

**“In God We Trust”
May 13, 2018**

[Story: Jeffery Riegel was a lifelong Philadelphia Eagles fan. Up until the time of his death, the Eagles had never won a Super Bowl—or even an NFL championship. Jeffery died last year, just before the Eagles’ 2018 Super Bowl win. In his obituary, he requested 8 Eagles players in their game uniforms to carry his casket. He stated, “So they could let me down for the last time.”] People can let us down, but...

Romans 5:5- God gives us a “hope (that) does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

CORE: Every person who has ever made a difference in the world—by living in the power of God’s grace—have this one thing in common: THEY TRUSTED GOD’S PROMISES.

SEE Hebrews 11:1-2, 7-12 (NIV)

1. God is a PROMISE KEEPER

Hebrews 6:14- “He swore by Himself” (*He is His own collateral*)

Hebrews 6:18- “For it is impossible for God to lie.” (*His only impossibility*)

- There are 7,486 promises in the Bible
- He is faithful—not fickle (“*He does not change like shifting shadows.*” *James 1:17*)

2. TRUST is a CHOICE

Life may seem COMPLEX—but the choices are often SIMPLE (i.e., Deut. 30:19- “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the cursing. Therefore, choose life.”).

When it comes to TRUSTING GOD, we can either make decisions based on:

- OUR PAST—stuck in regret, disappointment, pain, or fear; OR...
- HIS PROMISES—fill us with HOPE

3. BETRAYAL of trust can lead to 1 of 2 CHOICES:

- STAY WOUNDED—“*I’ll never trust again!*”
- GET WISDOM—“*I’ll guard whom I trust.*”

NOTE: Solomon asked for wisdom (1 Kings 3:9) “*Chokmah*”—the ability to discern & process issues like God does.

- *“Relying on an untrustworthy person in a time of trouble, is like relying on a broken tooth.” (Proverbs 25:19 The Jewish Bible)*
- *In John 2:24 NIV, Jesus “did not entrust” Himself to those whom He knew were untrustworthy.*
- **NOTE: We can do this w/o being paranoid or cynical: Proverbs 1:33 ESV- “Whoever listens to Me will dwell secure and will be at ease—without dread of disaster.”**

4. GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY

Romans 4:19-21 MSG- *“Abraham didn’t focus on his own impotence and say, “It’s hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.” Nor did he survey Sarah’s decades of infertility and give up. He didn’t tiptoe around God’s promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. **He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said.**”*

2 Peter 1:4 NIV- *“He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that **through them** you may **participate in the divine nature.**”*

- Connecting with His promises **connects us with Him**—we actually *“**participate in His nature.**”*
- He literally can “**direct (our) hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.**” (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

[NOTE: Most “suddenlies” come after “steadilies”]

CLOSING THOUGHT:

Isaiah 40:29-31 AMP- *“He gives strength to the weary, And to him who has no might He increases power. Even youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, But those who **wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him]** Will gain new strength and renew their power; They will lift up their wings [**and rise up close to God]** like eagles [rising toward the sun]; They will run and **not become weary,** They will walk and **not grow tired.**”*