Trusting the Lord Through the Trials and Tests

I know that life can be pretty rough, especially when things have gone wrong, or you are discouraged and low. I know that it's not always easy to understand why things happen, and it's natural to question My love. It's hard to have faith that I am taking care of you, and it's difficult to fully trust that I'm going to work things out okay in the end. (1)

But know this, that I love you from the depths of My heart. And though I know that you face pain and suffering, hardship and sorrow, you can face these things in great faith, trusting Me and trusting My Word and all that I have promised, for I will not fail you.

For though it looked like a defeat for Me to be whipped and to be scourged, to be crowned with thorns, to be nailed to the cross, and even as I cried out, `My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?' yet My Father kept Me and brought Me forth in a great resurrection that changed the course of history and that changed all eternity. And though all looks dark and you cannot see, know that I have My arms around you. And I ask you to trust Me in the depths, trust Me in the despair, trust Me in your heartache, trust Me in your forsaking, for I do all things well, and I shape you and I mold with My love. (2)

I know you wonder how much longer you can go on like this, and how many more battles and testings and how much more squeezing of this soft spot you can endure. But trust Me that I will not make it one moment longer than I know you can take. For I am the Master Jeweler, the Expert Refiner, the Experienced Trainer. I know just how the diamond needs to be chipped to reflect the purest sparkles. I know just how long to leave on the heat to temper the metal to its strongest. I know just how long the endurance training needs to last to season the soldier and cause him to come forth victorious.

Believe that I know and that I care, and that though I cause grief, yet will I have compassion; that though I test and try and purge, yet there is a goal, a reward, and a blessing ahead. (3)

Can you trust, My loves, that these are tests of faith? It is not that I am trying to make your lives more difficult. It is not that I revel in seeing you suffer. It is not that I delight in giving you tests that are hard to bear. But when I do these things, it is because I know that the ultimate result is going to mean greater blessing, power, and fruit for you, and a great, great defeat for the Enemy.

I am letting the Enemy test your faith, for this is his hour, this is his time. The Enemy is a key element in making your faith as strong as it needs to be to face your future--so long as you don't give in to him, but keep holding on to Me through every blow.

And as you hold on in faith, as you prove your faith in Me by continuing to trust in Me and use the keys and the spiritual weapons I've given you, you will win the victory just as Job did. As Job received his wealth back in double measure, you, My loves, will receive spiritual

wealth one hundredfold. You will receive greater faith and yet greater manifestations of spiritual power. That is the reward of holding on in faith. And the Enemy will be incapable of doing anything to stop My power, for your faith will be strong, and your use of spiritual power will be abundant.

So hold on in faith. Say like Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Though the keys don't seem to work for me, yet will I trust in Him. Though things in my life are more difficult and heartbreaking than ever, yet will I trust in Him. Though I feel confused and am hit with doubts, yet will I call on the keys. Though I am discouraged, yet will I trust in Him."

Keep trusting and never give in despite how you feel, despite how your spirit feels, despite how your situation looks. The greatest truth, the surest facts, the truest reality are those things of the spirit. Nothing else matters. No matter how real your discouragement feels, no matter how complicated your situation is, the greatest truth is that I love you, that the spiritual weapons work, and that those things you do for and in the spirit will last forever. (4)

Do you believe that I know what I am doing in your life? Do you trust that I know just how much you can handle and how much you can bear? Oh, darlings, I do! I know your heart, your abilities, your desires, your physical strength, your spiritual longing, your everything. I know you through and through. (5)

Please trust that I know what I am doing in your life. Please believe that these difficulties and battles are compliments from My hand. I could not give you these deeper difficulties if you did not love Me so and if you did not wish to prove to Me that you are Mine forever. I could not trust you with such tough battles if you were not tough enough to face them.

Please trust Me. That's something you can do to make this easier for Me. When I see that you trust Me even when you don't understand why I've allowed something or done something in your life, that brings such joy to My heart. Then, instead of sorrowful tears upon seeing you doubt My love for you, I cry tears of joy and pride and faith at seeing you trust Me in spite of it all!

If you'll promise to trust Me, even when things go contrary to how you expected, even when things get worse than you imagined possible, even when it seems like I'm going back on My word and failing you, then I too will continue to fulfill My promise of doing whatever it takes to keep you, to preserve you, to lead you, to ensure that you do not fail your mission, even if it means allowing some troubles and pain. (6)

The difficulties that you face in life are what shape character. These are the tools that I use to make you into the men and women that I need you to be. I know you think that you'd be better off without a lot of them, and that all they do is stand in the way of you performing My will, but this is another of those many times you'll just have to trust that I know best. (7)

(Dad speaking:) He's molding you, He's making you. So trust Him! Trust Him through it like I did. Trust Him through it like every man of God and every woman of God has had to do. That's what makes them the women and men of God that they are and that they become,

because they trusted through the dark spots, they trusted through the nights, they trusted through the storms, they trusted through the afflictions.

