

**Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger with You...”**

Ps 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

**Trust:** to depend on, to have confidence in, to place reliance upon; the decision and subsequent action of relying on something or someone to sustain an expectation or to meet a need. Antonym: doubt, suspicion, fear

A quick survey of *the Word* reveals that people trust in all manner of things. The above verse reminds us that it is common to trust the greatest source of power visibly available: in those days horses and chariots. Today that translates into government armed forces, and military prowess. “The government will take care of it.” Ps 44:6.

But other sources of daily (misplaced) trust are more common

**People instead of God** (1 Cor reminds us to be trusting of the brethren. Jeremiah warns against a trust in man that has *replaced* full reliance upon God.) Jer 17:5-8 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.

**Lies** “They trust in empty words” : Isa 59:4

**Own Beauty** “But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot” – Ezek 16:15

**Own Resources** “Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother a man who is in honor, yet does not understand, Is like the beasts that perish” . Ps 49:6-7, 20

**Own Righteousness** “..he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity” – Ezek 33:13

**Own Strength** “..You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way..” – Hos 10:13

**Own Heart** “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,” – Prov 28:26

All of these are set in contrast to those who set their reliance on God for everything. He is our source of strength, confidence, hope, joy, safety, power and peace. Our own innate gifts, talents, abilities, training, and resources are to be given fully to God. God will use everything we give to Him. But these must never become the source of our confidence or significance. *When gifts become gods, they become the source of our undoing.* It is an insidious temptation to compare ourselves with others and then dishonor God by responding in despair or arrogance. Despair and arrogance *both* dishonor the Source of our sufficiency, for both focus on us and not our God.

Psalm 18:2-3 “I will love **You**, O LORD, my strength. **The LORD is** my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, **in whom I will trust**; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon **the LORD, who is worthy** to be praised; So shall I be saved..”

**For further study: Psalm 18; Psalm 9:10 (Those who know Your name... will put their trust in You” (Great time to review the names of God again); Psalm 118; Zechariah 4**

“Lord, You are utterly faithful, dependable and unchanging. Forgive me for focusing on myself, my situation and my doubts. I choose to honor You by relying on You to make me what You want me to be, in your own time and way. Thank you for the difficulties of this present time that force me to really trust in You. You alone, O Rock, are worthy of my focus, my faith and my worship.”

**Remember, we love you and are praying for you continually. Adios, Ron & Val**

FYI: We are preparing to put a number of our teaching tapes on a website. We are also working on making resources available for you for outreach and disciple making. More on this later!