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If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

Sense Of Security

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18

Intro:

I've mentioned this idea many times over the years, and I'm still convinced of it, and that is one of the greatest human needs that we all have from our perspective is the need of security. **We need to know that we are safe; and we need to feel that we are safe!** Because we live in frail bodies of flesh and are surrounded by so many things that can hurt us, that creates in us a sense of being vulnerable. What we need is a sense of feeling secure, to know that we're safe from harm.

Most are familiar with this passage as the passage that deals with love, which it is. But it also deals with the problem of fear, where it comes from and what it produces in us, with love being both the prevention and cure for fear.

Fear is one of the seven emotional complexes of the flesh and exists whenever faith isn't present. It normally is the first emotion that comes on the scene and is generally followed by the anger complex. But fear is aroused out of the sense of not feeling secure or safe! Whenever we sense, or feel, that we are vulnerable in some way to some threat, (real or imagined), to our souls or bodies, then the flesh automatically becomes afraid. And when fear is present in the conscious mind, then torment comes into play. That's right, mental torment.

The progression goes like this: feeling insecure in the soul, or feeling vulnerable in some way, the absence of faith in the Word of God, then the natural arousal of fear in the soul, and then from that fear every kind of mental torment to the place that the believer is totally miserable. So it goes from a sense in the soul of insecurity or vulnerability > a real or imagined threat to one's security > the absence of faith in the soul > the automatic arousal of fear in the soul > to mental torment.

To understand this better we need to look at the situation from the perspective of the flesh first, then from the perspective of the spiritual life dynamic of faith that God has supplied to his people. And it begins with the context of our environment. It is our surrounding environment that produces the setting whereby people, according to the flesh, can live in a sense of security and protection.

Think of it as concentric circles of protection that surround us. These different concepts surround us thereby affording us protection, which give us the sense that we are protected from harm, thereby we are safe and secure. From **being** safe and secure, we **feel** safe and secure. But if any of those are taken from us, or just changed in the slightest way, then we feel vulnerable and we become afraid. And we need to see that fear doesn't have to be conscious, overt panic. It can be a nagging, even subconscious fear that eats away at us on the inside all the time.

The outer ring of the circles, and not due to any lack of force or power, is the **nation** in which we live. It is put as the outer ring, because of its emotional distance from the heart. It offers us protection, this is true, but it doesn't have the same sense of touching the heart that the other concepts do. Living in a nation that affords us protection from those things inside and out that would harm us is very important, but it isn't as *close to home* as the others are.

The next ring in the concentric circles is the **town** we grew up in as children. Sad to say, many children living today have not had a good experience from the towns or cities they were raised in, others were moved from place to place, but for many children growing up their towns were their own private oyster. They could run, and play, and get into all kinds of mischief and feel safe and secure. The towns were small, the people were kind and decent, the cops were understanding and life moved at a slower pace. And when they went out the front door of their house they felt totally secure and were happy. So their towns provided an environmental context of security.

And the next ring in is the **neighborhood** we were raised in. Now the neighborhood could have been on Elm Street, Any town, USA, or it could have been just a block or two in some large city, but it was **their** neighborhood! And this neighborhood provided for them an immediate context of security. The same streets and sidewalks that you walked and played on, the same buildings, the familiar faces, the little mom and pop shop around the corner, all those things provided a protected environment where the soul could feel both free to play and explore and feel safe and secure at the same time.

The next ring in is the **home or family**. The family made up of brothers, sisters, father, mothers, grandpa and grandma, aunts, uncles, cousins, sometimes all under the same roof! Yes there could be discipline from the parents, bickering with your siblings, chores and the rest of it, but home was where you could be yourself, because regardless of how irritating we all could be at times to others, they had to love you and accept you, those were the rules. And it didn't make a difference if you were rich or poor, or had a little or a lot, home was where the heart was because that was where you felt loved, protected and secure. But, tragically, not for all.

The next ring in is **mom and dad**. We came from our moms and dads; they brought us into this life; mom worked in the kitchen and dad worked outside the home to bring in the money. And we knew that our moms or dads would protect us from anything that might hurt us, so we felt totally safe and secure. Or maybe you didn't have a dad and you were raised by your grandma, or some other relative. We still knew that they were there for us and would protect us, so we felt totally safe and secure.