So when the times get rough, the storms get high, the night gets darker, the despair and the discouragement get deeper, don't give up, don't surrender! Even if you feel that you can't fight, just look unto Him and trust. Read His Word and trust. For trust in the darkness brings triumph at dawn. The trust through the darkness in my life brought forth the greatness of the dawn and the light that poured forth, and the inspiration that came out. All of this was part of the squeezing, all of this was part of the proving. For He could trust me because He knew I trusted Him. And He wants to be able to trust you. So prove that you can trust Him through it all.

In reviewing my life and looking back on all that happened to me, through all the dark spots, through all the trials and the tribulations, the tests, the fears, the uncertainties, the failures, He showed me how He helped me, how He loved me, and how He cared for me. I knew it in theory then, but in the review of my life that took place up Here, He showed me how He was there, how He brought me through, and it made me ever so grateful and ever so thankful that He kept me and that He helped me, so that I could become the man of God that He wanted me to be.

I know He is there with you! He is there in the darkness. He is there in the trial. He is there in the test. He is there in the confusion. He is there in the depths. He is there because He loves you. He knows you have to go through these things, even as He had to go through the death and the suffering of the cross. But He is there to help you through. He is there because He loves you, because you are very dear to Him.

No matter what, trust Him! Cry out to Him!--And don't surrender to the Enemy! For it is the making and the breaking and the molding and the shaping of your life that you are undergoing. Every man and woman of God goes through it. Your mom and dad have gone through it. I went through it. My mom and dad went through it. Heaven is full of people that went through it! That's why they're Here, and that's why they have such glorious rewards, because they trusted Him!

So trust Him, won't ya? You've got to trust Him! Look to His Word! Look to Him! Praise Him and thank Him through the storms. He'll bring you through and He is right there. Just trust Him, hold on to Him, don't let go. Keep fighting! Keep praising! Keep trusting! He'll bring you through. And believe me, it's worth it!--It's well worth it. For the glories that are Here are well worth the trials that are there. The rewards of trusting are far beyond all that you could imagine!

So trust now and reap later! Trust now and become what He is making you. Trust now and you will be happy for eternity! It's a promise! I know, because I trusted and I'm happy now! (8)

(Jesus speaking:) Man sees not as I see. For I see not only the moment, but I see the past and the future. I see not only what the person is suffering and enduring, but I see the work of My Spirit that is being performed on their hearts, and I see that they are being fitted for greater battles in the future. Those who are caught in the midst of hardship and sacrifice and

heartbreak see only the losses of today. They do not see what will be gained on the morrow. But I live in the eternal now and I see the good fruits, the benefits, the strength, the understanding, the compassion, the faith, the trust, the love that will be borne through enduring such hardship. (9)

Do you believe that I, the Lord of the universe, truly have the whole world in My hands and that I would not let anything bad happen to you except what is for your good? Do you trust that I can bring good and My plan and a victory out of any bad or negative situation? Do you trust that I often allow difficult circumstances or attacks of the Enemy simply so that I can manifest My power and do miracles to change the situation and show the strength and power of the weapons that I have given you? Do you believe that I often bring tests or trials or difficulties into your life to strengthen you? If you believe these things, then you can praise Me no matter what "bad" thing may happen to you or your loved ones. (10)

But know that I am always there. In the deepest and in the darkest experiences, and in the greatest despair, I am there. Only turn and face Me and trust Me, even when all else seems so dark. Trust Me, for I take thee through this darkness that I may bring thee out into My glorious light, the light of My Love, the light of My truth, the light of My strength and the light of My power. (11)

Battles are difficult to go through, but know that the results are worth it; the good fruit that will be born in your life is priceless and worth it all. The most difficult thing is to just hang on and trust that the battles are doing you some good, that you're becoming better in some way, stronger, and not just getting worse or weaker. This is part of the test, part of the trusting, and as you continue to hang on and trust and let Me prove you, you will come out stronger, better. (12)

I allow battles in your lives because I want you to move forward. I'm training you to be My special forces--those who will face down the Enemy, who trust Me explicitly, who wield My power and champion My cause without fear; those who show others the joy of fighting without reservation, who fight and overcome and conquer all. (13)

It doesn't matter whether the test is great or small. What's important to Me is your yieldedness to accept each test as it comes along, and your willingness to trust and believe and have faith that I know what I'm doing in bringing that test along. Once you've manifested your yieldedness and determination to accept each test, then I know that you're willing to continue to fight and progress and go on, no matter what the test is. (14)

I want to lift the weight of uncertainty from your shoulders, and ask that you hold on to your faith and trust in My promises. I want you to hold on to the knowledge that no matter how dark or impossible something seems, I have never failed My children, and I am in control. These are things that will never change. No matter what the test or difficulty or impossibility that you

or others are facing, I am there, and I give you My song of victory, My promises of sufficient grace, My unfailing power to overcome all obstacles. I will enable you to go forward with My peace of mind and assurance that I do all things well. (15)

Trust Me and have faith, that whatever the challenge, whatever the difficulty, is from My hand and will work together for good in your lives. So enjoy the life of faith I've given you, and even the difficult challenges I send your way, for I promise that each challenge is meant to strengthen you, to draw you closer to Me, and to fashion you into vessels of use in My household. (16)

