



CHAPTER 12

Trust

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("Rafe")

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It's Your CHOICE – Trust

TRUST

Christians can trust the Lord without reservation. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight [He will direct your paths]” (Proverbs 3:5-6; see also Psalm 25:1; Psalm 56:3-4, 11; Psalm 91:2; John 14:1; Romans 10:11; Hebrews 13:5; I Peter 2:6).

Christians are invited to trust in God who is infinite (I Kings 8:27), perfect (Matthew 5:48; Psalm 18:30), and cannot sin (Psalm 145:17; II Corinthians 5:21; I John 3:5). By contrast each human being – including every husband and every wife – is finite, imperfect, and does sin (Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:23). Thankfully, to the extent that we are walking with the Lord and controlled by the Holy Spirit Christians do have the ability to live righteously (Romans 8:5-9).

One of your **CHOICES** will be to actually and without reservation place full trust in your spouse. Another **CHOICE** you will make is that you will remain trustworthy to your spouse (by God's grace and in dependence upon Him). With trust comes profound security and freedom in your relationship with your spouse. There is the freedom from suspicion of your spouse. There is the freedom to always attribute good and right motives to your spouse whether or not you have all of the facts. There is the freedom to know that your spouse will remain true to you in every way.

For example, if a person tells me that they saw my dear wife at some location and there was a man there, I will not worry about Pam's loyalty or fidelity and I will have the relaxed freedom of knowledge that wherever Pam was, under any circumstances with any person, she was doing that which was right and she was definitely not doing anything that would be a breach of my trust. Such trust draws you and your spouse close together.

Through the years I have counseled a number of people who have suffered the agony of learning that their spouse had broken their trust through dishonesty, deception, disloyalty or infidelity. Fortunately I have seen some of those relationships salvaged and restored. I have heard very sincere Christians say that after repentance by the errant spouse they have been able to forgive their spouse and for the most part forget the sin, but they could not seem to muster the unqualified trust that existed before that trust had been broken. I admonish you to remain aware of the fact that if your spouse's trust in you is ever broken, it may be humanly impossible for it ever to be fully and completely restored again. Please be trustworthy. Establish trust and at any cost **CHOOSE** to be trustworthy no matter what. It will be a significant enhancer to your marriage relationship.