

No. He must prune and purge before such heavenly fruit can be born on His earthly branches.

This purging and pruning is not without its pain. But, oh, what glorious pain if only it forms the image of Christ in me.

Now, this new viewpoint will never be mine, nor will this glorious result of the pruning and purging. Not until I give myself to seeking the Lord in His beauty above, and what He has for me there in preference to what is here. Only so will I die out to my self-centered earthly concerns and live to His eternal purposes for me.

Only so will I begin to find Him ever and always in all things trustworthy.

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WHEN GOD CAN'T BE TRUSTED - What Then?*

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God is entirely trustworthy, isn't He?

Well then, why don't we trust Him?

Because in truth we don't find Him trustworthy. We really don't.

We're afraid of what He'll ask of us, what He'll put us through, what He'll deprive us of, what He'll allow us to suffer.

In actual fact we don't trust God. We don't find Him trustworthy!

We're afraid to place ourselves unreservedly in His Hands.

Well now, we have a very simple choice. We can trust God or we cannot. We can trust God or we can trust ourselves. We can trust God or we can trust someone or something else.

David said it for us...

WHEN GOD CAN'T BE TRUSTED - WHAT THEN?

*“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;
but we will remember the name of the Lord
our God” (Psalm 20:7)*

God, through His prophet, Isaiah, told a fearful later generation of David’s people...

*“In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in
quietness and in confidence shall be your
strength: and ye would not. But ye said, No’
for we will flee upon horses. Therefore shall ye
flee. And, We will ride upon the swift. There-
fore shall those who pursue you be swift. ...
Blessed are all they that wait for him. . .
.When thou criest, let thy companies deliver
thee; but the wind shall carry them all away,
vanity shall take them; but he that putteth his
trust in me shall possess the land”
(Isa. 30:15-18, 52:13)*

So we really don’t have a choice.

IT’S TRUST GOD OR LOSE OUT

So, from now on I’m going to trust God! It’s as simple as that.

Sure it is.

Who’re we kidding anyway?

That kind of thinking is at the root of our failure. We can’t force ourselves suddenly to start trusting God, we who have developed an entrenched habit of not really trusting God, all the while we thought we were trusting Him.

No. That’s impossible. And we should recognize it to be such.

WHAT THEN?

A whole new attitude, a new outlook, a new viewpoint is needed. A heavenly.

Now, that may really throw you a curve.

You’ve probably bought the humanist line about being so heavenly minded you’re no earthly good. As a matter of fact, it’s when we become heavenly minded that we’re some earthly good.

*“Set your affection on things above not on things
on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid
with Christ in God. ...If ye, then, be risen with
Christ, seek those things which are above, where
Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”
(Colossians 3:1-2)*

You see, it’s right here that we have our really big problem. We think in terms of the physical and temporal.

We’re desperately limited in our perceptions as a result. We don’t see as God sees, so we entirely misunderstand His workings, and we naturally learn to mistrust Him.

We read, *“All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”* (Romans 8:28). So we expect our physical and temporal circumstances to improve as a result. And when they don’t we’re confused and frustrated, and we blame God.

We find Him untrustworthy!

THE HEAVENLY LOOK

What are the purposes to which He has called us? Are they not to know Him, to love Him, to be conformed to His image, to glorify Him, and to enjoy Him forever?

Now, if He gives us all we want in the physical and temporal domain, is that going to produce this glorious fruit?