In the days ahead you will be able to turn and say, 'Oh, I can trust because I trusted Him through the depths. I can trust because I trusted Him through my failures. I can trust because I trusted Him through my longing. I can trust because I trusted Him through my confusions. Look, I am still here and He has brought me through, and He has strengthened me. So yes, yes, I can trust Him. I can trust Him with my all, with my life, with my death, for I am His, wholly His, for He has pulled me through.' (17)

The Testings Make Your Faith Grow Stronger

(Jesus:) Your life is a test of faith. It's good to realize that there are no exceptions when it comes to some of these tests of life and faith. I test you to strengthen you. I refine your gold to purify it. I allow you to face difficulties because it forces you back onto your foundation of faith and trust in Me and endurance, and with time and using your faith you become spiritual bedrock that can stand any test. (18)

I'm using this difficult time to strengthen the most valuable gift you possess: your faith. And if the strengthening of your faith was not of utmost importance to Me, then I would not be allowing these tests. Your faith is important to Me. Your faith is what your whole spiritual life for Me is built on, and it must be strong. It must be strong enough to withstand the fears of the Enemy. It must be strong enough to trust Me, even when circumstances and conditions are not perfect. (19)

I am the author and the finisher of your faith, and if I am blessing you with the trials of life, then I have seen that your faith needs a little more "finishing" and strengthening in a certain aspect, and thus I haven't seen fit to deliver you from these trials and afflictions as quickly as you would like. But trust Me, and look to Me, and know that I'm not going to let you suffer these things any longer than you have to, and certainly not past the point of usefulness. If you do your part, then your faith will be strengthened, you will be matured and strengthened, and when I see fit to deliver you, you will have come through as gold. If I'm letting a battle persist in your life, then you can know that it's still working My good pleasure for you, just as a fever cleanses the body of that which is not good. (20)

Each test that you pass, your faith will increase tenfold in that area. Each time you stretch your faith in obedience, in trust, in stepping out to do, to believe, your capacity will increase, your anointing will shine brighter, and you'll be walking in the power of the activated gift that is within you. You won't have to try; it will just come. You won't have to work it up; your faith will be there, strong and exercised, and ready to be used. The first few tests will be hard, but after that you will see them as challenges. You'll enjoy them, because you will have seen My power in action. You'll feel your faith growing within you, and it will give you a glow, a happiness, an anointing that you've never known before. (21)

Strengthen your faith, for your faith in Me is what will see you through and will give you the courage to not simply go through the battle, but to face the battle bravely and without fear or dread. Give your heart and mind fully to Me. Let Me possess you and speak words of encouragement to you that will strengthen your heart, boost your faith, and prepare you to march into battle feeling fully armed and knowledgeable of My promises that will see you through to victory no matter what you encounter.

Give your fears to Me. Let Me replace your fears, your concerns, and your apprehensions with faith. Let Me give you the faith needed to walk with head held high, and bravely charge into the fray, fearing nothing, seeing only My face.

I wish to strengthen your faith in preparation for the battle. This is an important part of preparation. So take the time needed; it will give you the strength you need when the time comes. Rest in My arms and look to Me. Tell Me of each of your concerns. I know you have them; you don't have to be ashamed of them. It's natural to have some feelings of dread or anxiety. However, give each one to Me and let Me replace it with My balm of love, trust and faith.

I will be beside you. I will be very near and dear to you. I will see you through this battle, and in the end you will look back and feel strengthened. Your faith will have grown, for you will have seen Me do miracles; you will have experienced My strength when you are weak, and you will know and be more fully persuaded that what I have promised I am able also to perform. (22)

Trust Me that all that I do is for your good and the good of My Kingdom. Trust Me that though your heart may break, I will put it back together again. Trust Me that though your body may ache, I will heal and restore it. Trust Me that though you seem to fall and fail, each mistake can be a steppingstone, a "fall upward." Trust Me for everything, and in everything, and through everything. Fight for Me with all you've got, and fight for others with all you've got! (23)

1. Perfect Love #3636:25
2. Let Jesus Bear the Weight #2987:78,79
3. The Blessings of Loneliness #3216:173,174
4. Faith Now and Forever! #3699:119-123
5. Apples of Gold, Part 1 #3644:114
6. Apples of Gold part 1 #3644:66, 78, 79
7. Finding Beauty in the Collage of Life #3598:15
8. Personal Letters! No.6 #3004:56-62
9. Problems and Solutions part 3 #3071:100
10. Extreme Praise #3641:58
11. Personal Letters No.6 #3004:45
12. Issues, Part 13 #3430:86
13. Shooting Straight, Part 7 #3506:217
14. Turning Weakness into Strength #3247:36
15. Vitamins #3820,3821:54
16. Shooting Straight, Part 4 #3502:175
17. Personal Letters 6 #3004:38
18. Faith Now and Forever #3699:30
19. A Labor of Love #3638:83
20. Finding Beauty In The Collage Of Life! #3598:29
21. More on the Keys! What the Future Holds, Part 2 #3351:93
22. A Labor of Love Part 3 #3734:56-59
23. The Era of Action Part 2 #3289:141