

Believing and Trusting God

A. Reasons it's challenging to trust God

1. To trust God _____
2. To trust God, I must accept that He loves me, but -

3. Others _____

B. Definition of vulnerability

- Being susceptible to _____ or _____
Being susceptible to moral attack, _____, or temptation
Being open to _____ without adequate _____

C. Jesus was vulnerable

His response to vulnerability:

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence (he honored God by recognizing both his immense power and sovereignty).

1 Peter 2:21-24 ...because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

D. I am vulnerable

Vulnerable situations test my _____ to see if it's genuine.

1 Peter 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time. In this you rejoice,

Though now, for a little while, if necessary, you are grieved by various trials,
So that the TESTED GENUINENESS of your FAITH – more precious than gold that perished though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in PRAISE and HONOR and GLORY at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

E. Some Responses to Vulnerability

1. Avoid God like _____
2. Withdraw or hide from people or situations like _____
3. Deceive others like _____
4. Feel inadequate like _____
5. Feel cynical and defensive like _____
6. Feel anger like _____
7. Believe God like _____

8. Entrust myself to God like _____

9. Others _____

F. What helps us Trust God?

Know God intimately

1. John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
2. James 4:8 “Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you.”

G. What if we discover we aren't trusting God?

1. Vulnerability or suffering exposes our true beliefs and who or what we trust.
2. Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses because he was a man subject to temptation just like we are.
3. Jesus welcomes us to draw near to His throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

H. We're part of a much bigger story

1. We're in a long distance race
2. The finish line is heaven
3. We're not alone – the spectators include faithful saints cheering us on and the Lord of the Universe waiting for us with his arms open wide.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:1, 2