



Biblical Counseling Ministries, Inc.

A Church-Based Christian Counseling Ministry

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BCM REPORT ▶ AUGUST 2008

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 NKJV

TRUST IN THE LORD

The command is clear, without exception: all people everywhere are to trust God. This month we'll look at some common misperceptions, and next month we'll examine what it means to trust the Lord.

TRUSTING THE LORD IS NOT...

Denying the truth. To ignore the facts is ingratitude to God for revealing them to you, or foolishness for rashly failing to heed reality (Prov. 7:21-23). When life gets hard, admit it, as David did. Walk in truth to the best of your knowledge. But do not demand that all your questions be answered. God is not answerable to you (Job 33:13).

Letting go of responsibility. We are not called to passively watch God; we are called to faithfully work with Him (I Cor 15:58). At the same time, we must trust God to do what He alone is able to do, such as changing other people's hearts.

Giving up. God calls us to exercise diligent faith, not to give up during trials. Giving up in hardship denies God's sufficient strength, plan, Word, and character. Equally important, we are not to sit back complacently when life is easy (Heb 10:35-38; Rom. 12:11). Giving up to complacency during easy times exalts comfort over God's command to be diligent. Those who trust God keep going under any conditions.

Following feelings. You may say you believe the Word of God, but if you follow your feelings you will end up mired in sinful attitudes like anger, depression, ingratitude, fear, or doubt (Eph. 4:30-31; Prov. 18:2). Our ever-changing feelings are not reliable leaders. To trust your feelings is to lose your way.

Trusting people. God calls us to love other people, but not always to trust them (See I Cor. 13:4-8). Even well-meaning people are fallible, finite and sinful at best, incapable of full knowledge and unable to fulfill another's needs. Not only that, but evil exists, so beware! Recognize the 'dogs' of Philippians 3:2 and carefully avoid their traps. Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Recognize that God is the only perfectly holy, loving, all-knowing One. We are to place our full trust exclusively in Him. He alone understands and leads us right.

Getting your way. Trusting God does not mean you will get what you want. It means letting go of what you want, and yielding yourself to His will rather than your own. Sometimes He gives you your desires; other times He gives you something far better.

PRAYER REQUESTS and MINISTRY NEEDS to help us serve you better

- Praise for God's hand in counseling sessions. His Word is powerful and He is gracious! Pray for victory in the trials faced by counselees, for wisdom and faithfulness as they seek to walk God's way.
- Pray for upcoming BCM Sundays this fall, that churches would better understand the work God is doing through BCM, and that prayer and financial support would grow, especially among individuals.
- **Your prayers and gifts make a difference in the lives of real people.** Pray about how God would have you to participate in the continuing ministry of BCM. Then please give as you are able.

BIBLICAL PARENTING SEMINAR

Saturday, November 1, 2008

9:00am-3:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Wisconsin Rapids

Everyday Discipleship Track: Parenting Workshops featuring subjects such as family conflict resolution, parenting and sibling rivalry, teen rebellion, how not to raise a Pharisee, choosing the right schooling, and parents of young adults. For anyone who wants to know more about parenting God's way.

Focused Discipleship Track: Basic Skills for Giving Wise Counsel. Part of a NANC-approved curriculum for church leaders

Pastors Toolbox: Developing a Leadership Plan. For pastors and church governing boards. **Pastors attend any track free!**

TO REGISTER:

- Check for an attachment with your newsletter.
- Print a registration form at our website in the Training Tab.
- Look for our seminar poster at your church or Christian bookstore.
- Call 715-423-7190 (Liz) for more information.

For reliable books to help with Biblical discipleship, check our free Recommended Reading List in the Resources Tab at www.bcmin.org.

To receive our free monthly newsletter: Email BCM with your name, address, and email address, with the subject ENEWSLETTER

Looking ahead to BCM Classes coming up in January 2009:

Introduction to Biblical Counseling, Skill-Building, and Helping Others Change. More details later.

Home Office/ Appointments: Calvary Baptist Church • 469 Airport Avenue • Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • (715) 423-7190

Training Center: Grace Baptist Church • 1500 Hoover Avenue • Plover, Wisconsin 54467 • (715) 341-4445

Resource Center: Faith Baptist Church • 2740 14th St. South • Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494 • (715) 424-1141

Support Center: First Baptist Church • 1500 Roman Road • Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981 • (715) 258-3535

Additional Counseling Site: Berea Baptist Church • 2216 Ellis Street • Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481 • (715) 344-7038