

# Do You Trust God's Motivation?

A pair of hands is shown holding a small, rectangular piece of brown, textured cardboard. The cardboard has rough, torn edges. In the center of the cardboard, the words "in God we trust" are written in a black, cursive script. A small red heart is drawn above the word "in".

*in*  
*God*  
*we*  
*trust*

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## The Difference Between Faith and Trust

I want to draw the difference between the ideas of faith and trust. This message is more important than we realize because God is wanting to change something in our relationship to Him. Some of our past experiences have taken away or diminished our trust in God and that must be corrected; otherwise, our lack of trust will continue to affect our future.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

To clarify what God is looking for in our relationship with Him, I want to talk about Israel in the wilderness. God delivered the Israelites from four hundred years of bondage in Egypt. As we follow their story in the wilderness, we find a tremendous illustration of their lack of trust. Israel believed in God. When you read the story about the wilderness with all the problems and complaints, you realize that they never once questioned the reality of God. They clearly believed that they were in the wilderness because God had brought them there with a great deliverance and destroyed Egypt. They never questioned the miracles that happened in Egypt. They never questioned the judgments. They understood that God had judged the gods of Egypt. They believed He was the One who had brought them into the wilderness. It was not a problem of faith. It was a problem of trust.



## Lord, Why Are You Doing This to Me?

First, the Israelites did not trust God's motivation. They knew He had delivered them, but they did not trust why He had delivered them. When they looked at themselves in the wilderness, they complained to Moses, "God brought us here because there were not enough graves in Egypt" (see Exodus 14:11). They never questioned that God had brought them out. They had a problem with His motivation. They said, "God created all these miracles and brought all these judgments against Egypt to bring us out into the wilderness to kill us because there was no place to bury us in Egypt. That is why God brought us out." Do you see the difference? It was not a problem of faith. It was a problem of their trust.

Many times in our lives we know that we are in the place God brought us to. We say, "I'm here because God brought me here." But the questions remain: "Why did God bring me here? What is His motivation for my circumstances? Are His motivations to destroy me or to hurt me? What's behind His actions?" When we have problems, it does not erode our faith that God is in our lives. It does not erode our faith of what He can do. It does not affect our faith that God is all powerful. We do not question His capability. The question is, "Why are You doing this to me?" When we do not trust Him, then satan is able to come in and feed us all kinds of thought processes of why God brought us here. That is what he did with Adam and Eve: "Did God tell you not to eat this fruit? It's because He doesn't want you to be like Him. He is not trying to do



good for you. He is trying to hurt you and hold you back. God has a bad motivation and doesn't want you to be like Him; therefore, He said, 'Don't eat the fruit'" (see Genesis 3:1-5). If satan can get you to question the motives of God in your personal life, it will take away your trust. When your trust goes away, you will act like the children of Israel. They complained and murmured. They cried out against the Lord and against Moses. That is the language of the Scripture. They became the enemy of God. That is the problem with a lack of trust. At some point it turns you against Him. Then the problem is not a lack of faith. It is the fact that you just became God's enemy. That is not a good idea because He will become your enemy if that continues.



## Do You Trust That God Cares for You?

The second issue the Israelites had is that they never trusted God to take care of them. Everyone complained, "He's not going to feed me. He's not going to give me water. I don't have what I need. I know I saw all the miracles, and I watched God drown the whole army of Egypt in the Red Sea, but can He feed me? I don't trust Him to take care of me." Have you ever felt that God is not going to take care of you? We have all experienced these things. We know God is in our lives. We know He has led us to a certain place. That is when we start complaining, "I just can't believe that God brought me here to take care of me. Is He going to feed me, clothe me, and give me water?" Like the children of Israel, we cry, "God, I need this! I need that. What are You going to do?" Do you see the difference between faith and trust? We can have complete faith. We can have faith to perform miracles. But there can be something in

your heart that is not trusting God in His personal relationship with you. It is not about what He is doing for the Body of Christ. Do you trust that He is going to take care of you? Is He going to feed you? Is He going to clothe you? Is He going to lead you? Is He going to care for you? Is He going to take care of your children? Is He really in your life to do good? Is He a good God? It comes down to that personal relationship of trust in God's goodness.

Yeshua (Jesus) believed that God was good. When the young man came up to Christ, he said, "Good teacher." Yeshua said, "No, there is only One who is good, the Father" (see Matthew 19:17). Now do you understand how tremendous a statement that is? When you put what Yeshua said in the context of trust, He is saying, "There is only One who is good. God alone will do Me good." Yeshua believed in the goodness of God. David cried out, "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13). In Hebrew it means "trusted" to see the goodness of God. But do we trust that God will be good to us?



## Trust Can Slowly Disappear

A third problem the Israelites had is they did not trust that God would bring them into the Promised Land. Again, they believed He had delivered them. They knew He had led them through the wilderness, but when they came to the edge of Canaan, they did not trust that God was going to kill the giants and clear the land of all those Canaanites. They said, "He brought us out that we might fall by the edge of the sword and that our wives and our children would



become the plunder of our enemies” (see Numbers 14:1-4). Wow! That is quite a statement against God but that is what they said. The men of war declared, “We are going out against the giants, against the Canaanites, and we’re going to fall by the edge of the sword. We’re going to be killed in battle and then our enemies are going to take our wives and our children as their slaves and concubines. That’s why God brought us out.” That is what they believed! After God did all these miracles, signs, and wonders, how did they get those ideas? When we think about it in the context of this story, it almost seems impossible that you could get to the place where you think those thoughts about God. But it happens gradually over time as the trust slowly fades away. You do not lose your trust all at once. It goes away little by little, until suddenly statements like these are normal: “He brought us out to kill us. He brought us out because there were no graves.” It does not sound as strange to you when it is built up over time, when your mind is constantly trying to process a lack of trust toward Him.

