

## "In Uncertain Times"

What should we do in these uncertain times? How can we give thanks? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." Today we're exploring how we can be faithful and grateful to our Father in heaven, even in uncertain times.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. Our nation has set aside a day each year to give thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow. James 1:17 reminds us that, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." It's good for us each day to count our blessings. Thanks for taking time with us today. We'd love to hear from you and want to be a part of your life each week.

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 9:11 to 12, "I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all. Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them."

We live in uncertain times. We don't know what the future will bring. We may face dangers economically, militarily, or practically. We have many safety concerns. We're challenged by so many questions that no one can answer as we look to the future. But there is more to the future than what will happen under the sun. We have a God who has always been in control and who has prepared a future of love and peace for His people. We need to thank Him and draw close to Him. We need to look to Him for courage and comfort. In our distress, He is our shelter and our protector. We need God in these uncertain times.

Now we offer this study on these uncertain times free! And if you'd like a printed copy and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have many free programs and materials on our website, [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). You can also see us on YouTube.

We'll now worship in song, and we'll read from Matthew 6:25 to 30, and examine putting our trust in God during these uncertain times.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Matthew. It's the words of Jesus in the sermon on the mount. Matthew 6 verses 25 to 30.

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory (did not) clothe himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray. Heavenly Father we are so grateful that You give us the things that we need. Help us to put You first in all that we do. Your kingdom and Your

righteousness. And Father to be grateful for how You provide for us. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 12:2, "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." Whatever the future holds, we have a God who loves us and will hold us in His right hand. Isaiah 41 and verse 10 says, "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." God will always take care of His people who love and serve Him.

Now nothing escapes the attention of God. He knows what you face and everything that happens. Proverbs 15:3 says that, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good." Now since Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide till the day is done, yes. Your Father in heaven knows and cares. Matthew 6:31 to 32 says, "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."

Rather than worry about things, we must turn to God who provides all our needs in Christ Jesus. The Lord said in Matthew 6:33 to 34, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." We should maintain a daily relationship with the Lord, studying His word and praying from hearts. Yes, each day has its challenges; and each day we must remind ourselves of our dependence upon God. Now each day we should see God working in our lives and blessing us. Philippians 2 and verse 13 reminds us that "it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." We do not serve an absent God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 to 18 reminds us, "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." In everything give thanks? Yes, even for my weaknesses and troubles. Not everything is good, but God can take the harshest things of life and make good come from them. He can teach us valuable lessons and enable us to make life better. Romans 8:28 reminds us, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." God can do what we can't do; He can take what is cruel and make comfort from it. We can rejoice in everything, simply because we have a deep, loving relationship with God.

James 1:2 to 3 says, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." God doesn't remove us from this world and its challenges. Rather He allows us to encounter various trials that cause us to grow spiritually mature. When we see God's hand helping us to face these trials, our faith and hope grow so that we can meet whatever challenge comes our way.

Proverbs 3:5 to 8 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones." We look to God for answers, for our guidance, and for our needs, and for our protection.

When Job lost all ten of his children and all his wealth, He said in Job 1:21, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God. Later when Job was

afflicted with a terrible and painful disease, his wife said to him in Job 2 verses 9 and 10, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

When Joseph, because of his brothers' hatred, was sold into slavery at Potiphar's house, was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, and was thrown into prison, he didn't despair, because the Lord was with him. Genesis 39 tells the story of this young man far from home suffering many things, yet the Lord was with Joseph and gave him favor. Joseph didn't know it at the time, but God was shaping and molding him into a competent executive who could save Egypt and his people. His own people.

In later years Joseph told his brothers who were afraid after Jacob, his father, died in Genesis 50 verses 19 to 21, he said, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and (for) your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. People will always do evil things that may cause us to suffer. Let's be kind. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:44 to 45, "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

We can put our faith and hope in God as we turn from sin and follow Him. Micah 7:18 to 19 says, "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea." We can have hope because we serve a forgiving God when we turn from sin. Psalm 36:5 says, "Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies."

Again, Isaiah 40:48 to 31 says, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

Jeremiah sang a song of sorrow at the destruction of Jerusalem and, of course, the temple with it in 586 BC. In spite of his sorrow, he could say in Lamentations 3:19 to 25, "Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. Surely my soul remembers And is bowed down within me. This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him." Hebrews 10 and verse 23 encourages us: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

We may feel like the whole world is crashing down around us. We may worry and fret over the way things have become. But God is still in heaven, still hears our prayers, and still forgives our sins. Habakkuk 3:17 to 19 says, "Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God

of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places."

The apostle Paul faced a lasting problem. We all have troubles we can't overcome or escape. Paul had to learn to trust in the grace and love of God. And so He wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:7 to 10, "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' (then Paul observes) Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

In Jeremiah 17:5 to 8 the LORD says, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit." Trust God not man. This culture has been ruined by listening to the imaginations of men and pushing God out of their minds. Men are not wiser than God. They cannot give you what God can give you.

Psalms 33 verses 8 to 10 says, Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance." We must return to serving God in these uncertain times.

God's ways don't change; they bring peace and hope. They are righteous and kind ways. They aren't cruel, selfish, and violent. They bring humility and peace rather than selfish ambition, hunger for power, lust, and greed. They teach the truth rather than leave us confused and denying reality. Let's listen to God and serve Him. Psalm 37:23 to 24 says, "The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand." We need God's hand holding us and helping us in these confused and uncertain times.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You love us, that You provide for us, and help us to put our faith and our trust in You in these uncertain times. And help us to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Delight yourself in the Lord. Look to Him, trust Him, love Him, and serve Him. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." God knows what you need, so ask Him to help you. The Lord said in Matthew 7:7 to 8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Ah it's good for us to count our blessings. And to seek them from God.

Now if you are wondering if you can trust the words of Jesus, remember John 7 and verse 17, "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." God will truly keep His word and never deceives. God loves and blesses those who love

Him enough to believe and do His will. When you do the will of God, you realize that His way is truly divine in wisdom. God's ways are better than human ways, because only the way of the Lord can lead to eternal life. God is the source of our lives and our blessings.

So trust in the Lord, believe His teaching. Repent of any evil in your life and turn your heart to righteousness. And do it in repentance. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be baptized into Christ and into His death so that you will have the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; and Romans 6 verses 3 to 7). Now you can have newness of life and be free from your past sins. You can become a child of God and be added to the Lord's church with your name written in the book of life. You can be an heir of God and live in heaven eternally.

We hope today's study about trusting God in uncertain times has blessed you. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy, send your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now there's a schedule of our programs and a map of churches in your area at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). You can watch SEARCH on YouTube as well! Subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry" and be sure to like the programs when you watch. We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, we're not asking for money. We're here to help you draw close to God.

Show God your love by worshiping at church. Yes they want you there. You need a church family. You need to be with a group of people who love the Lord. And if you can attend, if you can attend, some can't, but you can attend don't neglect worshiping at church. There's probably a church of Christ near you. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll gladly help you find one. Well we'll be back next week, Lord willing. And so we ask that you keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about the program. let them know that you're watching and give them an opportunity to watch too. Open up an opportunity for them to learn what God's will is. As always we say to you, God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.