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Trusting God Study Guide

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 – Can You Trust God?	3
Chapter 2 – Is God In Control?	6
Chapter 3 – The Sovereignty of God	10
Chapter 4 – God's Sovereignty Over People	14
Chapter 5 – God's Rule Over The Nations	18
Chapter 6 – God's Power Over Nature	22
Chapter 7 – God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibility	26
Chapter 8 – The Wisdom of God	30
Chapter 9 – Knowing God's Love	33
Chapter 10 – Experiencing God's Love	36
Chapter 11 – Trusting God For Who You Are	40
Chapter 12 – Growing Through Adversity	43
Chapter 13 – Choosing To Trust God	46
Chapter 14 – Giving Thanks Always	49

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Chapter 1 – Can You Trust God?



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. (Psalm 32:10 ESV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5 ESV)

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1 ESV)

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. (Psalm 9:10 ESV)

Central Idea

God is completely sovereign, infinite in wisdom, perfect in love, and therefore worthy of our trust. Therefore, God's desire for us is that we learn to trust Him.

Highlights

- Do you have such a relationship with God and such confidence in Him that you believe He is with you in your adversity even though you do not see any evidence of His presence and His power?
- ... it often seems more difficult to trust God than obey Him.

- In order to trust God, we must always view our adverse circumstances through the eyes of faith, not of sense.
- God in His love always wills what is best for us. In His wisdom, He always knows what is best, and in His sovereignty, He has the power to bring it about.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God?

Trust?

You?



Interpretation

Why must we both trust and obey God?

What is more difficult for you and why- trusting God or obeying God?

Can you describe a time of adversity where you recognized God's glory?



Personal Application

What can you do to trust God more through faith?

Notes:

Chapter 2 – Is God In Control?



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.

Scripture Reading

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, (1 Timothy 6:11-15 ESV)

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:35 ESV)

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31 ESV)

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." (Job 1:12 ESV)

Central Idea

God is in control. He has a purpose and a plan for you, and He has the power to carry out that plan

Highlights

- God's providence is His constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation for His own glory and the good of His people.

- God never pursues His glory at the expense of the good of His people, nor does He ever seek our good at the expense of His glory
- No one can act and no circumstances can occur outside of the bounds of God's sovereignty.
- All occasions of pain and sorrow are under the absolute control of God.
- If God exercises His sovereignty in regards to sparrows, most certainly He will exercise it in regard to His children.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's control?

Adversity?

Trust?



Interpretation

Why must we learn how to obey God one choice at a time? How can we trust God one circumstance at a time?

Describe a situation in your life where God's will and your best interests seemed to be in conflict. How was this conflict resolved?

What evidence do you see, from your past or present, of God's involvement in your life?



Personal Application

How can you express God's love to someone who is in a difficult situation?

Notes:

Chapter 3 – The Sovereignty of God



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 ESV)

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:35 ESV)

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, (Ephesian 1:11 ESV)

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future. (Ecclesiastes 7:14 ESV)

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. (Genesis 45:4-7 ESV)

Central Idea

God is sovereign. He can do as He pleases and has absolute control over the actions of all His creatures. Nothing happens outside the the bounds of his sovereign will.

Highlights

- The sovereignty of God is the one impregnable rock to which the suffering human heart must cling. The circumstances surrounding our lives are not accident: they may be the work of evil but that evil is held firmly within the mighty hand of our sovereign God.
- God permits, for reasons known only to Himself, people to act contrary to and in defiance of His revealed will. But He never permits them to act contrary to His sovereign will.
- We must not evaluate actions and events according to our own preferences and plans, but according to God's plans.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's sovereignty?

Adversity?

Trust?



Interpretation

Why should we not use the doctrine of God's sovereignty as an excuse for sinful actions, decisions we make that hurt others, complacency, and not following His revealed will?

Describe Joseph's response and his brothers' response to him being sold into slavery?

How should we respond to adversity in our life and in the lives of those we love?



Personal Application

How do you plan to respond to adversity based on the principles learned?

Notes:

Chapter 4 – God's Sovereignty Over People



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will. (Proverbs 21:1 ESV)

For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. (Psalm 75:6-7 ESV)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (James 1:13-14 ESV)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20 ESV)

Central Idea

God works in the hearts of people to move them to fulfill His purposes. Any treatment, good or bad, that we receive from another can be seen as part of God's plan for us.

Highlights

- The stubborn will of the most powerful monarch on earth is directed by God as easily as the farmer directs the flow of water to irrigation canals.

If God controls the hearts of those in authority over all, certainly He controls everyone else's. All must move before His sovereign influence.

- God moves in the hearts of Christians or non-Christians, willingly of their own free will, to carry out His plans.
- Three truths when considering the relationship between God's sovereignty and people's freedom and moral responsibility:
 - God is infinite in His ways as well as His being.
 - God is never the author of sin.
 - The Bible consistently portrays people as making real choices of their own will.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

The relationship between God's sovereignty and free will?

