated. Just trust and obey. It's sin that makes life complicated and it can complicate the Christian life as well.

So we've looked at I will obey. We're looking this morning at I will trust. Now what's the connection between trusting and obeying?

It's not just that we have two resolves here found in the heart of this godly man in Psalm 119.

What's the relationship of these two? In what ways do they affect each other?

Anybody? Yes, Jeff. It's really difficult to obey if you don't trust the person. What is there about obedience?

What is there about the kinds of commands that God gives us in his word that requires trust in this God who gives them? Sometimes our desires might be contrary to what God says and we have to trust that he knows what's best.

[2 : 19] Hmm. Yeah. Aren't there some commands that you have balked in front of wondering, Lord, this doesn't look like it's good for me. And yet if you trust him, you are empowered to obey him.

Can you think of any examples of commands and just work that, tease that out a bit further? How? Do not worry. Okay. There's a good command. Anybody have any struggles obeying that one? Well, if I know this God and I trust him, then I'm enabled to obey that command. Good. Be holy as I am holy. It's impossible on our own.

Okay. Be holy as I am holy. How does faith in God relate to our holiness? Is that not the very foundation of our holiness? That we look away to God and his strength and we're enabled to be holy.

Mark? Build an ark. Build an ark. By faith, Noah, when warned about things yet unseen. Build an ark.

[3 : 24] So, yeah, you have all those commands in Hebrews 11 that God gave to his people. Go in and take the promised land.

There's some fears to make you wonder, can I really do this? They're giants. Their cities are walled and we're outnumbered.

But if I trust God and what he says and who he is, then I am enabled. I'm strengthened to obey him. Any other examples that jump out to your minds in the scriptures that really reveal this relationship between trusting and obeying?

Yes, Jim. Sacrifice your only son. Who? The whole life of Paul, as you're going through Acts now, he was trusting God to deliver this message.

[4 : 24] Yet, he saw a lot of them. Okay. We will face obstacles that will put fear in us, but if we trust in the Lord, what about that command that God gave to the Israelites that three times a year I want your man up in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to me at the feast? Well, that will mean that our wives and children will be left at home all by themselves. I mean, we're going not just a 20-minute drive to church. We're going two and three days, four or five days hike to get to Jerusalem, and that will leave them exposed to the neighbors who might, the neighboring nations that might covet what we have and come in and take them. But if I trust God, and he promised no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the Lord your God.

Well, if I can trust that he's able to control the covetousness of wicked men, then I can say goodbye to my family and go off and take my offering. Sometimes they would take their families with them. I'm not saying it. But the point is that there was faith that enabled them and freed them to obey. The commanded tithe that was to be given, honor the Lord with your wealth with the first fruit of all your crops. Then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine. But if I give to God from the first fruits, then what if I don't have enough left over for myself? But if I trust God that he will open up the windows of heaven and see to it that my needs are met. If I honor him first, then I will be freed in obedience and freed to overcome my fears.

And so there are many different commands of God. Indeed, we would wonder if any of the commands of God don't require some element of trust in order to obey them. So trust and obey. Deuteronomy 9 verse 23, the second generation of Israelites are on the doorstep of the promised land and Moses is reminding them of the failure of their fathers to go in and enter the promised land.

And he says in Deuteronomy 9 verse 23, and when the Lord sent you up from Kadesh Barnea, he said, go up and take possession of the land I have given you. But you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.

[7 : 08] You did not trust him or obey him. Deuteronomy 9 verse 23. It's interesting. He brings together that connection. You balked in front of the castle, the mighty walled cities and the giants in the land and you did not trust him and you did not obey him and you turned away. Someone has said that sin is what we do when we do not trust God.

And that's what we see here. The relationship of trust and obey. The psalmist picks up on this in reminding God's people. It's not just something for those Israelites, that second generation Israelites that needed to remember that.

It's something for all the church and every child of God of all the ages to remember. Therefore, God, the Holy Spirit, puts it into the worship book of the Psalms for all God's people to remember.

