

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you O God, my strength and my joy... Amen.

Some say that trust is the most expensive thing in the world... Because it can take years to build and only just a matter of seconds to break.

And building trust is not easy. As it requires a variety of honorable qualities such as reliability, sincerity, integrity, consistency, and commitment.

All of which are important, since trust is such a vital part of relationships.

And the level of trust we have in relationships, is imperative too... As how much you trust someone usually dictates how close you are to them...

And I think all of you can relate to this concept of trust and what it means for you to have trusting relationships with others...

And if you were asked, who do you trust and who do you not trust, it wouldn't take you very long to come up with an answer...

But what then, does it mean, to truly trust in God?

Especially when the quality of our relationship with God seems to be dependent upon the time, effort, and work that we put into it.

Since God is always there yearning to be in relationship with us, it then becomes up to us to engage with God in relationship.

Because as followers of Christ, we believe that God is indeed with us.

That God is in our midst, leading us, guiding us, comforting us, challenging us, and... always... loving us.

And sometimes we may just be fortunate enough to feel God in our midst... To arrive at some clarity only God can provide... To witness a miracle... or to feel truly at peace and find comfort and rest...

But so often, those moments are few and far between. So often life instead, is filled with anxiety, stress, fear, worry, and doubt.

So often we let the things that are out of our control consume us.
Replaying them over and over in our minds, unable to move forward.

So often days and weeks become something just to get through... Checking off the little boxes of things we need to get done.

But what if we stopped stressing over all of the things that we needed to get done, by trusting in God that they would get done....

By placing all of our trust in God, knowing that God will provide for us.

What if we listened to the words of Jeremiah, that blessed are those who trust in God, whose trust is God...

Because this is an absolutely beautiful truth... But it is also not the full truth...

Because as much as we trust in God to bear good fruit in us, to provide us with nourishment, grace, and love so that we can grow strong like a tree planted by a river, as Jeremiah foretold.

We, like the tree, also need to put in the energy to grow...

We need to put in the work to get the results that God has planted in us...

As we all know, life is not lived by idly sitting in the passenger seat.

Life is lived in the chaos of the world. Through embracing the day and engaging in relationships... with yourself, God, and others...

Life is lived by putting in the time and the energy.

And so, it is here, in this tension, that we find our scripture reading from today.

Holding in tension that we are to trust in God, because God will bear good fruit in us—with the fact that bearing fruit is not passive, as our time and energy is also required...

A tension that is revealed in our scripture today.

As it was by no mistake that the words spoken by Jeremiah were of this fruitful and life-giving image of a tree planted by water, with deep roots, green leaves, and abundant fruit...

As the people of Jeremiah's time were living in a drought and in a desert.

These people knew how much energy, water, and nutrients it took for life to grow and for life to grow abundantly.

And they also knew of the kind of life that can only grow abundantly from God.

As it is here, where we start to discover what it means to truly trust in God.

Where we find God being revealed in the tensions and paradoxes that we live out in the messiness of life...

Where we trust in God, not because trusting is going to make life easier... But because God is the source of all life and goodness.

We trust in God, not because God is going to do the work for us... But because God will guide us as we engage in our work... By providing us with insights, truth, enlightenment, energy, and drive.

We trust in God, not because that means that everything will get done or turn out how we imagined... But because all of things we do are a way for God's presence to be shared in the world.

We trust in God, not because it makes our hardships disappear... But because God is there with us in those hardships, as this is the kind of eternal trust that can never be broken...

As this is the kind of trust that is made up of substance.

Trust that has its roots in hope.

Hope that we find in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Christ, who is the ultimate tree of life... Whose roots connect all of life from past, present, and future... Whose fruits nourish us... Whose green leaves inspire us, shade us, and give us peace.

And so it is my prayer tonight that each day you find this kind of trust in God. Trust that will open your eyes to different ways living. Trust that will bring you peace, and comfort. Trust that will blossom good fruit in your midst. And trust that will give you hope again and again and again... Amen.