



DEPENDING UPON GOD— ‘TRUST WHOLLY IN HIM’

BY JERRY LAZARUS, MA

Years ago, when I worked in marketing, my company hired a new director for our department. He and many of my colleagues engaged in misleading and combative inter-office politics. My refusal to play the director’s game created a serious rift between us. I was maligned and ostracized. Determined to stick to my principles, I prayed for guidance while also appealing to the company’s higher-ups. They were indifferent and the issue remained unresolved. As things became worse, colleagues from other departments encouraged me to fight back. While I considered this, I had a dream in which I heard:

“There is no grace in victory, but there is victory in grace!”

The message was clear: Listen to the voice of God and follow the way of grace and not contention. Victory cannot be achieved by fighting—even if it can be justified from a human standpoint—but only by acting gracefully. I realized that the best course was to trust my inner guidance and *fully depend upon God*.

Later, opportunities arose that led to mediation. The mediator assured me that I had nothing to worry about as I had acted “honorably.” After a flurry of rumors, the director and other team members were soon fired or laid off, and I was offered the director’s position. I took no joy in it, wishing my departed colleagues the best. Months later, the president of the company told me that she knew the injustice I had faced, thanking me for handling things with grace. Little did she know that I would have bungled it, had I not depended upon God and followed the guidance from within.

David and Goliath—an example

David the shepherd boy brought down Goliath the giant who was armed with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. David, representing Israel, overcame Goliath by saying, “I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts...the Lord does not save with sword and spear.” And David shot from his sling and Goliath fell dead. (1 Samuel 17)

Israel means spiritual seeker, which David represents. Goliath represents the seemingly insurmountable obstacles and fears we face. The sling represents the mind, and the shot represents the thought—established in God—that goes forth to meet our obstacles. So, instead of allowing a Goliath of a problem to overcome us, we do as David did: Face and overcome the problem by placing our whole trust in God and taking the actions based on our inner guidance.

Bringing down a giant with a slingshot may sound preposterous, nothing more than the bravado of a youth, a feel-good story. It may seem equally preposterous that Jesus resurrected a dead man

buried for four days by merely calling out, “Lazarus, come forth.” Without any medical training or asking about medical history, Cayce was able to diagnose and prescribe complex and original medical treatments that cured the “incurable”—an ability that may also seem, well, preposterous. The only book Cayce regularly consulted was the Bible. Through prayer, he placed his whole trust in God before giving each reading. It was said of David that he was a man after God’s own heart. Jesus, David, and Cayce acknowledged God as the spiritual force that made the seemingly impossible possible.

When can we depend upon God?

Always. Depending upon God is a way of life. Consequently we can be sure that God is guiding us continually, in big and small things, in opportunities and challenges, in triumphs and tragedies, in healing and suffering.

God is active in the lives of those who love God. If we love God, we’ll not only get to know his teachings but turn within to be in his presence daily through prayer and meditation. A regular practice helps us to continually maintain our relationship with and connection to God, which creates a natural and healthy dependence upon him. So when we have a genuine need, even if we are in the din of the city, we can ask Christ for help as easily as we can call a close friend. In our daily prayer and meditation, we can ask Christ to help us meet all situations of that day with his spirit, and offer ourselves thus: “Here am I, send me, use me...Thy will be done.” It is within this framework that we can fully depend upon God, and be poised to meet every condition. Thus we can claim Jesus’ promise: “Lo, I am with you always, *even to*

the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

The dependence upon God and the surety of his help are evident in no place more than when we’re engaged in selfless service, which can manifest the miraculous. Cayce said about the child Jesus: “Those about him saw those characteristics that may be anyone’s who wholly puts the trust in God!” (1010-17) Thus, Jesus was able to meet the needs of the hour, whether it was healing someone, raising the dead, or multiplying food. When Jesus went to the cross, the readings tell us, he placed his whole trust in God. We can do the same within our own time, space, challenges, abilities, and opportunities.

The paradox of relying upon God

We need to evaluate each situation against our ideal, ask God for the next step, and then trust our inner guidance. Sometimes it will require us to take action, other times to wait and do nothing.

We are social beings, and as such we need to depend upon each other for our well-being—“For no soul lives to itself, or dies to itself; it is ever dependent” upon relationships. (1082-3) Hence, at certain times, dependence upon family members, friends, or colleagues can be healthy, while at other times it can keep us from realizing our full potential. Such dependency stifles our growth and our ability to become self-sufficient and creative. And it leaves us impotent to act even when we find ourselves in dangerous situations, as illustrated in the allegory of a woman who prayed to save her life.

She was in her house when the news came of an impending storm that would flood her neighborhood. Rescue vehicles came to warn and evacuate everyone. The woman decided to stay back saying, “I trust God, who will save me,” and she prayed. With the heavy rains, the first floor of the house was soon flooded. While waiting on her second floor and praying, a rescue boat came by to take her to safety, but she declined saying, “God will save me.” The floodwaters rose so high that she had to climb up on her rooftop for safety. Spotting her, a helicopter dropped a ladder and a rescue officer pleaded for her to go with him, but to no avail. She continued her mantra, “God will save me.” Later, she was drowned and went to heaven. She asked God, “I put all my faith in you; why didn’t you save

me?” God replied, “For heaven’s sake, lady, I sent a car, a boat, and a helicopter!” The moral of the story is: God helps those who help themselves—a sentiment that is conveyed in the proverb: Trust in God, but row away from the rocks.

Our dependence upon God should not be out of fear, indulgence, or sloth, but based on a genuine need. The readings tell us that Jesus did not perform miracles when things could be obtained materially, and nothing was to be wasted. After He multiplied fishes and loaves for the multitude in the wilderness where no food was available, and after everyone had eaten, He told his disciples: “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” (John 6:12) “Waste not, want not,” is a good motto to live by.

We can depend upon God if we are doing His biddings, rather than expecting God to do our biddings. We cannot be jealous of or have a grudge against someone and expect God’s help. If we make a mistake, there’s always recourse for reconciliation through repentance. When we are in accord with the ideal, we think with a clean mind, and act with a clear conscience and “the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit.” (Romans 8:16)

Depending upon God requires the knowledge of God and his promises. How can we believe anything we have no knowledge of? For this reason, the readings repeatedly point out: “first know in what and in Whom you have believed. When you say you believe this or that, know Who is the author, Who is the finisher of same.” (254-101) This knowledge is found throughout the gospel, and Cayce recommended reading John 14-17 to acquaint ourselves with and claim Christ’s specific promises.

ABRAHAM BELIEVED in God; and it was counted to him for righteousness. Daniel was delivered from the den of lions, unharmed, because he placed his whole trust in God. The readings tell us: “Take God, then everyone, in partnership with thy daily service—and it will blossom as the rose!” (257-18)

Depending upon God is a good thing; a very good thing. 🌟

For further inspiration:

Deuteronomy 6:5; 1 Samuel 30:6; Job 13:15; Psalms 18:2, 23, 27:1, 42:1, 55:22, 46:1, 105:4; Proverbs 3:6; Jeremiah 17:5-8; Isaiah 26:4, 41:10; 45:2; Zechariah 4:6; Romans 8:31; Philippians 4:13; John 14-17:15:7

GOD’S ABOUNDING GRACE

We cannot live without water. This dependence is primal and essential; so is our soul’s dependence upon God, the “living water.” Is it any wonder that symbolically water represents the Spirit? What water is for the body is what Spirit is for the soul. Depending upon God is the same as saying “have trust in,” “place full reliance upon,” or “have faith in” God—all of which are used in a vast number of readings.

Just tinkering with truth is not enough; through thick and thin, we must place our dependence upon God, deliberately, consistently, and wholeheartedly. Cayce suggested “return to [God’s] dependence wholly—physically and mentally.” (3653-1)

All these examples show that God is “the Giver of all good and perfect gifts.” (254-26) By depending upon God, we come into the law of grace, which touches every aspect of our lives.

—One man was told that while it is well to rely on others, his “reliance upon” the Creative Forces [God] arouses the awareness of the divine, which will rout all destructive forces. (1875-1)

—A man was encouraged to pray rather than worry, and to claim the promise: “Though ye are afar off, if ye call I will hear—and will answer speedily.” He can come to this awareness “only as the whole trust of body, of mind, of soul is put in Him.” (3188-1)

—Cayce counseled one woman: By “putting thy whole trust, thy whole faith in Him, He will make thy burdens easy; He will make thy life, thy experiences a joy in thy relationships to others.” (2205-2)

—After outlining physical treatments, Cayce told a man: “there can only come the renewing, the revivifying, by the whole trust, the whole faith, the whole renewed life within the mental and spiritual aspects of the body being put in divine hands.” (4037-1)

—A woman was told that “few might surpass” her psychic ability if she would put her “whole reliance upon” the impressions she may receive from within. If she used what she had in hand today, God may increase her ability a “hundredfold—if ye will but harken and *trust wholly* in Him.” (1809-1)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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