In Psalm 106, 24 and 25, he's taking them through this history of Israel. Then they despised the pleasant land. They did not believe his promise.

They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the Lord. They did not trust. They did not obey. So if we would resolve to obey God, as we saw last week, I will obey right away.

[8 : 34] We must also resolve to trust him. Now, the author that we're using his book, BP Power, the I wills of the psalm, gives 63 pages of his book to this I will of trust.

This resolve of trust. He cites 11 places in the psalms where this resolution is found. And I don't know that he's saying that that's an exhaustive list. But he at least finds 11 places in the psalm where this resolve is made in the heart of the man of God.

I will trust in you. Turn to Psalm 56, 3. Perhaps one of the most more familiar passages concerning this resolve to trust the Lord.

And it's as short as it is powerful. When I am afraid, I will trust in you.

Do you hear the resolve in that? The determination, the strong pre-commitment. I will trust in you. Verse 4 gives the same resolve, only in negative terms.

[9 : 53] It just flips it over and it's the other side of the coin. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust, I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

So you see the resolve in verse 4? Or I will not. And this is the language of resolve, isn't it? I will, I will not. And here we find it in verses 3 and 4 of Psalm 56.

What do we receive by trusting God? Peace. All right. Now, we could probably spend a long time, yeah, salvation.

We could go on and on, couldn't we? But peace is notably something that is highlighted that is the result of trusting God. Isaiah 26, 3.

You will keep in perfect peace. Him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you. A perfect peace is what we receive from this resolve of I will trust in you.

[11:05] And perfect peace comes to us. What does God receive by our trust? Glory. Glory. In what way? How is God honored when we trust him and take him at his word?

Saying he's faithful. Hmm. Okay. We're saying he's faithful. Abraham faced the fact that his hundred-year-old body was as good as dead and his wife Sarah's womb was dead.

And yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

And so when you trust in the Lord that he has power to do all that he said and he's got faithfulness that ensures he'll do all that he said, you give glory to God.

And you do that not only in front of other people who see you trusting God, you do that in front of all the angelic hosts, both unfallen angels and fallen angels.

[12:09] You bring glory to God. What does it mean that God is trustworthy? The simple answer is he's worthy of our trust.

Isn't that what the word means? He's trustworthy. He's someone that is worthy. He deserves your trust that if you put your trust in him, you won't be disappointed. And so if God is trustworthy, and he is, then he deserves to have a people who are resolved to trust him.

And that brings great glory to him. Now, power breaks down two points that he makes concerning this trust. I will trust in him.

The first is the unreservedness of trust. The unreservedness of trust. It covers all situations. There are no limitations, no exceptions, no qualifiers added.

I will trust in all kinds of situations. Turn to Psalm 3, and we see something of the unreservedness of trust in Psalm 3.

[13:17] The title of the psalm reminds us that this is a psalm of David when he was fleeing from his son Absalom, who had thrown David off of the throne and was pursuing him to take his life.

And David is fleeing. Verse 1 says, O Lord, how many are my foes? How many rise up against me? And then look down to verse 6. And notice the I will of trust. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.

You see the resolution. And it's an unreserved resolution and trust. I will not fear the tens of thousands. So the psalmist will trust despite appearances.

No matter what the circumstances look like. What could look worse to human sight than 10,000 enemies? Wherever you look, there's an enemy. Indeed, they are all around me.

[14:31] They are on every side. So no matter which way I look, there they are. And they're after me. How could David resolve, I will not fear?

Look at verse 3. What does that say? That would give him reason to resolve. So God is a shield about me.

Where are his enemies? They're on every side. But inside of my enemies, about me, is my shield, God himself.

I will not fear, though ten thousands come against me. Again, he finds reason for this resolve in the very person of God.

Something besides his enemies. Something besides his enemies. Something else is surrounding him. And the application is that we too can find ourselves in circumstances where it seems that there's no way out.

