



## MORE TRUST

Pleasing God more begins with trusting God most

### SUMMARY

We have become a very goal-oriented society, and, while that isn't a bad thing, we often fail to make the greatest purpose our greatest pursuit. With a myriad of options and opportunities, it is so easy for us to get distracted by and begin to drift towards things that aren't necessarily bad things, but they interfere with or take the place of what should be our greatest desire – to please God. This year, let's determine that our life is going to abound with and increase in those things that our Heavenly Father takes great delight in.

### REVIEW

Last week, we looked at 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and considered the theme for our church this year: **MORE AND MORE - DETERMINED TO PLEASE THE LORD MORE IN 2024.**

To summarize, we said that our goal for this year is to abound and to increase in the things that our Heavenly Father takes great delight in. We then found that it would be a journey that is marked by **INTENSITY**, by **INTEGRITY**, with **INTERACTION** (with the Father and with the family of God), and with **INVESTMENT**.

### MESSAGE

Now that we've established a theme for our church this year (and hopefully for each of our own personal lives), we need to take the time to establish an understanding of what it is that pleases God. You see, the reality is that we won't live a life that pleases God if we don't know what a life that pleases God looks like.

I remind us of what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 says, *"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."*

In that passage, Paul does a couple of things:

- (1) Paul establishes the fact that it is possible to please God

Now I think that's an important place to begin. Why? Well, how many of you have known someone that it just didn't seem possible to please? I mean it didn't matter what you did, it didn't matter when you did, and it didn't matter how you did, it just never was enough to please them. Sure, we all have. Paul wants us to know that it is possible for God to be pleased.

- (2) Paul establishes the fact that it is possible for us to know what pleases God

Have you ever gotten to the point where you wanted to please someone so badly, but it never seemed possible and in frustration you said something like this, "What is it that you want?" The idea behind the question is simple – tell me what it is that will please you. Not only is it possible for God to be pleased, but Paul tells us that it is possible for us to know what pleases God.

- (3) Paul established the fact that it is possible for us to please God with our life

Not only can God be pleased, and not only can we know how to please God, but we can live our lives in such a way that God pleases Him. When we discover what it is that pleases God, we then must determine to abound more and more in those very things so that God can look at our life, as He did His only begotten Son, and say, "This is My child in whom I am well pleased."

Now, with that important foundation, over the next few weeks, I want us to consider some necessary elements that must be in our life if we are going to please God more and more. While we will not be tracing the word *more* through the Bible (because it appears 686 times), we're going to begin this study where the word *more* first appears in the Bible – Genesis chapter 3.

Genesis 3:1 says, *"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made."*

Now, let's pause here for just a moment. I hope that you understand that by the time we get to chapter 3 of the Bible **A LOT** has taken place.

With the power of His **VOICE**, God spoke our universe and our world into existence. From **LIGHT**, to **LAND**, to every **LIVING CREATURE**, God said, "*Let there be...*" and it happened... perfectly!

With the power of His **HAND**, God took dust from the earth, and with it He formed man. We're then told that God breathed into man the breath of life and man became a **LIVING SOUL**.

With the power of His **WISDOM**, God gave man a place to exist, a presence (God's) to enjoy, a plan to esteem (to hold in high regard), and a purpose to engage in. Why? Because God knew that we needed all of them.

With the power of His **LOVE**, God was moved with compassion for Adam and He created woman from his side, and He brought her unto Adam so that they could exist in a perfect relationship and in a perfect environment and where they could enjoy life together with God.

Now think about that: From the very beginning, God gave us an abundance of opportunity where we could abound more and more in that which pleases God. And they did that...at least for a little while. What they did not understand is that there was a very real **DANGER** that they were to steer clear of. Oh, God had given them very clear instruction that they were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and He had even warned them what would happen if they did (they would die), but it appears at least that they did not know that there was a very real enemy now in their world who wanted to create just enough **DISTANCE** between them and God that they would make the choice to **DISOBEY** Him.

And that really brings us to Genesis chapter 3. While we're not told how much, it appears that a season of time had passed before Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent, and verse 1 tells us that the serpent was more subtle (cunning; crafty) than any beast of the field. The serpent utilizes its **SKILLS** and its **SURROUNDINGS** to defend itself and to accomplish its purpose. And that is exactly how Satan approached the woman.

Genesis 1:2-13 says, "*And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he*

*did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I'd like to draw your attention to verse 9 where the Bible says, "...Where art thou?..."

For a few moments, I'd like to consider this thought: **MORE TRUST - PLEASING GOD  
MORE BEGINS WITH TRUSTING GOD MOST.**

The whole approach of Satan was to cause Eve to trust in herself more than she trusted in God. He planted seeds in her mind that caused her to question the Word of God, that caused her to doubt the goodness of God, and that caused her to be unsure of the wisdom of God. The very moment that Eve began to let her trust in God decrease and her trust in herself increase, Satan made his move and pointed Eve in a direction that ultimately led to her making a decision that messed up everything – not just for her, but for all of us as well.

Now, before we're too harsh on Eve, we need to understand that the Devil uses the exact same approach against each and every single one of us. Sure, the scenario may be different, but the goal is the same – he wants us to trust in ourselves more than we do God. He wants us to think that we know better and that we can do better.

The Apostle Paul referred to this as a corrupt mindset.

2 Corinthians 11:3 says, *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

Solomon tells us that trusting more in ourselves than we trust in God is simply something that we should not do. Why? Because we don't know what we're doing.

Proverbs 3:5 says, *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."*

It was Eve's self-trust that brought **SIN** into her life (vs. 6), that brought **SHAME** into her life (vs. 7), that brought **SEPARATION** into her life (vs. 8-9), and that brought great **SORROW** and great **STRUGGLES** into her life (vs. 16-19). When Eve placed her trust in her wants and in her wisdom, she walked in a way that God had forbidden, and the reality is that it **TOOK FROM** her so much

more than it **BROUGHT TO** her. That's what misplaced trust always does. That's why one of the most consistent themes throughout the entire Bible is to **TRUST GOD**.

*Psalm 2:12 says, "...Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."*

*Psalm 5:11 says, "...let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice..."*

*Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."*

Time and time again, through the Bible and in our own day, we find that God dwells with and that God does incredible things through those who simply learn to trust Him. What I've discovered is that the **PRESENCE** of God, and the **PEACE** of God, and the **POWER** of God are poured into the lives of those who live to please Him and the writer of Hebrews makes it very clear that a life that pleases God begins with trusting God.

*Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

Someone said it this way: "Whether or not you trust God is the center for all other spiritual movement."

You can't receive **SALVATION** without first putting your trust in the Lord.

*Romans 10:9-11 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."*

You can't receive the **STRENGTH** that you need without first putting your trust in the Lord.

*Isaiah 12:2 says, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."*

*Isaiah 40:29-31 says, "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

You can't take the **STAND** that you should without first putting your trust in the Lord.

You can't **STEER** your family in the right direction without first putting your trust in the Lord.

*John 3:30 says, "He must increase, but I must decrease."*