



WHAT IT TAKES TO TRUST

Adegboyega Adejobi

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." – Genesis 2: 15-17

We need faith to relate with God. The Bible stresses this point in the book of Hebrews 11: 6 that *"...without faith it is impossible to Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him"*. Faith itself is defined in the very first verse of that chapter as: *"...the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11: 1)*. Lack of faith brings and breeds sin. Rom.14: 23c says *"...whatsoever is not of faith is sin"*. This was Adam's problem.

Firstly, Adam had the problem of the bad counsel and influence of his wife. He also had the problem of Satan's incursion or interference but really, his main problem was lack of faith. He questioned God!

Whereas God commanded him and his wife not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he disobeyed and ate it. God's reason for giving them this command was that they would die the moment they eat it. However, Satan made Adam to doubt God. He suggested to Adam through his wife that they would not die if they eat the forbidden fruit as stated by God rather, they would be like Him. Adam believed the Devil rather than God. He chose to eat the fruit.

Many times we find ourselves facing similar temptations like Adam. As a result of Satan's interference and suggestions into our hearts, we doubt God and question His instructions and commandments to us. Or haven't you found yourself in such situations recently that have forced you to ask the question 'why'? But come to think of it. Can we really question God? Why must we ask God – WHY? This is the whole lesson God taught the prophet Jeremiah the day He took him to the Potter's house. God said, ***"Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand."*** (Jeremiah 18: 6). If we truly yield ourselves to God as clay in the Potter's hands we would not question His will for our lives because they are perfect.

However, the temptation to question God comes quite naturally. It is not strange to find many great characters in the Bible questioning God at one time or the other. For instance Abraham once questioned God why He could not simply bless Ishmael and had to insist on keeping it till Isaac was born. He had even presented Eliezer, his servant from Damascus earlier on, as a candidate for the same blessing. God turned down his request. Moses also, repeatedly questioned God's call on his life. He wanted God to use his brother Aaron instead but God refused. Elijah could not understand why he alone should be in the forefront of the battle against corruption in his time. He complained to God he was tired. John the Baptist who was the fore-runner of the Lord Jesus Christ at a time could not understand why he should be wasting away in the prison while Jesus

was busy working miracles. 'Who else should be the better recipient of such miracles than himself?', he must have thought. He sent his disciples to question Jesus.

Even, Mary the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ when she received the angelic visitation and message that she would conceive while yet a virgin could not comprehend it. *"How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1: 34)*. She queried. The Apostle Paul was not left out. He went to God in prayers for three consecutive times asking for the removal of an infirmity he had in the flesh. The only response he got from God was *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2Corinthians 12: 9)*. Paul could simply not understand why God preferred to sustain him by His grace rather than heal him of the sickness. He could not appreciate how God's strength is perfected in his own weakness. Paul must be quite special for God to have answered him. Most of the times God ignores the question – why? And, really He is not obliged to answer us. Or can the clay ask the potter what he is making out of it? We also should learn not to question our Maker and God.

Adam's folly lies in the fact that he trusted his wife and Satan more than God. Let us learn to trust God. Let us learn how to constantly exalt the word of the Lord over and above the words of men or any other being whatsoever. The Bible says, *"...let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3: 4a)* In Galatians 1: 8 Paul declared that *"even if we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed"*. And this is why the Psalmist said, *"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119: 89)*. Apart from trusting God, we should learn to trust one another also. Quite a number of good relationships and friendship have been spoilt because of lack of trust.

We should appreciate the simple fact that, try as we may, we can never really know the mind of our fellow men or the motives behind

their actions. The mind of God also, we cannot know except by the Holy Ghost. The Bible asks the question, *"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1Corinthians 2: 11)*. Trust then remains the only basis for a good relationship with both God and man. Our trust in God must be founded on our understanding and appreciation of Him as our Creator and Father (Isa.43: 1-9). He is all mighty, all powerful, all sufficient, all knowing, and all wise. He surely sees beyond our view. He sees things from heaven's perspective and only in the light of eternity. We should therefore trust with all our heart and know that His plans for us are the best we can ever have (Jer.29: 11). Come what may, we should believe the promise of Scripture that *"...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8: 28)*. He is still in control, hallelujah!