[15:35] And that no matter which way we look, there's trouble. And we can hardly count our troubles. And we're tempted to say with Jacob, everything is against me.

There's nothing here for me to take heart in. But it's precisely then that this resolution is needed.

No, John, you will not live by appearances. I will trust in the Lord.

I will not fear, though ten thousand be raised against me. That's how Luther resolved when he was summoned to Worms to give a defense.

He was being tried for heresy. And he knew that the punishment was the death penalty, the stake. But he had been promised safe passage to the trial by the elector.

But the confidant of the elector got word to Luther to not come to Worms. He says, there's no way that we can ensure your safety.

[16:34] Luther sent word back, go and tell your master that even should there be as many devils and worms as tiles on the rooftops, still I would enter it. Lots of tiles on the rooftops.

Tens of thousands, probably. But though there be devils equal to the tiles, I will not fear. So, against all appearances, this resolution stands.

I will not fear. But he also resolves to trust in the face of the unknown. Not only the appearances, but the unknown.

And it's often the unknown that we fear more than the things that we do know and can see. A little noise in the dark can terrify us when even visible dangers don't. And David takes the greatest and most terrible unknown of death.

And he stares it right in the face and he resolves to trust. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Here's his resolve. I will fear no evil.

[17:46] For thou art with me. The resolve. Even for the unknown. What's in the darkness. What lies beyond death. He finds reason to resolve.

I will not fear. For God is with me. And there's so much in God. To remove every bit of my fear. He's planned whatever is out there in the unknown. He's ordered it.

For my good. So let's honor God. By resolving. I will trust him. Despite appearances. Despite the unknown future.

The unreservedness of trust. And then power sets out that the great object of our trust is God himself. We've seen that already. That when I'm afraid I will trust in you.

God whose word I praise. And so the scripture is ever presenting God to us. God is presenting himself to us in many different ways. All that are meant to inspire our trust.

[18:46] He sets him forth as the sovereign king. As the father. The shepherd of his people. The wonderful counselor. The friend. The refuge. The fortress.

The shield. The defender. The mighty captain. And so the better we know him. The more equipped we are to resolve to trust him. Now our author.

P.B. Power does not limit himself to text in the Psalms. Where the precise words are used. I will trust. Or I will not fear.

He expands the range of verses that show this resolve of trust. To other terms. I want to consider three.

Look at Psalm 4 and verse 8. And notice the resolve of trust that we find here. Just in a bit different words. But the same resolve. Psalm 4 and verse 8.

[19:47] Again a Psalm of David. I will lie down and sleep in peace. For you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Now how is this a resolve of trust? I will lie down and sleep. Why is that a resolve? Why does power say, now that is the same resolve of trust.

I will trust it. What's the connection? Why is faith needed to lie down and sleep sometime? You cannot defend yourself. Excellent. You're pretty exposed when you're sleeping, aren't you?

You're helpless. And so if you are checking out, as it were, of any self-watch, you need to have faith enough in someone who is not slumbering or sleeping so that you can.

And David was in plenty of situations where he didn't know, but that while he's sleeping, someone could be there to kill him. So he says, I will.

[20:50] Here's that resolve. I will lie down and sleep in peace. For you alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety. Bishop Ridley in England was condemned to be burned at the stake for holding to the faith of the gospel.

It was during the reign of Bloody Mary. And his brother, on the night before his execution, his brother offered to stay in prison with him just to comfort him.

And Ridley declined, saying that he meant to go to bed and sleep as quietly as ever he did in his life. I will lie down in peace.

I will lie down and sleep in peace. Can you think of anybody else who slept in prison the night before his execution date? Peter.

It was the same faith. It was the same, I will. I will lie down and sleep in peace. Because I am safe in God's hand.

[21:54] And Peter slept so hard that it took an angel poking him to wake him up. He was in a sound sleep. There is grace in God to enable us to resolve to lie down and sleep in peace and leave tomorrow with God.

