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The Naz Prayer Ministry



Who Do You Trust?

In 1956 a game show was launched with the teasing title *Do You Trust Your Wife?* The host, chosen for his growing popularity (along with his rather wooden-faced side kick), would ask married couples questions and they had to decide whether the husband or the wife would answer. Of course prize money was at stake.

In the fall of the next year, the show reappeared with a whole new look. The couples were not necessarily married, and the hosts had changed. Instead of Edgar Bergen and Mortimer Snerd at his side (literally), a younger man – a comedian – who very early in the opening weeks changed his co-host, an older and jovial fellow.

That show – newly titled *Who Do You Trust?* – has passed into the mist of show business lore as the place where the world met the dynamic duo of Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon. But as long-gone as the show itself may be, the question “Who do you trust?” still packs a relevant and probing punch.

The issue of trust is quintessential to all of our lives. Trust – or the absence of it – impacts the very fabric of society, binding or eroding the texture of each relationship.

Can there be any question that at the very core of what it means to have a relationship with God lies this matter of trust? The fact that we pray at all is evidence that we recognize there is someone capable of hearing and responding. Pagans pray in an attempt to appease the one who they believe has power to act on their behalf or even against them. Sinners, submerged in the throes of heaviness and sorrow, cry out for one they believe can and may even forgive them.

What does our prayer lives say about our trust? Do we simply beg God to hear us, hoping we get His attention at just the right time and in the right way as to secure some sort of response? Do we ask and then weakly wish this might be one of the times God answers us?

So often our prayers pale against the divine invitation in Ephesians 3:12 to come to him confidently, even boldly. This is the prayer of trust.

Unfortunately some distort this verse by practicing a kind of fleshly boldness, a posturing of sorts, loudly proclaiming answers they want in a kind of “name it and claim it” deal with God. Others may hear Paul’s words and fret that they could miss a blessing from God if a shadow of a doubt should even fleetingly cross their minds, suggesting that they are not confident, that they lack faith enough for God to respond.

Let’s lay aside any suggestions that boldness or confidence is based on anything the pray-er does or brings to the moment. The verse in Ephesians says:

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence (emphasis added).

Any boldness we have is about Him, faith in Him, because of Him only. If our confidence that God hears us is tied to how we have postured, we are as far off the mark as the pagan is.

Our own boldness, like our own righteousness, is worth no more than filthy rags.

Taking Our Next Step Together

Lord God, awaken me to any tendency to rely on what I do or who well I do it as a measure of boldness. Let me discover that my confidence rests only in Your sovereignty and grace, and Your readiness to welcome me into Your presence, not to impress You, but to honor and enjoy You and be emboldened in Your love.