

HOW DO WE DEVELOP A WRONG VIEW OF LIFE AND WHERE DOES IT LEAD US?

We encounter situations with people and circumstances
(Ecclesiastes 7:13-14, 9:1)

Our lives are constantly crossing paths with various kinds of people and various kinds of circumstances that are beyond our control



We develop unbiblical interpretations of those situations with people and circumstances we encounter
(Proverbs 14:12)

As a result of not looking at life through the grid of the character of God and His word, we tend to interpret situations we encounter with people and circumstances according to our own perceptions of life that seem right to us



We create unbiblical convictions (belief systems) as a result of our unbiblical interpretations of those situations with people and circumstances we encounter
(Proverbs 14:12)

Our perceptions of life that seem right to us cause us to develop ungodly strongholds and ungodly verdicts in our hearts that we hold as self-evident truths, which are in fact self-deceived lies



We end up not trusting God with our lives, as a result of the unbiblical convictions (belief systems) we created, due to the unbiblical interpretations we perceived, in light of those situations with people and circumstances we encounter
(Proverbs 28:26)

Our self-deceived lies lead us down a path of not trusting God, resulting in trusting in ourselves, leading to a life of foolishness and all that accompanies foolishness

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T TRUST GOD WITH OUR LIVES?

Unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-19)

There is the idea that God is not enough for us or that God is not doing enough for us
(We reject the truth about God)
(We believe a lie about God)



Selfish Ambition (James 3:13-16)

We live as if all things are *for* us (God is nonexistent)
We live as if all things are *about* us (God is nonexistent)
We live as if everything *revolves around* us (God is nonexistent)
We become preoccupied with what we want in place of obedience to God
We are consumed with the pleasures of this life
We use people as avenues for our satisfaction
(I want, I need, I demand, I must have, I can't do without, etc.)



Discontentment (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)

We are never satisfied with anything or anyone and never seem to have enough of either
(If only I had, I should have, why don't I have, life would be better if, I deserve, etc.)



Worry

(Matthew 6:25-34)

Fear of what we may lose or not receive



Anger

(James 1:19-20)

Negative reaction to not getting our way



Despair

(Ecclesiastes 2:17)

Sorrow with no hope because we view life without a proper view of God



[Chart Adapted from Taking Time to Quiet Your Noisy Soul (Workbook) by Jim Berg]

I. The Premise of Trusting God (v5)

- A. Trusting God means to rely on and place confidence in who He is.
 - 1. It is not a mental assent of what you understand.
 - 2. It is an act of the mind, will, and emotions responding to who He is.
 - 3. It is an act of submission to The Self-Existent, Eternal God.
- B. Trusting God must start from the inside out.
 - 1. It starts with taking every thought captive to His Word.
 - 2. It moves to setting your affections on His will, His way, and His promises.
 - 3. It ends with a sense of well-being, knowing God has everything under control even when things look and feel out of control.
- C. We must trust that God is:
 - 1. Sovereign – He controls all things at all times for His glory and our good. (Lamentations 3:37-38, Ephesians 1:11, 1 Timothy 6:13-16)
 - 2. Infinite in wisdom – He knows the best course of action and the way to bring about the best results. (Colossians 2:1-3, Romans 11:33)
 - 3. Perfect in love – He seeks the highest good of individuals. (Psalms 32:10, 1 John 4:9-10, Lamentations 3:22-23)

II. The Pitfall to Trusting God (v5)

- A. The pitfall to trusting God is relying on your own insight.
- B. Relying on your own insight is having a human observation apart from a biblical interpretation. (Psalm 73)
 - 1. You ask questions like “Why did God let this happen to me?” instead of “How is God using what happened to me to make me more like Christ?”
 - 2. You ask questions like “Why didn’t God do anything for me then?” instead of “What was God doing then to His Glory and my benefit now?”
 - 3. You view life according to how things make you happy or unhappy instead of how things make you holy or unholy.
 - 4. You interpret life according to your feelings and passions instead of from God’s precepts and promises.
- C. Relying on your own insight alone leads to self-deception, self-protection, self-centeredness, and self-promotion. (Proverbs 14:12)

Signs of leaning on your own understanding:

- 1. You are inflexible (your way or no way) in almost every aspect of life.
- 2. You are preoccupied with making things happen to you, for you, or through you as you desire instead of submitting to the power, presence, and provision of God as He has ordained and allowed.
- 3. Your thoughts, words, and actions are predicated on the response of people and the outcome of events, not on the will of God.
- 4. You are thinking, speaking and living as if the outcome of your life depends on you.