It is this feeling, or sense, of security provided by these concentric circles of the protection of the environment of our nation, town, neighborhood, home and family, mom and dad, that gave stability to our souls, which security kept gnawing fear out of our guts. But if there was a breakdown in any one of these areas, and there generally is, then we left home fearful and insecure.

The last ring in the circle, and the one that is closest to us, is our **mothers**. Our mothers carried us in their wombs for all those months, and as soon as we came out, we were placed on their breasts. Our mothers provided for us the greatest sense of intimacy, affection, closeness, comfort and protection.

And it wasn't because they were stronger than everyone out there, or had the ability to protect us from every threat; it was just because with our mothers **we felt** totally safe, secure and protected from everything in life! **All of us** have this same thing in common of feeling safe because of our mothers, even though some men may want to deny it, so they can appear *manly*, but it's true for all of us.

This is one of the reasons why it is so traumatic when people's mothers die, because the main **human** source for their sense of security has been taken away from them. It's also one of the reasons why, as people get older, they yearn for their home and childhood, for it was the only time in their lives when they felt safe, protected and secure. So what we need to do is look at the divine provision for this feeling of security and the Lord's relationship in this area with his mother.

Batach - בטח

1. "But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope (batach) when I was upon my mother's breasts." Psalm 22:9 כִּי-אַתָּה ג' חַי מִבֶּטֶן; מִבְּטִיחִי, עַל-שִׁדְי אִמִּי.

It can't be emphasized enough how important it is for the soul's well being to have a sense of security. We have to know that there is freedom from danger, risk, harm, from things that would hurt us. If we don't, then there will always be fear and the mental torment it brings.

And there is a Hebrew word in the OT that deals with this very phenomenon; a word that talks about the believer having this sense of protection and safety, about the believer having the inner confidence that he or she will be alright, that we are protected and therefore safe; a word that describes a state of mind of peace, calmness, serenity and well being, and that word is *batach*.

Batach is one of the words for faith in the OT, but it emphasizes the sense or feeling of security that the believer has in their soul that comes about as the result of exercising their faith in the Lord. It describes a carefree state of mind, no fears, no worries, where they know they are protected from all harm. It speaks of having a deep sense of peace in the soul and that they're secure.

So what we want to do is look at the many places that *batach* is exercised and we'll begin with the Lord Jesus Christ and his *batach* trust. And the first place we see it is when he was an infant on his mother's breasts! And, as we have seen, the first place we ever had a sense of being safe and secure in this life was on our mother's breast. There we felt protected from all harm and had this inner sense of being secure. From there it developed into having a sense of peace from being around our mothers and fathers in the home.

But we notice that the Lord did not trust in his mother when he was on her bosom and thereby have that sense of being secure in life from his relationship with her as his human mother, he trusted in the Father! The Lord recognized that it was the Father who took him out of the womb, and he stated that his trust was in the Father! The Lord's inner peace and sense of being secure, (which we all need), came from having this total trust in his heavenly Father, which all of us are to do.

The KJV translates *mibtach* as hope, but it's the word for faith or trust. It is found in the hiphil participle, which tells us that this is one who didn't trust off and on like we do, but this is the One who trusted the Father completely and perfectly every moment of his life here on earth from birth to death, from death through Hades, and from Hades into heaven.

But the hiphil stem is interesting for it's the causative stem in the Hebrew, which means that an action has been caused to happen by someone else. Because the Father's eternal plan called for the incarnation of Christ into humanity, and because he was going to have to live by faith himself as the Author and Finisher of the faith, because of this Christ was caused to trust the Father for everything.

The sense of being safe and secure in life comes from the dynamic of trusting, and the first time we had that was when we were young with our parents, usually more so with the mother. This is what the idea of *batach* is about. The dynamic of trusting and the sense of safety and peace as the result. But what we have here with our parents, family, etc., is flesh trusting in the flesh. It may have worked, somewhat, when we were children, but it won't work as adults. We have to have a spiritual dynamic.

And this is where we get into the idea of trusting in the Lord; we have to learn to trust the Father for everything, as the Lord did. We have to trust in his perfect plan for our lives, in his perfect daily provisions for us in life, in his perfect protection, that his grace is sufficient for us in everything and that he does love us and wants the best for us.

