

“A Call to Trust God Completely”
“God’s Unchanging Love” — Part 4
Malachi 2:17-3:12

How do you know that you can trust God?

What attributes in God’s character help build your trust?

Sometimes the circumstances of life can be so harsh and so contrary to expectations, that people are led to an outright denial of the wisdom of God in the affairs of men.

“How could God allow this to happen to me?”

1. God is just. (Psalm 111:7-9)

You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

Malachi 2:17

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

Psalm 111:7-9

He will send His messenger.

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.”

Malachi

3:1a

They asked him, “Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not...” John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” John 1:21, 23

He will come Himself.

“Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:1b

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who

takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29

He will come as judge.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:2-5

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:10

The key to the passage:

"I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed."

Malachi 3:6

2. God is faithful in His calling.

"Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But," you ask, "How are we to return?"

Malachi 3:7

3. God is faithful in His challenge.

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. 'But' you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty...

Malachi 3:8-10a

4. God is faithful in His blessing.

"And see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:10b-12

"I have loved you," says the Lord.

Malachi 1:2

Special note and interesting facts: Researchers compared tithers to non-tithers using nine financial health indicators and found that tithers were better off in every category.

80% of tithers have no unpaid credit card bills.

74% don't owe anything on their cars.

48% own their home.

28% are debt free.

Tithers make up only 10-25% of a normal congregation.

Only 5% of the U.S. tithes, with 80% of Americans only giving 2% of their income.

Christians are only giving 2.5% of their income, while during the great depression they gave 3.3% of their income.

The truth is, giving is a heart issue, not a money issue.

What would happen if believers were to give at a minimum of 10%?

The global impact would be phenomenal.

There would be an additional \$165 billion for churches to use and distribute.

\$25 billion could relieve global hunger, starvation and deaths from preventable diseases in 5 years.

\$12 billion could eliminate illiteracy in five years.

\$15 billion could solve the world's water and sanitation issues at places in the world where people live on less than \$1 per day.

\$1 billion could fully fund all overseas missions work.

\$100—\$110 billion would still be left over for additional ministry expansion.

Application: God is not indifferent to sin and wickedness. He will come and He will come unexpectedly. God is so eager for us to know His love and blessing that He gives us the challenge to put Him to the test. When we begin giving the whole of ourselves; time, service and gifts, we can see for ourselves that He loves to bless His children in grand measure so that they are scarcely able to contain it all.

"A Call to Trust God Completely" is fourth in a series titled, "God's Unchanging Love," November 9, 2014. All verses are from the New International version.