

**Intro** Being saved by God is different from what you would expect. There is a lot about trusting God that does not agree with what seems right or natural. One author who writes to help us understand the message of Isaiah entitles his treatment of Isaiah chapter 30 ‘The Counterintuitive Ways of God.’ His point is that God’s ways prompt and direct us to act and think in certain ways that do not seem naturally right or expected. Trusting God is certainly counterintuitive.

One illustration that may help is the use of counterintuitive in the following sentence from the dictionary:

It may seem *counterintuitive*, but we do burn calories when we are sleeping.

Our instincts struggle with the fact that we burn calories when we are sleeping or we would not feel as guilty about the pizza and ice cream just before bed. That fact is certainly different from what I would expect.

Consider the teachings of the scriptures particularly pronounced in the ministry of Jesus Christ. To gain life, one must first lose it. Freedom is gained by complete surrender. Hope comes from abandoning all other hopes except Christ. Security and safety come from yielding control. Being right is only possible by acknowledging that you are not. Personal satisfaction comes from a source outside you. The wisdom of this world is foolishness. Spiritually bankrupt people are blessed. Only humble seekers are exalted. A perfect sinless one was cursed with the sins of others.

Our instincts struggle with these truths as well. The saved by God person must constantly renew their trust simply because trusting God is so very different than what we expect it to be. A software company that markets itself as creating intuitive resources describes the bottom line of their deliverables as building flexibility, control and improved information for their customers. The same desires for flexibility, control and information creep into our understanding of trusting God. We are inclined to place our trust in various ways and means that seem right and grant us the necessary flexibility to protect ourselves.

Isaiah chapter 30 is another powerful sermon where the prophet calls us to a renewed and real trust in God. The point remains consistent; being saved by God requires absolute trust in God. All human conniving is hopeless. We cannot author our own security. Our only resource is God himself.

We gather around the Table of the Lord this morning to renew our trust in God. Knowing how unnatural it would be for his disciples to live by trusting, Jesus established both a way and a command to remember him and his sacrifice regularly. Our intuition that leads us to a hybrid trust in both God and self is both deadly and unreliable. In Isaiah’s sermon exposing the foolishness of a hybrid trust, we find four key renewal points of trust. A trust in God and man or God and self is no trust at all. Let’s listen to Isaiah as we prepare for our time of remembrance and renewal at the Table of Christ.

4 trusting God renewal points . . .

Isaiah 30

- |                              |                                     |       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. What is your covering?    | God alone is trustworthy.           | 1-7   |
| 2. How is your hearing?      | God’s words alone are our strength. | 8-17  |
| 3. What are you waiting for? | God’s grace is our only hope.       | 18-26 |
| 4. What are you singing?     | God’s presence is our greatest joy. | 27-33 |

## 1. What is your covering?

**God alone is trustworthy.**

**1-7**

Read 30:1-5

Renewing your trust in God is a cleaning out of all competing alliances for your trust.

One way the people Isaiah is addressing expressed their lack of trust in God without seeming to completely deny him was to look to other nations for security. The parallels are obvious with our lives in that God had clearly promised to protect and provide for his people. However, when the circumstances of life became overwhelming, the most reasonable response was to keep God close and reach out for help to sources of power and strength that could be seen and depended on in real life. For the people of Judah it was an alliance with Egypt. In verses 1-7, Isaiah forcefully describes this alliance and calls God's people to a single trust in God.

Note the term 'alliance' in 30:1 is the same term translated 'covering' in 28:20. The issue is clearly that of protective covering. Your trusted coverage can be evaluated by these principles Isaiah teaches.

- Trusting God is contrary to your ingrained tendencies. 1 – stubborn 9 – rebellious
- Trusting God is defined and informed by the Bible. 1-2
- Trusting God is transparent about sin. 1
- Trusting God has strong historical support. 3-5

The poem of 6-7 describes the danger, impotency and foolishness of trust placed in anything other than God. Compare Matthew 23:1-15.

## 2. How is your hearing?

**God's words alone are our strength.**

**8-17**

Read 30:8-17

Renewing your trust in God is a recommitment to hearing and doing God's words.

The intuitive, ingrained pressure to not listen and obey is likened to the force that would cause a huge wall to first bulge out and then collapse in an instant. Rebellious, lying and unwilling are terms used to describe our natural way of responding to God's authority revealed in his word. God commanded that a written record be made of his words because he knew we would need an everlasting reminder of his ways.

Isaiah identifies at least two 'hearing God' problems that we need to address in our time of renewal:

- You do not want to hear God. 9, 15-16

Compared to children who rebel, lie and are unwilling . . . all intuitive and expected responses from children.

- You do not like what you hear. 10-11

God's words seem both unhelpful and demanding at the same time.

Not a demand for preaching to stop, but a recasting of preaching from the words of the Holy One to the needs and expectations of the hearers. Help us but without any demand for change, challenge or pressure from a holy God. A ministry of trivialities.

Cmp/apply with James 1:22-25

2Tim.4:3-4

### **3. What are you waiting for?**

**God's grace is our only hope.**

**18-26**

Read 30:18-22

Renewing your trust in God is a fresh cry for mercy from God.

Trusting God is pictured in verse 18ff as two 'waitings.' Trusting God acknowledges that God is waiting to fulfill his gracious promises while his people are waiting for him to do so.

Waiting on God includes both an 'in that day' and a 'today' hope.

In that day . . . v.18, 26                      The day when God fully reveals himself in judgment and mercy. All that is broken and destroyed by sin will be restored. Our hope is firmly rooted in the coming day when God exalts himself over all opposition in order to show mercy to his people.

Today . . . v. 19-22                      Today, we trust, we live by faith in the following specific ways supported by the hope of the grace of God:

We do sorrow as those without hope.	19
We cry out to God assured that he answers.	19
We endure adversity knowing our Teacher is present.	20-21
We root out and reject the replacement gods of our hearts.	22

God wants to save sinners. We believe that is what he is doing.                      Cmp. John 16:33

### **4. What are you singing?**

**God's presence is our greatest joy.**

**27-33**

Read 30:27-30

Renewing your trust in God is a commitment to joy in God.

Trusting God means singing and celebrating the victory of God over sin, death and hell accomplished in Christ. Trust is present when you enter joyfully into song over a benefit to which you have made no contribution. Your heart is glad in God not your actions or performance.

The two sources for your glad heart song that Isaiah points us to are the name of the Lord and the breath of the Lord.

The name of the Lord is simply a reference to all the Lord is; the fullness of his revealed character. The truth that God reveals himself in coming judgment as described in 27, 30-33 is to be a source of security and joy for those who trust in him. The point is, rather than trust in Egypt like alliances to be secure from wicked Assyria like forces, trust in God who will destroy all wickedness by the simple words from his mouth.

The breath of the Lord is reference to the work of his Spirit or the words from his mouth (30, 31). V.28 likens his breath to a sieve that exposes all that is false and a bridle that guides all the wicked to judgment.

In the midst of waiting on God's perfect timing in dispensing both grace and judgment, God's people rest secure and express their trust in the singing of hearts made glad by him.

Cmp Isa.12:2

#### **4 trusting God renewal points . . .**

#### **Isaiah 30**

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1Corinthians 11:27-32 . . . Prayerful preparation and self examination as we come to the table.

Renew your trust in God.

Place your trust in God.