But in getting to the place where we trust the Father implicitly in our lives here on earth and be free from fear; we will have to trust him from the heart. But to trust him from the heart, **we will have to replace what or whom our heart is trusting in with *batach* in the Father and his Word.**

If our *batach* (faith) is in our money, or our strength, or our education, or some government program (community idea), or someone presently close to us, or if someone deeply embedded into the soul from childhood, such as a father or mother, then that will have to come to the surface, identified, confessed and then replaced with faith in the Father. And this is what spiritual growth is all about.

What happens to our inner peace and stability when the money goes? If we have been trusting in it in our hearts, we will start to become worried and fearful. What happens when we get old and our strength goes? If we have been relying on it subconsciously, then we will worry about the future. What happens when the nation starts to go down hill? If we have had it as a background basis for trust, as we did as children, then we will become fearful and unsettled. And what happens when one or both of our parents die? Again, nagging fears about the future will set in.

The Bible instructs us to trust God, and only God, implicitly for all things in all times. Our faith, our trust is only to be in him. In fact, there is a curse attached to those who trust in the flesh. *“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.”* Jeremiah 17:5

So what we've got to do is disattach the person or thing that our heart is trusting in, the present object of our faith, and take that same inner trust and put it directly and solely on the Lord. Remember, there is the subjective side of faith, that is, the dynamic of trusting, and there is the objective side of faith, the object of our faith. **We have to make God the object of our faith; anything else is an idol. And when we exercise faith in the Lord, then all his grace benefits flow to us!**

2. *“He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.”* 2 Kings 18:5

Hezekiah was one of the kings of Israel; he began his reign at the young age of twenty five and reigned for twenty nine years. And there are several notable things that stood out about Hezekiah. One is that his absolute trust, *batach*, was in the Lord. It wasn't in his army, or his knowledge and training, or his advisors; it was in the Lord. Two, he destroyed the worship of the mother goddess cult in Israel; he tore down their altars, their obelisks and even destroyed the bronze serpent because the Israelites were worshiping it.

He trusted in *Yahweh*; he kept his commandments; and he acted in his faith and was given courage and power because of his faith in the Lord. His faith motivated him to doctrinal application in his life and times and the Lord was not only with him, but prospered him in his life. This teaches us that we're not only to live by faith ourselves, but when we do, **we will have the boldness and confidence to move forward in life to accomplish the Father's will for our lives**, and when we do, we will find that God is with us, blessing us and giving us the victory!

3. “*And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their **trust** in him.*” 1 Chronicles 5:20

The sons of Reuben, Gad and a half tribe of Manasseh went to war against the Hagarites and were in the middle of fighting them, when they exercised faith, *batach*, in the Lord and called out to him for help. Apparently it wasn't going as easy as they thought it would, so they turned to the Lord for help, he heard their cry and gave them the victory.

How many of us have thought that we were sufficient in our own strength to handle a problem or situation before we got into it, but once we got in the middle of it found out that it wasn't as easy as we thought! How many of us have thought that our strengths or abilities were enough to carry the day, only to find out they aren't. The lesson is that we should be trusting the Lord before we embark on something, but if we haven't, then don't forget to exercise faith and call on him while in the middle of being defeated. But I wouldn't wait too long!

4. “*But I have **trusted** in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.*” Psalm 13:5

וַאֲנִי, בַּחֶסֶדְךָ בָטַחְתִּי

The word used for mercy here is *chesed* which speaks of the grace of God. The grace of God is the unmerited, undeserved favor of God that springs forth out of his great love for us. And David says that he is going to trust, *batach*, in the grace of God.

For David to be able to do this meant that he had an understanding of God and how God operated with him in his life. He knew that God loved him, and that God chose him, and that God had delivered him before in his life, and he knew that it all proceeded out of God dealing with him on the basis of grace. So it is this grace of God that he was trusting in.

We also want to note that David was not trusting in his military abilities, nor any alliances that he might have, but his trust was in the Lord and only in the Lord. Again pointing us to the fact that if we want to have an inner security and peace in our souls, and if we want to have deliverance from a bad situation, then we are going to have to turn to the Lord in faith.

5. “*Our fathers trusted in thee: they **trusted**, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.*” Psalm 22:4-6

This Psalm records the thoughts and prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ as he was hanging on the cross paying the penalty for our sins. Even though he was God incarnate, we fully see his humanity here as he was talking to the Father in his great anguish of soul.