How God directs the heart of all?

Trusting God?



Interpretation

Why does God permit evil?

How should we respond when treated unfairly by others?

Why is it important to obey the will of God, as revealed in Scripture, and not use the doctrine of God's sovereignty to respond passively or excuse our own sinful actions?



Personal Application

For those that treated you unfairly in the past and may treat you unfairly in the future, how will you cleanse yourself of bitterness and unforgiveness?

Notes:

Chapter 5 – God's Rule Over The Nations



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. (2 Chronicles 20:6 ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:1-4 ESV)

who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. (Isaiah 40:23-24 ESV)

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord. (Proverbs 21:30-31 ESV)

Central Idea

God is in control of all nations, shaping events and decisions to fulfill His purposes.

Highlights

- God recorded specific instances of His sovereign rule over history in His Word, and His rule in the affairs of nations is no less sovereign today than it was in the days of the prophets or apostles.
- God determines who governs, how long they govern, rules in their decisions, and determines military victories.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God and leaders?

God and nations?

God's sovereignty?



Interpretation

Why does God sometimes cause government leaders or officials to make foolish decisions?

How should believers respond to the consequences of foolish decisions?

What responsibilities do we have toward our government?



Personal Application

Who are world leaders you can commit to regularly pray for to study God's Word, obey His revealed will, and make wise decisions?

Notes:

Chapter 6 – God's Power Over Nature



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things. (Jeremiah 14:22 ESV)

I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things. (Isaiah 45:7 ESV)

Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? (Isaiah 40:23-24 ESV)

For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men. (Lamentations 3:31-33 ESV)

Central Idea

God has established certain physical laws for the operation of His universe. Moment by moment, those laws operate according to His direct will.

Highlights

- God controls all the forces of nature, both destructive and productive, on a continuous, moment-by-moment basis.
- Whatever we experience at the hand of the weather and other forces of nature are under the watchful eye and sovereign control of God.
- Afflictions don't just happen. They are all within the sovereign will of God.
- Trusting God in the midst of our pain and heartache means that we accept it from Him, which is different than resignation or reluctant submission.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's role in natural phenomena?

God's role in pain and suffering?

God's sovereignty?



Interpretation

What is your usual attitude towards the weather?

How has pain and suffering that you have experienced or observed affected your relationship with God?

How challenging is it for you to accept the love and wisdom of God in the midst of grief?



Personal Application

How can you learn to trust God more in the area of weather, natural disasters, physical afflictions, and childlessness?

Notes:

Chapter 7 – God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibility



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. (Nehemiah 4:6-9)

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1 ESV)

... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV)

Central Idea

We are responsible for all our actions. We must seek God in prayer, act with prudence at all times, and trust God to work out His good purposes in our lives.

Highlights

- We must pray for wisdom to rightly understand our circumstances and use the means God has given us.
- God usually works through means, and He intends that we use the means He has placed at our disposal.
- Out of prudence, we must use all legitimate biblical means at our disposal to avoid harm to ourselves or others to bring about what we believe to be the right course of events.
- God's sovereign plan includes our failure to act or our sinful actions.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

Sovereignty and prudence?

Prayer and prudence?

Our failures and God's sovereignty?



Interpretation

What does Nehemiah 4:6-9 reveal about the two Israelites and their understanding of the relationship between prayer and prudence?

How does God reveal what He wants us to do?

What are some of the ways that God ensures His purpose is accomplished?



Personal Application

What should be your approach when you have situations and concerns that you are dealing with?

Notes:

Chapter 8 – The Wisdom of God



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Romans 11:33)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:28-29 ESV)

For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (Hebrews 12:10 ESV)

Central Idea

God is infinite in wisdom. He knows what is best for us, and He knows the best way to bring it about.

Highlights

- God's infinite wisdom can take things and people which are meant for evil and make them work together for good.
- God's ways are incomprehensible, and He never explains to us what he is doing or why.

- We must learn from God's wisdom and not attempt to interpret the way of God in His providence.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's wisdom?

God's ways?

God's discipline?



Interpretation

According to Romans 8:28-29, what is the good that God works for in our lives?

Why must we not attempt to interpret the way of God?

Why should we focus on the lessons we learn from our difficulties and not on the reasons?



Personal Application

How will you speak to God, in a way that honors Him, about situations in your life that may cause you to question His wisdom?

Notes:

Chapter 9 – Knowing God's Love



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:35,37)

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. . . . The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

(Job 1:20-21 ESV)

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10) ESV)

Central Idea

We can trust God's love because He loves us with a perfect and infinite love, which was demonstrated on Calvary.

Highlights

- God's love is as real in times of adversity as it is in times of blessings.