An elderly minister was seriously ill and burdened with many cares. And he told his friend, the doctor wants me to sleep. But how can I sleep with care sitting on my pillow? Do you ever know that? Sleep that is denied because care is sitting on your pillow? I could sleep, but I don't find a place to lie down and rest because care is there. Concern, anxiety. Some people can trust God out on the frenzied battlefield, but they have trouble lying down and sleeping because care is sitting on their pillow. It's no small thing to resolve. I will lie down and sleep in peace. Would that we could trust God more and more with the minutia of life, power says.

[23 : 05] The little troubles, the problems of pressing cares. And to believe that he cares for us. And to so trust that he cares for us that we could just unburden our cares and knock them off our pillow and lie down and sleep in peace.

It's to surrender our concerns to the personal care of the Lord that secures our rest and sleep. Luther, again, was looking out his window one summer evening as night was drawing on. He saw a little bird in a tree simply preparing for the night's rest. Quote, look how that little fellow preaches faith to us all. He takes hold of a twig, tucks his head under his wing, and goes to sleep, leaving God to care for him. God is honored by such trust. And we are benefited with restful sleep. I love the way that power brings in so many illustrations from church history.

[24 : 08] He speaks of a bulstrode whitlock. How many of you heard of bulstrode whitlock? Sam, you should know him. He was an envoy of Oliver Cromwell to Sweden.

You don't remember that in your lesson. Well, this was back in 1653, and he was to represent Oliver Cromwell to Sweden. And he was leaving the next day. And on the night before he left, he was so disturbed in his mind over the state of the nation and its safety. It was also a stormy night, but no less stormy in his own mind. And in an adjacent bed beside him was a faithful, trusted servant who noticed that his master could not sleep. And finally, he spoke into the darkness. Pray, sir, will you give me permission to ask you a question? Certainly. Pray, sir, do you? Do not you think that God governed the world very well before you came into it?

[25 : 09] Undoubtedly. And pray, sir, do you? Do not you think that he will govern it quite as well when you are gone out of it? Certainly.

Then, sir, pray. I can't talk this way, Sam. Maybe you can. Then, sir, pray, excuse me, but do not you think you may trust him to govern it quite as well as long as you live? So if he governed it well before you came on the scene and you believe he'll govern it well after, can you not pray that he'll govern it well during this little period while you are alive? To this question, Whitlock had nothing to reply, but turning about, soon fell fast asleep till he was summoned to leave. He had been taught by his faithful servant to resolve. I will lie down and sleep in peace. For you alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety. So there's another resolve of trust.

[26 : 11] I will trust him. I will lie down and sleep. Now, there's a second expression of resolve, and that's found over in Psalm 57. Another way that this resolve of trust is found.

And this is a precious text. Psalm 57.1. Somebody read it, please, for us. 57.1. Have mercy on me, O God. Have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. You hear the resolution? The I will? I will take refuge. So the tornado siren is going. And we take refuge down in the storm cellar until the disaster has passed by. That's what David is saying. I will take refuge.

[27 : 25] Here, it's not a storm cellar. It's the shadow of your wings. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Now, that picture of taking refuge in the shadow of the wings is clear to us from Jesus' words when he was speaking to the city of Jerusalem in Matthew 23, 37.

How often I would have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. And you would not. And so when the chicken hawk flies around the barnyard, the mother hen gives the clock, and all her little ones come running from all over the barnyard, and they take refuge under the shadow of her wings.

Now, the very image then, the picture drawn, speaks of the closeness to God, doesn't it? That if you're under the wing of God, you're close to God.

His presence is near. And that's the thing that we need to shelter in when we have dangers. It's the closeness of the parent that gives sweet security to the child.

[28 : 38] And it's this childlike faith that just tucks under the wing of our Father in Heaven that enables us to rest. So we hide under his wing. This is what power says.

We hide under his wing when the most prominent idea in the believer's mind is the immediate nearness and presence of God with us. And there we find peace.