He mentions that the fathers trusted, *batach*, in him and he delivered them. They cried out to him in anguish, and he delivered them, but he was still there hanging on the cross enduring the greatest pain that any man had ever suffered.

Yet Christ still trusted the Father through all this. His trust was in him when he was on his mother's breast; he trusted him all through his life as he grew up; and here he was still trusting him in the midst of the greatest trial and crisis that he had ever gone through.

6. *“O my God, I **trust** in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.” Psalm 25:2*

The entire chapter should be read here to put things in perspective. David is besought, once again, by problems and those who would do him harm. So it is a prayer of deliverance and comfort, but the tone is set by his declaration that he trusts, *batach*, in *Yahweh*. It was *Yahweh* that gave his soul the sense of peace and safety that he so desperately needed, and so he looked to him.

7. *“<A Psalm of David.> Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have **trusted** also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.” Psalm 26:1*

This chapter is a fantastic doctrinal insight into the character, integrity and spiritual life of David. Grace was the focal point of David's life; he walked in God's truth; he refused to associate with anyone who walked in evil in their life; he absolutely hated the assembly of evil doers; he loved *Yahweh* and everything about him; and he didn't want to be taken out in judgment along with the wicked. And all this began from a true, not hypocritical, love that he had for God, and this simple, childlike trust that he had in Him. He loved God and trusted him and from this everything else followed.

8. *“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart **trusted** in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.” Psalm 28:7*

David says that his *batach* in the Lord was from the heart. If we want to trust God completely in our hearts; we are going to have to replace what, or whom, our hearts are presently trusting in with him. This is what growth in grace, the Word of God and faith combined with our trials are all about. They are designed to get us to the place where our entire faith is in the Lord and only in him.

9. *“For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have **trusted** in his holy name.” Psalm 33:21*

For the believer in Christ, it is sufficient just to trust in the name of God, for the name is put for the person. Even in the matter of salvation, it is only necessary to call upon the name of Jesus Christ in faith to be forgiven and receive eternal life. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13*

We also want to note that when the believer does finally put his trust in the Lord from the heart, then the result of that will be joy. But if there is something in the heart that is blocking that faith, whether it is that secure type of trust that one would have in an institution, or the government, a spouse, or one's money, or the original trust that we had in our mother, then that will need to be acknowledged to God and replaced with a trust in the Father as the Lord did.

I think we need to recognize that the very first trust we had ever experienced in this life was in our mothers. With them we felt safe, secure and protected from everything. It is that kind of feeling that *batach* is all about, except the Lord wants us to have that with him not our mothers as we get older and grow in the Lord. It could be a biological/psychological thing that all infants are programmed to experience in this life when they are born and something we hang on to as we grow up, but still is there subconsciously as we go out into life on our own. There's nothing wrong with it, per se, but what God wants us to do is trust him from the heart, which will give us a more stable and superior spiritual experience for our souls. Which was the Lord's experience.

10. “But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I **trust** in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”
Psalm 52:8

To trust in the *mercy* of God, *chesed*, his grace, reveals that David had a tremendous insight into the nature of God and how he dealt with those who walked in his ways. He knew that *Yahweh* was a God of justice, but he also knew that he was a God of tremendous love and grace and dealt with those believers, who walked in his ways, according to his grace.

This passage also tells us that it is perfectly Biblical to look to God's grace, as one of the attributes of God, and depend on it in his dealings with us. This nature of God's love and loving kindness in his dealings with us becomes the basis for the *batach* trusting type of faith, that gives our souls a sense of security and well being.

But we also need to remember that grace, faith and truth (Bible Doctrine) are all linked together. It is as we walk in faith in the Word of God in our life, believing the promises and its teachings, and apply those doctrines to our life, that we become recipients of God's grace. Which means that we need to be taught the doctrines of God's Word, which means that we need to be aligned with and sitting under the doctrinal ministry of a Pastor-Teacher in a local church.

11. “Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:” Psalm 78:22

כִּי לֹא אֶהְיֶה לָהֶם, בְּאֵלֵי הַיָּם; וְלֹא בְטַחֲוֹ, בִּישׁוּעָתוֹ

Chapter seventy eight is a discourse by *Asaph* on God's dealing with Israel and how they incurred his justice and wrath **because they would not believe him**; they would not trust him; and they would not follow his ways. He brings out all the things that God had done for them in the past as proof of his grace and power, but in spite of all that, they still refused to believe him and trust him.