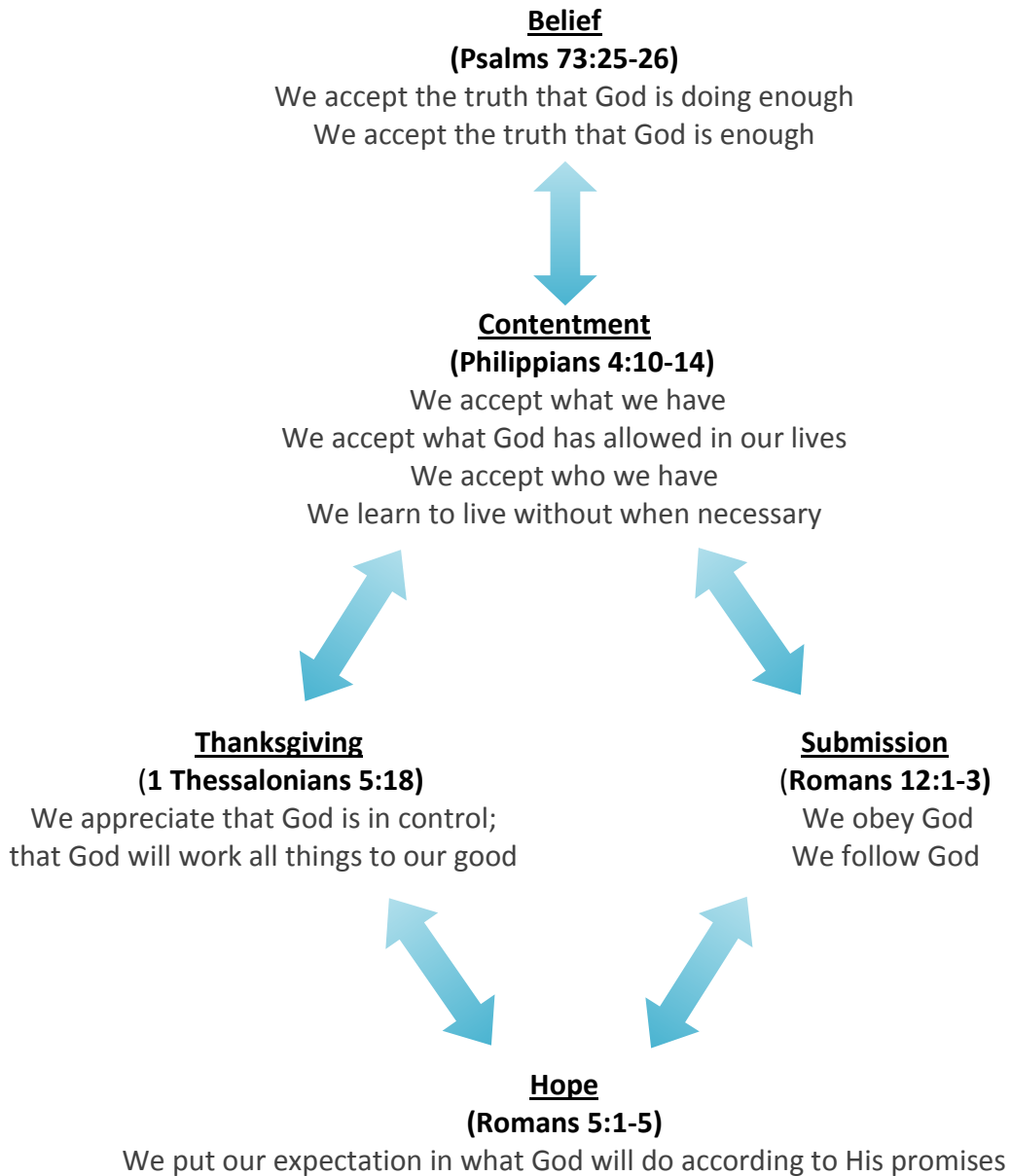
III. The Process of Trusting God (v6)

- A. We must acknowledge God in every aspect of life.
- B. To acknowledge God means to acquire His instruction for every aspect of life.
(Matthew 6:33)
 - 1. We must begin to examine every aspect of life from a Biblical perspective.
 - 2. We must be willing to accept His perspective above man's opinion and our personal preferences and desires.
 - 3. We must identify what God's Word has to say about marriage, dating, entertainment, money, children, employers, employees, evangelism, discipleship, etc. and begin to govern ourselves accordingly.
- C. To acknowledge God means to obey His instruction in every aspect of life
(Matthew 7:24-27)
 - 1. We must turn away from people, places, things, ideals, and desires that lead us into sin.
 - 2. We must turn to people, places, things, ideals, and desires that lead us into the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 - 3. We must begin the hard work of functioning according to God's design in all aspects of life (by putting off and putting on).

IV. The Promise of Trusting God (v6)

- A. God promised to make our way of life straight if we acknowledge Him.
- B. To "make our way straight" means to make us morally upright, productive and satisfied.
(Psalms 37:6, John 15:1-5, Matthew 5:6)
 - 1. We will live a life that is beneficial to others and pleasing to God.
 - 2. We will live a life of satisfaction and contentment apart from the outcome of events and the actions of others.
 - 3. We will have a sense of peace and confidence before God.
- C. God did not promise freedom from failure, freedom from trials, or freedom from problems; nor did He promise material riches, or the realization of all our expectations.
(Ecclesiastes 7:14,20, John 16:33, Proverbs 13:12)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRUST GOD WITH OUR LIVES?



[Idea adapted from Jim Berg]