When God heard all the murmuring of the children of Israel, He once again set His heart to destroy them. He said, “I’m done. This is the tenth time they have cried out in their lack of trust and accused Me of My motivation, of My love, and of My choice of them as My people” (see Numbers 14:22-23). Moses had to intercede, and God finally said, “All right, I won’t wipe them out but they’re going to go back into the wilderness and this whole generation that refused to trust Me is going to die in the wilderness.” What was going to happen to them? Just what they thought. They were going to live out their proclamations. They prophesied their own future. They would die in the wilderness. That was not God’s plan. He was looking for them to come out of Egypt as a people of faith and a people of trust. God wanted a people that He could be one with as He led them into the promised inheritance and gave them all good things. That is really what was in God’s heart.





## God Wants a Relationship of Love and Trust

God's motivations are so wonderful and so driven in love. He wanted His people to trust Him and believe in Him as they walked through the wilderness and into Canaan to possess the land just as He had promised. God wanted to do it with them in a oneness of heart and in a relationship. Instead, He ended up fulfilling His promise in a different way. God said, "I'll bring this next generation into the land, but I'll only do it to honor My name. I'll do it for My name's sake." It is a tragedy that when they finally went in to take the land, it was not because of a relationship of love and trust that the people had with their God and God had with His people in a oneness together as they possessed the land. Instead, God did it all by Himself. He took them in all by Himself for one reason: to honor Himself by fulfilling His Word so the nations would know that He is God. That is what Moses warned. He told God, "If You kill all these people, the nations are going to say, 'You are not faithful. God cannot fulfill His Word. God cannot do what He said He was going to do'" (see Numbers 14:13-16). But it was never God's motivation just to do what He wanted to do. He wanted to do it with a people. He wanted to do it in a relationship. And that relationship was destroyed by a lack of trust, not a lack of faith.

Most of the time we are concerned that we do not have enough faith. But I am telling you, we have all the faith we need. What we better do is go back and restore the trust in who God is, in what He is doing, and in His motivation toward us. He has spoken a Word. If we really believe that we are in the time of the Lord's return, then these will be tragic times. If there is a lack of trust, it will be easy to question God's motivation in what begins to happen in the world around

you. You are going into the days of tribulation—that is what the wilderness was. It was their tribulation. Nobody said it would be easy. Nobody said it would be fun. But to mistrust God's motivation is different than walking through times of difficulty. The saints of the end-time will walk through difficult times (2 Timothy 3:1). If there is an openness in your spirit to mistrust God's motivation toward you, you will be in trouble.

Remember this message. Let it keep you up at night. Let it haunt your spirit until you get rid of every openness in your mind, in your soul, in your heart, and in your spirit that mistrusts God. His motivation in this hour is to bring His Kingdom; everything that happens that God is part of will have that goal in mind. So if we walk through difficult times, we better know it is because God is bringing us into the goodness of His Kingdom. His plan for us is the blessing of living in the days of His Kingdom. Do not be those who complain. Do not be deceived by the circumstances around you. Believe in the good reasons why God has brought you to this day. The Israelites questioned that very foundation: "Why did God bring us out into the wilderness? Oh, because there are no graves in Egypt." You will ask the same question, "Why did God choose me to walk through the end days? Why me? What's His motivation?" God is giving you the greatest opportunity of any generation that has lived since Christ walked on the earth. Is it going to be easy? I do not expect so. But that does not mean I question His motives. Be thankful and say, "God has greatly blessed me by allowing me the honor, the privilege of walking as one of His sons in the days when He brings His Kingdom." That is the way we should think. That is God's motivation.



## We Are Privileged to Walk in This Day

**M**any saints have walked through difficult times. Irenaeus, one of the early Church bishops, was sent on a journey to take a message. By the time he got back, 80 percent of his church



had been martyred. You could question the Lord's motivation. It is not always easy to trust, but it comes out of the depth of a relationship with Him. You must know Him. If anything can make you distrust the Father by accusing His motivation, it will happen. It is time for us to know Him. Christ had this. His walk was not easy, but He never mistrusted the Father's love and purpose in His life. When Yeshua got to that moment of challenge, He was not complaining like the children of Israel. Can you just imagine it? We could rewrite Yeshua's prayer in Gethsemane and make Him sound like one of those in the wilderness: "God, why did You bring me here? Why did You send me down from heaven into the earth? Is it because there are not enough graves in heaven, so You brought me here to kill me?" No. Instead, Yeshua said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT" (Luke 23:46). That is trust. Trust manifests when there is no outward reason for it to exist. Yeshua knew the Father.

We are going to know the Father. But there is no going forward without getting any mistrust out of our spirits. I encourage you to find time with the Father. Talk with Him. Express yourself. Find His motivation. Make it real in your life. Repent of every lack of trust that you have had in His motivation, in His will. You will shipwreck if there is any openness of mistrust in your heart. Believe that the Lord has a tremendous plan for your life. It is a tremendous honor that He would bring us here at this time in history and give us the opportunity to walk in the unfolding days of His Kingdom. Father, give us grace and help us. We cry out to You, Lord. You have that trust in the Father and we appropriate it from You. We put on that trust. We draw it into our hearts, into our spirits, in the name of the Lord. We will be those who trust God with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds, and all our strength. We will trust the Lord and trust His motivation. We lay hold of this in the name of Yeshua.

# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

**For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org).**

## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org)