He brings out that they were prideful, stubborn, rebellious, broke his covenant, refused to walk in his Law, how they put him to the test, provoked him, continually sinned against him and **at the heart of it all was that they refused to believe him!** They did not obey God, because they did not believe him. And to make matters worse, they weren't even **willing** to be **persuaded** to **believe** him! They, indeed, had evil hearts of unbelief.

Psalm seventy eight begins with *kiy*, because, which gives us the reason why all these hateful, evil things came about in the nation of Israel; and it all goes back to **they would not believe God!** The spiritual life dynamic for the Old Covenant people of God, and the New Covenant people of God begins the same way; it begins with faith and is lived by faith.

But we see in this passage they **would not** believe God! The word used here is *amen*, which has the idea of leaning on someone or relying on them. How simple is that? God isn't asking them to do anything! **All he was asking them to do was lean on him!** And to trust, *batach*, in his deliverance. God is going to deliver them from any situation, all they had to do is trust him.

The spiritual life dynamic today for NT Christians begins with faith; faith in his Word, his promises and his doctrines. For it is when we operate in the sphere of faith, in the filling of the Holy Spirit, it is then that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. When we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we not only are no longer under the control of the flesh nature, but we experience God's peace and joy.

12. "So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I **trust** in thy word." Psalm 119:42

The believer in Christ can trust in God; he can trust in his name; he can trust in his mercy; he can trust in his deliverance; he can trust in his Word; and he can trust in what it teaches, which is what we refer to as Bible Doctrine. For all these things are from him.

Which emphasizes, once again, the importance of ministries that teach the Word of God! How can we trust in Bible Doctrine, if we aren't getting it? How can we have the doctrines that our souls need, if we are not being taught them? What can the people of God do, what do we have to put our faith in, if there aren't churches teaching the Word of God? **Faith comes from hearing the Word of God taught!**

How does singing, music, entertainment, programs, etc., edify our souls? They don't! The only thing that edifies our souls is the teaching of the Word of God that we metabolize by faith. Trusting, *batach*, has to have Bible Doctrine and a lot of it in many categories. It is only when we are able to exercise *batach* that our souls will have that sense of security, protection and well being. But to be able to have *batach*, we have to have the object for it, which is the Word of God.

13. "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes." Psalm 118:8,9

Both verses use the word *chasah* when it says to *trust the Lord*. ***Chasah*** meant to flee for refuge. It has the idea that one is under some threat of danger and he flees to something as a shelter or refuge for protection. The young run back to their mother; the badger to his hole; the animal to a cleft in a rock. One can flee to something in nature for protection, a hole in the ground, a cave, a high rock, a cleft in the rock, into the water, out of the water, into the air, etc.. One can flee to people, to one's friends, one's family, to society as a whole, or to a fort that people have built. One can flee to man made institutions: such as, the government, government programs, community programs, the military, etc..

***Chasah* has the idea of fleeing from danger to something that you think will give you safety and protection.** The faith comes in where the individual believes that thing or that person will protect him. And trust comes in where you are trusting in, relying upon that thing or person to protect you. So it is a synonym for faith, but here it's telling us, that instead of running to our rulers, the government, or other people for refuge, we should be running to the Lord for refuge making him our security.

People can and do draw a sense of feeling safe and secure inwardly because of police protection, their military, the programs their government has for food, health, retirement, etc.. It is for this reason why those living in the time of the Tribulation will take the Mark of the Beast on their body. They don't want to be outside the system that provides their security! Remember, insecurity, whether real or perceived, leads to fear and fear to mental torment.

14. "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD." Psalm 4:5

Making the Lord our security is commanded in the Bible. There are the concepts of obedience to God, confession when we fail, prayer, worship etc., but always there is the concept of trusting in the Lord and making him our security. When we trust the Lord from the heart, then our hearts will be at ease and our souls will have the rest that they need.

15. “**Trust** in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”
“Commit thy way unto the LORD; **trust** also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” Psalm 37:3,5

This chapter deals with the believer being under the teaching of the Word of God in their right geographical location and being occupied with the person of Jesus Christ through the teaching of his Word and being blessed there by God.