- Our greatest need is a relationship with God, not freedom from adversity.
- Anytime we are tempted to doubt God's love for us, we should go back to the Cross.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's love at Calvary?

God's love in Christ?

God's sovereign love?



Interpretation

Why is it so tempting to doubt God's love during times of adversity?

What prevents God's love from ever failing?

In what event do we see the supreme demonstration of God's love for us?



Personal Application

Write a letter to Jesus thanking Him for His love.

Notes:

Chapter 10 – Experiencing God's Love



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
(Hebrews 12:5-6 ESV)

"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10 ESV)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. (Isaiah 43:2)

Central Idea

We can experience God's love always because He specifically promises to be with us in our sorrows and afflictions. Because of our union with Christ, we are secure in that love.

Highlights

- We should not look for tokens of God's love in happiness only. We should also look for them in His faithful and persistent work to conform us to Christ. This sometimes occurs through His discipline.
- Through God's unfailing love, the fires of affliction will be tempered by His compassion and consolation.
- God will not spare us from the waters of sorrow and the fires of affliction, but he will go through them with us.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's love in discipline?

God's unfailing love?

God's presence with us?



Interpretation

Why does God discipline us?

Does the level of God's discipline equate to the level of sinfulness in our lives? Give examples to support your response.

What assurances do you have that God is with you in the midst of your adversities?



Personal Application

What can you do to recognize and learn from God's discipline in your life?

Notes:

Chapter 11 – Trusting God For Who You Are



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . . . Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (Psalm 139:13, 16)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. (Psalm 119:73)

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:2-3)

Central Idea

God created us with all our abilities and disabilities for His glory. We must accept ourselves and trust God's wisdom in creating us the way we are.

Highlights

- God made us and we must trust Him for who we are and what we are.
- God has given each us different gifts, abilities and temperaments and has placed each of us in the body of Christ according to His will.

- God's guidance is always step-by-step. He does not show us our life's plan all at once.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God will?

God's guidance?

Self-acceptance?



Interpretation

Why must we accept ourselves the way God made us?

Why is your uniqueness so important?

Although God has a plan for our lives, what is our responsibility?



Personal Application

Assess the abilities God has given you and how you are presently serving the Lord. What are some new ways you could serve that would better suit your abilities?

Notes:

Chapter 12 – Growing Through Adversity



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O Lord, and whom you teach out of your law, (Psalm 94:12)

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:2)

Central Idea

Adversity causes us to develop Christlike character. For the believer, all pain has meaning; all adversity is profitable.

Highlights

- God uses adversity to develop the spiritual "muscle system" of our lives so that we become a beautiful Christlike character.

- To learn from and receive the benefit of adversity, we must submit to it, bring the Word of God to bear upon the situation, and remember them and the lessons learned.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God's work through adversity?

Learning from adversity?

Pruning?



Interpretation

Describe two specific objectives God has in mind when He allows adversity into our lives?

Has adversity in your life strengthened or weakened your relationship with God? Explain.



Personal Application

How will you encourage yourself, or someone else, who is going through adversity?

Notes:

Chapter 13 – Choosing To Trust God



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4)

... for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

... casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (Psalm 50:14-15)

Central Idea

We must choose, by an act of our will, to trust God in major and minor difficulties. We can do this regardless of how we may feel because we know that God is sovereign, wise, and loving.

Highlights

- We can choose to trusting God as a matter of faith or choose to be ruled by our feelings of anxiety or resentment or grief.
- We are responsible to obey the will of God and trust Him in times of adversity, but we are dependent on the Holy Spirit to enable us to do so.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

God?

Choice?

Dependence?



Interpretation

Why must we trust God in minor adversities as well as major adversities?

How does our flesh get in the way of trusting God?

How can you quiet your fears and anxieties during difficult times?



Personal Application

What will you do to trust God more and cast your anxieties on Him?

Notes:

Chapter 14 – Giving Thanks Always



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with the study guide.



Scripture Reading

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Central Idea

When we face adversity, we can and must trust God. We should respond to adversity with thanksgiving, worship, humility, forgiveness, prayer, and a heart seeking only God's glory.

Highlights

- The basis for giving thanks in difficult circumstances is the firm belief that God is at work in all things – all circumstances – for our good.

- We must see God in all His majesty, power, glory, and sovereignty as well as His goodness and grace.
- We must humble ourselves under God's sovereignty and trust Him in His wisdom and love.
- Adversity caused by the actions of others are sometimes deliberate and sometimes caused by their irresponsibility but could seriously affect us.

How would you concisely describe the theme for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does the scripture(s) and highlights say about:

Thanksgiving?

Worship?

Humility?

Forgiveness?



Interpretation

Why should we be thankful?

What are some of the ways that you worship God?

What are major sources of pride in your life?

What truths about God, and you, can help you forgive those who hurt you?



Personal Application

What will you do to address areas of forgiveness in your life for yourself and others?

Notes: