

## **Chapter 52+: Life At The Speed of Trust**

### **Life Application Verses:**

**Romans 15: 13.** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In 2006, Stephen M. R. Covey wrote, *The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything*<sup>1</sup>. This book has sold over 1 Million copies and has been translated into 22 languages. No matter what language is used, Trust is a key element of life. But the question that must be answered before we proceed is simple: **What is Trust?** (Note: I will capitalize Trust because it is such an important word). Webster defines Trust as: ‘a belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc.’ Let me give you a real-world example: “Trust is being at the beach in a house on ‘stilts’ some 30 feet up that sways when the washing machine reaches the spin cycle.” Hey, I didn’t say the definition was a ‘perty’ one, just a definition. But this one has its teeth in reality and it is as real-world as it gets!

Trust begins when you walk up the stairs to the house. They appear as if they are made of ordinary wood, with ordinary nails, with ordinary beach sand holding up the tons of timber, furniture, and yes—that washing machine-----with THAT SPIN CYCLE! When the spin cycle starts up, it is a very gentle movement; when it cycles up to full-speed, you get the sensation that the house is actually rocking back-and-forth ever so slightly, but IT IS MOVING! You learn Trust immediately in construction, foundation, and ‘reliable, good, honest, effective beach home building.’ IN other words, you hope the builders didn’t use cheap materials, or cut corners. Trust came to hoped-for-fruit when we were getting ready to go to sleep that first night. The winds off the beach began to blow and the house would gently move some microns from the force of the mild gusts. Imagine yourself in the bed, lying there looking up at the ceiling, and the house moves! You say silently to yourself, “This house cannot fall down. It is well built. I Trust it to stay up. ...” It moves again and your mind screams, “GET ME OUTTA HERE!!!!!!”

You might think that this is a simple example and that it doesn’t relate well to Trust. Try being some 30 feet off the ground and the floor beneath you shimmies! Talk about real life?

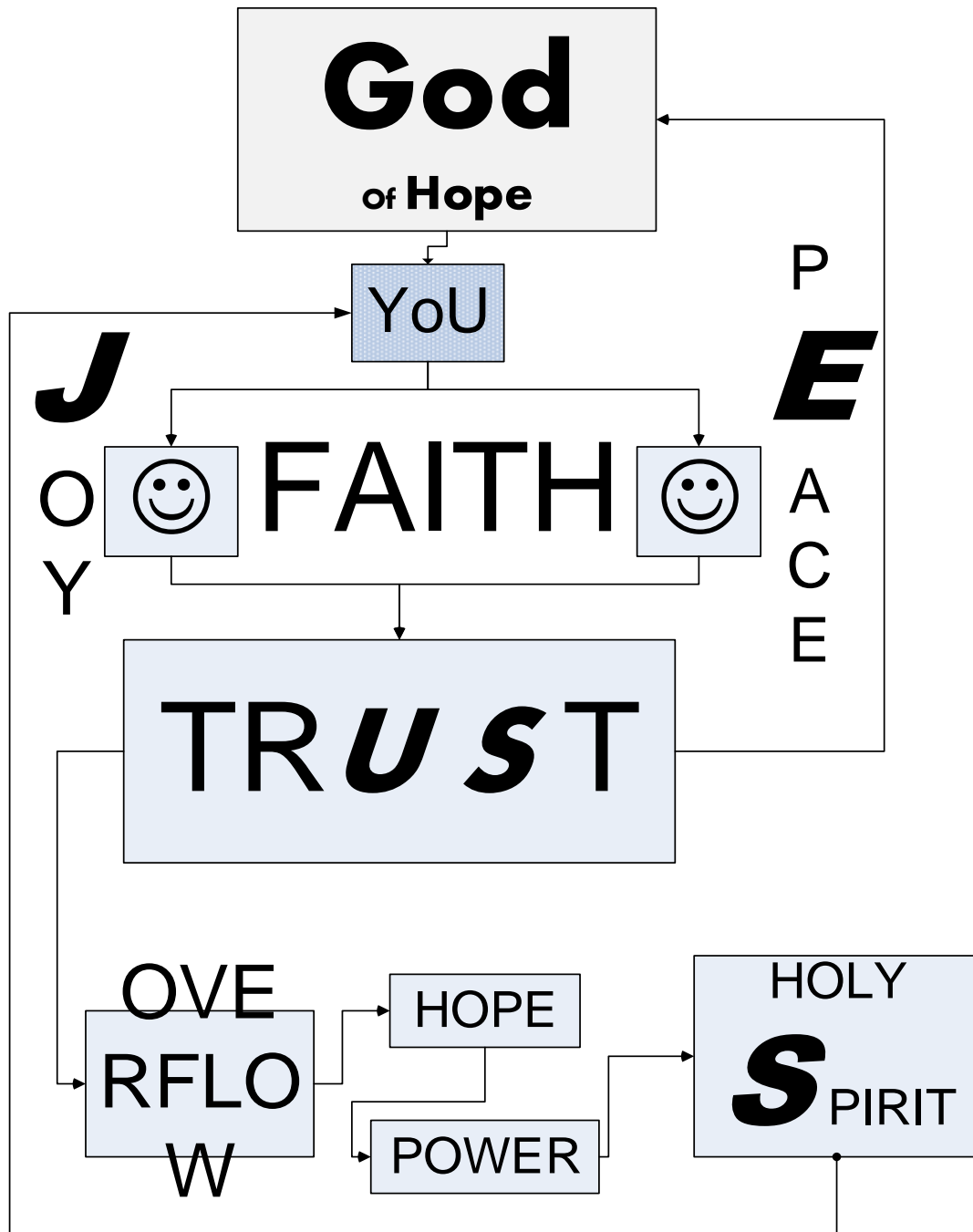
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.myspeedoftrust.com/How-The-Speed-of-Trust-works/book>.

How does this relate to Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good? To be Heavenly Minded, we must go beyond our Earthly Good limitations to step out in Faith and Trust God. I compare it to the first time the beach house shook. It took me a second to realize that we were not in the midst of an earthquake. I settled down after it became clear the house did this because of the manner in which it was constructed. The next time it shook, it was not so stunning because my Faith in the house improved in increments until I built up enough Trust that it would, after all, not tumble into the ocean. Trusting God is exactly like this: when our lives are rocked by events beyond our control, we must Trust that the God of Heaven, Who created All Things, remains in control of All Things, including us. As we learn that events in our lives are going to be a part of who we are, we build up that Trust just as I built up Trust in the foundation of the beach house. Trust in our friends, family, and co-workers can be lost at the drop of a hat, if we are not careful. However, Trust in Almighty God can only be lost when we allow our Faith to falter and block the Trust Guarantee from God Himself. Recall the Life Application Verse: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you Trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Because of Trust, we ‘overflow with Hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit.’ Joy, Peace, Hope, Power of the Holy Spirit...all Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good things.

To be Heavenly Minded, we rely on God’s Grace in Christ Jesus to grant us sufficiency of Faith and Trust, so that we may avoid the enemy’s trap and say we no longer Trust God to keep His Word. God is not like that, and I KNOW, He is incapable of being different from one day to the next or one century to the next. It is we who change, and if we are Faithful to Trust God, and Faithful to Trust in the Salvation of Christ Jesus, our Earthly Good will improve as our Trust does not wane in a God who is the ‘same yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever.’ That beach house made me think it might not be as stable as I hoped it would be, but it was designed to have a small sway or it would crack and break from the rigidity of the strain—and actually fall. My faith and Trust in it grew, slowly, but steadily. So it is with God. If we serve a God we cannot Trust, our lives are most miserable. But, brothers and sisters, there is Truth in His Word, Salvation in His Son, and Hope in Trusting Him. To emphasize The Life Application verse, I diagrammed the verse to emphasize our Trust in God. You will see the logic demonstrated in *Figure 1: ‘Trust in Jehovah God’* below. Remember this: If we cannot Trust God, who under

Heaven can we Trust? There is but one God, and one Jesus Christ, and we are His servants. Trust, Faith, Love, Hope, Salvation...these are valuable—and TRUE—assets to us.



*Figure 1: Trust in Jehovah God*

In Figure 1, you will see how the Life Application verse logically flows as God intended—to enable us to learn to Trust Him. I have also created very bold letters to signify that within this

logic of Trust, Jesus emerges. When we are Heavenly Minded to Trust God, our Earthly Good improves to be a better father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, employee, grandfather, grandmother, and better in so many ways. In fact, Trust in God allows us freedom that we would not have without that Trust. The world doesn't understand how we can Trust a God we cannot 'see', until they are Born Again. Then, they too, 'see' God in Christ as we see Him in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Let me give you another example.

A few years ago, and I have mentioned this a few times in these writings, I attended a Professional Development program, *Leadership Montgomery*. In this program, we had a retreat so that we could get to know one another as a team for the purpose of working together, helping each other, and learning to Trust one another. One of the exercises we had to do was to choose a partner, and while one person was turned facing away from this partner, we were to lean back and Trust the other person to catch us as we fell. Now, simply put, you were just now learning to Trust these class members and here you were, literally putting your life in their hands. What I didn't mention was that this exercise was in a gym, where hardwood floors are called 'hard-wood' for a reason. The life lesson in this is real! You choose Jesus Christ as your partner, as God has given us His Son. You literally live in a mode of 'Life At The Speed Of Trust' because God in Christ Jesus saves us, is with us in our need through Prayer, and keeps us from falling if we Trust Him and Trust our Savior Christ Jesus. Christians MUST live at the Speed of Trust with God because life is not fair, kind, without heartbreak, discomfort, dangers, sickness, and a litany of issues that we must deal with daily.

How can we get to a place where we Trust God implicitly? Think about this: we live here, the Third Planet from the Sun, e.g., Earth, in a world where chaos is rampant and sin is as easy as do what you want, when you want to do it. Right? **Tell me this is not true!** What is the demarcation line between Physical living and Spiritual living? Where does Trust come in to bridge those two things? And is Trust only for the good times or for 'all-the-times?' If I am happy, healthy, and un-hungry, how much Trust do I need in God? But, once those elements of happiness, health, and hunger begin to be a problem, does my Trust in God wane? It should not be both; either we Trust God or we simulate Trusting Him—which is equivalent to *Trust But Verify*. The following is an interesting concept on the idea of *Trust But Verify* from an article I

wrote some years ago for a peer-review journal on the concept and application of Trust. It speaks to how we Trust others, yet we want verification that the Trust we give up is a sound investment with long-term benefits. God does not need verification for our Trust. Proof of this can be found in the Cross that held our Savior, Jesus Christ. Consider the following:

*Trust, but verify*, was an often used term of President Ronald Reagan in relations with the Soviet Union during and subsequent to the cold war (Morris, 1999, p. 630<sup>2</sup>). Journalist Charles Bierbauer (May, 2004<sup>3</sup>), penned an article titled, *Remembering Ronald Reagan*, in which the on-going dialogue between Gorbochev and Reagan created one of the most memorable slogans in the world: “Doveryai, no proveryai,” became Reagan’s watchwords for the relationship with the Soviet leader. Trust, but verify. Possibly the only Russian words Reagan had rehearsed. “You always say that,” Gorbochev noted laughingly at the White House [INF] arms treaty signing in 1987. “I like the sound of it,” Reagan replied. (p. 2 of 4)

Trusting God is one of the pillars of Faith. While President Reagan needed verification to validate Trust in Gorbochev, we tend to validate our Trust in God by whether He answers our prayers or helps us find that job or releases us from our pain. These become the litmus tests we conduct to tell ourselves that we Trust God or...maybe we hold back. Did it ever occur to us that maybe God’s Trust is all around us if we would but open our Hearts and validate it by *living* like we Trust Him? How do we do that exactly? Read the following story and then let’s talk:

A man just got married and was returning home with his wife. They were crossing a lake in a boat, when suddenly a great storm arose. The man was a warrior, but the woman became very much afraid because it seemed almost hopeless. The boat was small and the storm was terrifyingly huge, and any moment they were going to be drowned. But the man sat silently, calm and quiet, as if nothing was happening. The woman was trembling and she said, “Are you not afraid? This may be our last moment of life! It doesn’t seem that we will be able to reach the other shore. Only some miracle can save us; otherwise death is certain. Are you not afraid? Are you mad or something? Are you a stone or something?” The man laughed and took the sword out of its sheath. The woman was even more puzzled: ‘What is he doing?’ Then he brought the naked sword close to the woman’s neck, so close that just a small gap was there, almost touching her neck. He said “Are you afraid?” She started to laugh and said, “Why should I be afraid? If the sword is in your hands, why I should be afraid? I know you love me.” He put the sword back and said, “This is my answer. I know God Loves me, and the storm is in His hands so that whatever is going to happen is going to be for our good. If we survive, that is good; if we don’t survive, that is good also. Because everything is in His hands and He cannot do anything wrong.” The moral of this story is to develop Trust. This is the Trust which one needs to fully live and which is capable of transforming your whole life. Anything less will not do!

