

YEARNING FOR GOD – TRUST

INTRO

What is it to *Yearn*?

Cambridge Online Dictionary says “to wish very strongly, especially something that you cannot have or something that is very difficult to have”

Seeking God may seem like that sometimes: reaching for the impossible

We want to be nearer God but we can't quite get as near as we'd like.

It can also mean “to seek, **to make a priority**”

***We cannot successfully yearn for God unless He is our priority**

Luke 2:36-38 talks about Anna the prophetess.

“There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” (NIV)

60 years or so praying, waiting, yearning for God and in the end she saw the Saviour.

To yearn for God we need: patience, faith, perseverance & TRUST

Set your minds to be patient & full of faith & hope

WATCHWORD

What is our watchword for 2011? – **Proverbs 3:5-6:**

*“⁵ **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart
and **lean** not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways **acknowledge** him,
and he will **make** your paths **straight**.” (NIV)*

1. TRUST – to trust is to obey (*pray & act*), have faith:

Important: RELAX (*do not worry*)

George Mueller, speaking of the obstacles in the Christian's life, wrote:

*“I say - and say it deliberately - trials, obstacles, difficulties, and sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith. Be assured, if you **walk** with Him and **look** to Him, and **expect** help from Him, He will **never fail** you.”*

E.g. When I came back from Italy – Bible school, work, wife (*from 16 yrs*)
I prayed, waited, hoped & God answered!

John 14:1, 27 says:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (NIV)

2. **LEAN NOT** – “*I will not panic*”

John at work! “*why not?*”

Leaning on our understanding can lead to all sorts of wrong decisions

DO NOT FORCE THINGS!!! PRAY FIRST & WAIT!!!

Waiting for God’s way is not always the quickest option. **PATIENCE**

EXPLAIN - Taysir Saada – *He wanted to honour his parents after 10 years as a Christian but his brother wanted to kill him. READ p.172-173*

We must take steps of faith otherwise we will NEVER see God move.

We must wait and trust Him for – a partner, a house, a job, His will, our future.

Psalm 27:14: “*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord*” (NIV)

David always wrote about waiting for God to hear his prayer.

David saw great things... Samuel, Goliath, battles...

Isaiah 30:15-18

3. **ACKNOWLEDGE** – The hardest of them all. This is the practical one!

Q) *How do we acknowledge God with all of our ways?*

Finance – Is God top of your finances? **Donut story**

Intentions (*future*) – Is God’s desire your may focus? – *Your calling?*

Relationships – Is God centre? *Family, friends, colleagues*

Social - Is God Lord of my time? *Selfish or selfless desires*

Trade (*work*) – Is God at the centre of my job?

Answer: All of the above.

Matthew 6:33: “*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*” (NIV)

NO BUTS!!!!

We don't just pray, we trust by putting these into action!

4. GUIDE – The best bit! The PROMISE.

Matthew 6:25-34

It's not just a nice story, IT'S REAL! IT WORKS!

When God answers, then we have peace, excitement & great faith to try something new!!!

Instead we think how wonderful that was and go back to normal again.

DO NOT:

- Shrink back
- Set low goals
- Be glad it's all over
- Put it down to "luck", a "one-off"

PROVERBS 3:5-6 is not only our WatchWord for 2011,

**IT'S THE ANSWER TO A SUCCESSFUL, FRUITFUL, ENJOYABLE,
SOMETIMES HARD BUT ULTIMATELY SELFLESS, CHRIST CENTERED LIFE.**

CONCLUSION

Søren Kierkegaard wrote:

'Life can only be understood backwards, but it has to be lived forwards.'

Article: *He was drawing attention to one of the great peculiarities of life: that while we see our yesterdays with clarity, our tomorrows remain uncertain. It is as if, on the great railway journey of life, we are forced to sit with our backs to the engine. This paradox gives rise to two problems. The first is that we can spend too much time staring at the past, being preoccupied with it and gnawing endlessly over our regrets, disappointments, failures and losses. 'I now see', we say sadly and regretfully, 'what I should have done then. If only...' Yet the past has passed and **there is no wisdom in sawing sawdust! Let the past be past because it is dangerous to drive with your eyes too fixed on the rear-view mirror.** No, sometimes the wisest thing we can do about our past is simply commit it to God and trust it to his grace for healing and restoration. We need to put our past behind us; it is a territory we no longer live in."*

This is a turning point for BOCF, for us as individuals, for me.

Are we going to take God seriously?

Are we going to be: Hot or Cold?

Is it: Victory or Failure?

Share Jon's vision from prayer. It's really is do or die.

Let God's Will be a lifestyle choice for you.

Jeremiah 29:11-14:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD"

Let's Pray.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDVzMEeflhU&NR=1>) – Donut Story clip