So we all know what it is for the little chicks to literally go running across the barnyard and to run under the wing of the hand. What is it for the Christian, when facing danger and fearful and scary things, to run under the wing of God?

How does that compute? Well, this is the activity of faith, of trust. And it's to find ourselves as secure under God's presence and having God so near us as that little chick does with the presence of its mother.

And so it's this awareness, the prominent idea in our mind that God is near, that shelters us and keeps us from fear. Now, I think power does us a favor when he says, we often pray to be kept from the disaster, to be kept out of the disaster.

[30 : 01] But God does something bigger. He keeps us through the disaster. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

But I'm right in the midst of the disaster. And that's the beauty of this text. To live in the midst of them as long as they last with the awareness that we're sheltered by God and therefore remain in him without any real hurt.

Is that not the way it was with Daniel? He was not kept out of the lion's den, out of the disaster, but he was rather sheltered in the lion's den.

Right through the night. And the next morning, we read, when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him because he had trusted in his God.

He had taken refuge under the shadow of his wing. And that's the resolve of trust. It was the same for his three friends, wasn't it? God did not keep them from the fiery furnace, but he kept them in it.

[31 : 15] Until the disaster was passed by. In the midst of the flame, they came out unsinged without the smell of smoke on them.

And so Powers just reminds us that it's right in the midst of the disaster that the Lord invites us to resolve to trust in him. Quote, the hen shelters her chickens under her wings in the very presence of the enemy.

So there's the fox or there's the hawk and they're in the very presence. They're safe in the presence of the enemy. John G. Patton, missionary to the cannibals of the South Sea Islands of Tana, knew how to take refuge in God.

And so he did experience peace right in the midst of trouble. He spoke of one day when a wild chief followed me about for four hours with his loaded musket off and pointed at me.

Now that's the disaster present. I spoke kindly to him and attended to my work as if he had not been there. Fully persuaded that my God had placed me there and would protect me till my allotted task was finished.

[32 : 34] Looking up in unceasing prayer to our dear Lord Jesus, I left all in his hands and felt immortal until my work was done. Here it is. Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my dear Lord and Savior, nothing else in all the world could have preserved me from losing my mind and perishing miserably.

It was the abiding consciousness of the nearness and presence of Jesus. That means he took shelter under the shadow of his wing. Life in such circumstances has led me to cling very near to the Lord Jesus.

I knew not for one brief hour when or how attack might be made. And yet with my trembling hand clasped in the hand once nailed on Calvary and now swaying the scepter of the universe, calmness and peace and resignation abode in my soul.

Oh, the bliss of living and enduring as seeing him who is invisible. So this is how we get under the shadow of his arm. We hold to our mind.

We let this abiding sense of God's presence that he is with us. I am safe in his hands. That's how we take refuge in God. And so trusting our good shepherd, we can ask him to prepare a table

before us in the very presence of our enemies.

[34 : 01] The promise for those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High is that I will be with him in trouble, in the storm, in the lion's den, in the fiery furnace, in the disaster.

So let the storms rage high, the dark clouds rise. They won't worry me for I'm sheltered safe within the arms of God. Now, power argues that this is even more glorifying to God than if he kept you out of the fiery furnace.

Isn't that clear to see? That God was glorified more for keeping Daniel from being eaten alive by the lions than if he never, if God just kept, and I say just kept him, it was no small thing to keep him from going in.

But God was glorified more by keeping him under his wing in the lion's den. So it was with the fiery furnace. God was more glorified by keeping those three trusting Hebrews in the fire than by keeping them out of the fire.

And it's the same with you. God has let you go into the fire. Some of you are being tried. You're in the fire. Take this encouragement. God will be more glorified by keeping you sheltered in his presence in the trouble than if he would have detoured you around the trouble.

[35 : 26] So may we find encouragement in this resolve. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

And no one who seeks this refuge has ever been denied. Turn over to Psalm 86 for the third way that this resolve of trust is seen in David.