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<sup>2</sup> Morris, E. (1999). *Dutch: A memoir of Ronald Reagan*. Random House: New York.

<sup>3</sup> Bierbauer, C. (May,2004). *Dean speaks: Remembering Ronald Reagan*. School of Journalism & Mass Communications, College of Mass Communications and Information Studies. University of South Carolina. Retrieved February 5, 2009, from <http://www.sc.edu/cmci/news/column/reagan.html>.

Trust is not just a word, it is an action verb. To Trust someone, it takes intent on our part to allow ourselves to Trust. Remember Webster’s definition: ‘a belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc.’ State it this way: We believe in and Trust God because He is Reliable, Good, Honest, Effective, and etc., for ‘Life At The Speed Of Trust.’ Do we Trust God because He has these Attributes? Is He Reliable? Has He shown that He is Good? Can He be Trusted because He is Honest with us or does He intend to tell us one thing today, and something else tomorrow? Is His Love Effective in our lives? If God is all of these things and more, then **God = Trust** because these characteristics are the very definition of Trust. And God does not break His Word!

We accept Christ Jesus in Faith because we have not physically seen Him; we Trust God because He raised Jesus on the third day and sealed our Eternal Lives through the resurrection of Christ. After we are Born Again in Faith, our Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good lives are lived in the Will of Our God because we Trust Him thereafter. We Trust God because we know that He will never forsake us in Christ Jesus. I hope that as this book concludes in this final chapter, our Trust in God will be a Hope to live our lives to the fullest for Him in all that we do. God is our Hope, Strength, and Source of Trust for our Heavenly Home to come. God Bless you all as He cares for us in Mercy, Grace, Love, and Salvation in Christ Jesus.

**Question of Curiosity:**

The question of Trust is a matter of relationship. Between each one of us and God in Christ Jesus, there is Trust. It is a two way street. Do we Trust God and can God Trust us? We must learn to Trust God and we must be Faithful for God to Trust us... and you say?

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**“...You say to God, “I have never seen you provide for me.” God says to you, “You have never trusted Me.” ~ Corallie Buchanan ~**

**“Pray, and let God worry.” ~ Martin Luther ~**

***“I have been asked on hundreds of times in my life why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I really do not know the answer totally, even to my own satisfaction. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and He is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering.” ~ Billy Graham ~***

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### **My Prayer For You:**

Lord, you have made us in Your image. You have given us Free Will to decide which path it is that we will walk. For those who have chosen Christ as Lord and Savior, increase their Trust in You as the Maker of All Things. When we suffer, hurt, lose loved ones, and even when we Rejoice in You, bring Your Holy Word to our hearts so that our Trust in You will increase tenfold. I pray that for anyone reading this Prayer, their lives will be touched and that You will be Glorified, not I. I am but a servant in Your Work on this Earth. May my own Faith and Trust overflow with Joy and Peace in the Knowledge of You. May those who have lingering doubts that would interfere with their total and complete Trust in a Sovereign and Loving God, find that spark to move them from doubt to total surrender. We know that we serve a Living God, a God that Loved us so much, He gave us His most Precious Gift. If we would by Faith accept this Gift in Christ Jesus and live our lives committed to a God that would do this, how can we not Trust You Oh Lord for what You have already done for us? May we find it unnecessary to Trust But Verify in our relationship with You, Father God. We should heed and practice and take to Heart the words of Jesus when He said that what He has seen of the Father, He testifies to us. There is no mistrust in the words of Jesus when He speaks of Father God. So should it be in our lives on this Earth. I pray that You would open our Eyes and our Ears, so that we will hear and understand You and follow Christ in Faithful service before a world that has lost its focus on what truly matters in living. For in the name of Christ Jesus, I plead. Amen.

### **What Does God Say About Trusting Him in Christ**

<sup>14</sup>This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. **1 John 5: 14-15**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup>I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” **Psalm 91: 1-2**

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. <sup>8</sup>They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” **Jeremiah 17: 7-8**

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15: 13**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3: 5-6**

<sup>25</sup>Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. **Proverbs 29: 25**

**23** The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. **Daniel 6: 23**