But it also deals with the problems of fear and worry, all insecurity concepts that arise out of the absence of faith; and it deals with the reaction concepts of being angry at the wickedness going on around them. So there are a couple of commands. One, to stop being angry at the wicked that live around you in the land. Two, the command to trust the Lord. To have the spiritual blessings God provides for us we have to trust him.

16. “**Trust** in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.”
Psalm 62:8

Trusting in the Lord is something that not only needs to be exercised even when we are living in the right geographical location, working in the right vocation, and sitting under the teaching of Bible Doctrine, but it needs to be exercised every day **and in every situation** we come across.

Times can and do change! The people change. And because things going on around us change, and often for the worse as the wicked go from bad to worse, then the believer will have to keep on trusting the Lord. Our security comes from our God who does not change! And when our hearts trust in him, then we will have that inner peace and joy, even in a time of national judgment.

17. “O Israel, **trust** thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.” O house of Aaron, **trust** in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. Ye that fear the LORD, **trust** in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.” Psalm 115:9-11

The entire nation of Israel was commanded to put their trust in the Lord, just like the Church today is commanded to put their trust in the Lord. Although the idea of believers living by faith is not emphasized like it should be. All too often the emphasis is put on personal habits, dress and other non issue concepts, instead of on living by faith. The word shield is used to denote that God was their protection, just as he is our shield today. We are covered by the perfect plan, power and protection of the Father; he has every facet of our lives under control. The word for help, *azar*, tells us that God was their Helper and he is our Helper.

The NT word for helper is *boethos*, and it, like its OT counterpart *azar*, brings out the idea that a covenant exists between God and his people. God bound himself to his OT people, Israel, and his NT people, the bride of Christ, by a covenant; the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. And one of the aspects of this covenant relationship is that God took on the role of being a Covenant-Helper, in that whenever we need help, all we have to do is call on the Lord for help and he will help us. **And we have the right to call on him because he is in covenant with us!**

Now, if we could have that inner feeling of security and well being from trusting in our mothers or fathers when we were children growing up in the home because we knew that they would always be there to help us, then why can't we do the same thing with the Lord who is much stronger! **But we need to start trusting him from the heart and stop trusting who or what our hearts are presently trusting in!**

18. “**Trust** in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5

This passage contrasts the two concepts of **faith** and **human rationalism**. Human rationalism deals with the idea of being able to solve your problems, or handle situations, through the mental process of reasoning. It's like we say today, 'I just got to figure things out'.

But what this passage tells us is that we're commanded to stop leaning on our own ability, (or so we think), to figure things out in our own minds, and to start trusting the Lord! **Pisticism**, the exercising of faith, is the means of perception and problem solving that God has ordained, not **rationalism**!

There is nothing wrong with thinking, as long as it is doctrinal rationale. That is, **thinking based upon what the Bible teaches**. But when you have thinking without faith, then you end up with worry! What this verse teaches us to do is not rely on our ability to think our way through a problem, but instead to totally trust the Lord in the matter.

19. “**Trust** ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” Isaiah 26:4

All of us need strength to live our lives here on earth in the various things we have to go through. Here we find that the Lord will provide for us all the strength we need and it comes to us in the sphere of faith. As Paul wrote also in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which **strengtheneth me**.” And again in 2 Corinthians 12:8, “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my **strength** is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

20. “How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?” 2 Kings 18:24

Israel's history was one of not trusting the Lord to protect them and provide for them, and it was always looking to other nations to assist them in a time of trouble, even entering into alliances with them, which was forbidden by God. As a nation, and as people of God, we are never to put our trust in other nations to protect us, but to look only to the Almighty God.

21. “The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.” Psa 9:9,10

The Lord is not only a refuge that we can go to in a time of trouble, but he will never forsake us; he will never stop sustaining us and he will never abandon us in this life or the next. Therefore, we can trust him in everything and make him our security.

22. “And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall **trust** in the LORD. Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his **trust**, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” Psalm 40:3,4

In verse three David is writing a song of praise over what the Lord had done for him. He's not only talking about his own personal experience of exercising *batach* in the Lord, but he's also doing it for the purpose that he might encourage other believers in Christ to do the same. In verse four he relates to us what this experience of making the Lord the object of his faith has done for him, *mibtach*; it has filled him with perfect happiness, asher. Joy awaits us in the sphere of trusting in the Lord.