And we don't have time to spend with it, but at least see it. A few comments on it. Psalm 86, 7. 86, 7.

Again, a prayer of David where he says, In the day of my trouble, I will call to you for you will answer me. I will call to you.

How is that? Just another expression of I will trust in you. I will call. Mark. Probably we don't call on someone that we don't believe is there.

[36 : 26] Okay. What is another common word? Care. Yeah. And what is the word that we often... What is it called when we call on the Lord?

What is that? Prayer. Prayer. Okay. And is prayer not an expression of trust? Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones said, Prayer in many ways is the supreme expression of faith in God.

The supreme expression. You can't see the one you're talking to. And yet you call on him because you believe he's there. And you are turning away from anything in yourself and anything here below.

And you are leaning hard upon him who is unseen. That's trust. That's faith. And this is the resolve of the psalmist. That in the day of my trouble, I resolve.

I will pray. Because prayer is I will trust. I will trust you. And that means we must view our troubles as calls to prayer.

[37 : 31] The Muslims, they have that guy shouting up in the tower. We have troubles. And that's our call to prayer. Troubles come. And they're calling us to prayer. They're calling us to trust God.

To resolve. I will trust you. I will call on you. So troubles are triggers to place our trust in God. And that trust is expressed by running to him in believing prayer.

Well, many examples. Daniel himself, when threatened with the lions, if he continued to pray, what did he do? I will pray. I will call on him, even as I have before.

And he trusted. He called on the Lord. Hezekiah, threatened by Sennacherib. He takes the letter of threat right into the presence of God and spreads it out and says, look at it, Lord.

Read it. Do you see what they're saying about you? Come and help us. We're defenseless. I will call upon you in the day of trouble. So let your troubles be triggers to prayer.

[38 : 28] When I am afraid, I will trust in you. With that resolve, we're ready to face whatever comes to us in this life. Power gives us several examples of martyrs who were burned at the stake, who had a natural fear of death like we all do.

And yet, in the time of their death, they were able to face it without fear. Amazing grace that came to them that enabled them to die as quietly as a child in his bed, power says.

But then he concludes by reminding us that the I will of trust is not just for the big events. It's not just for dying. We'll need it then, won't we? Because we're in our last moments on it.

We will need to resolve. I will trust you. Into your hands I commit my spirit. I will need trust on my deathbed. But he says, not just for the big events.

He says, quote, the daily circumstances of life will afford us opportunities enough of glorifying God with trust. Without our waiting for any extraordinary calls upon our faith, like being burned at the stake.

[39 : 40] Most of our tests of faith are small everyday challenges. The little headaches of life. The little worries. The little pains. The little disappointments. The flat tire challenges of life. And if we only meet the test when they're big with the resolve to trust God, then we'll miss 98% of the opportunity to trust him in our troubles.

Rather, let us be encouraged that God is glorified when right in the midst of troubles. He says, when the believer is within the grasp of Satan and yet still he cannot get him.

That glorifies God. And that brings peace to our hearts. Ready to resolve. Ready to meet the unknown. Tomorrow.

The present troubles with this resolve. I will trust him. Any comments or questions that this brings up? The resolve of trust. Maybe you've never resolved to trust in the Lord.

I trust we see again this morning that the psalmist is very familiar with this language. To resolve to trust him. And indeed that can be all the difference when we're in the fire.

[40 : 48] Will we cower or will we meet it with a predetermined resolution? God, by your grace, I will trust you. I will lie down and sleep. I will take refuge in you till the storm passes by.

Any comments, questions? All has been said, but not all has been done. Let's pray.

So easy to resolve. Oh, Father, so hard to trust you. To lie down and sleep in peace. To take refuge under your wing.

The awareness of your presence. To call on you in the day of our trouble. All these things, Lord.

Would you remind us? Would you make those troubles in our life triggers? And wake us up that we would meet our troubles with this resolve.

Thank you that you're such a God who is worthy of our trust. We trust you, Lord. Help us to trust you more. In Jesus' name. Amen.