

Trusting in the Living God 1 Timothy 4:10-11

Introduction:

1. Every day of our lives, we demonstrate the principle of trust (driving our cars, taking medicine, eating at a restaurant, working a job and trusting we will be paid, riding a roller coaster, swimming in the ocean, etc.).
2. If you trust in something, it means that you have confidence, hope, and expectation in it. You exhibited trust when you sat down on your pew or chair this morning. You **expected** it to hold you up.
3. With that understanding, let's look at 1 Timothy 4:10. Paul said to Timothy, "*We trust* [have confidence, hope, expectation] *in the living God...*" Why? Because He is the Savior of **all** men.
4. The word "*Savior*" means "deliverer." This is a reference to Jesus Christ. He is our Savior. Titus 1:4, 2:13, 3:6; Philippians 3:20
5. Again we see the deity of Christ shining through the pages of God's Word. "*The living God, who is the Savior of all men,*" is a reference to our resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 45:21 cf. John 4:42). Jesus was, in fact, "*God manifest in the flesh.*" 1 Timothy 3:16
6. Jesus is alive and well, seated at the right hand of the Father (Revelation 1:18). He is our intercessor and mediator. He is our advocate, our Redeemer, our Savior!
7. Every day the believer should trust in Jesus Christ. He is our Savior and Deliverer. He is our Rock. He is our foundation. He is our life. He is our sufficiency in everything. I like that hymn that says, "Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him. How I've proved Him o'er and o'er. Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust Him more."
 - That word "trust" carries the idea of "confiding" or "confidence."
8. When we live our lives with a daily trust in Jesus Christ, what is the result?

First, we labor willingly.

1. This word "*labour*" means "to feel fatigue; to work hard."
2. Notice it says that Jesus is the "*Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.*" Jesus Christ's death is sufficient for every person in this world, but people have to make a choice to accept Christ as their **personal** Savior. This is why you hear that phrase.
3. If anybody should be laboring in Christ's work, it should be the believer who has firsthand knowledge of His incredible saving grace. We should **want** to labor unto Him. Why? Because He has changed our lives, and we want Him to change other people's lives.
4. Please understand that laboring unto Christ is not something that simply takes place on Sundays. Believers are daily walking with Christ and trusting Him in everything they do. Christ is magnified, and He flows out from us in all that we do. We are His servants 24/7.
5. Colossians 3:17 doesn't mean you leave a tip in the restaurant and say, "I'm leaving that tip in the name of Jesus." You're playing baseball and you say, "I struck you out in the name of Jesus." You're behind a slow driver and you finally get around them, "I'm passing you in the name of Jesus."

6. "The name of Jesus" speaks of identification. It means that whatever you do in your daily life, you do it in a way that can be identified with the Christ who lives within you.
7. It is not something that you necessarily verbalize to everybody. It is an attitude of the heart and mind. You are mindful that you represent Him in everything that you do. You are laboring unto **Him** in all that you do. **Example:** Ephesians 6:5-7.
 - I am at the mall trying to return an item, and I am huffing, and puffing, and throwing a fit, and the employee says, "I know you. You go to CrossRoads. Wait a minute... you're the pastor!" What is the problem? I forgot that I am to be laboring unto Him in everything I do.
8. You say, "But Pastor Dan, I get frustrated, I get angry, I get upset, etc." This goes back to the issue of trust. When it is Dan Proctor living and doing, it is usually not good. When I am trusting Christ to live through me, it is holy, righteous, and good.
9. A great verse is Colossians 1:29.

Second, we suffer willingly.

1. Suffering is, many times, a great test of trust. Remember as a kid, if you scraped your knee, Mom would put antiseptic on there that stung. But you trusted her, didn't you? You didn't want Dad... just Mom (My boys always yelled, "Get Mom!").
 - You allow the doctor to do that surgery, knowing there will be pain involved. Why? Trust.
2. Nobody desires to suffer. We all long for a pain-free life. Nevertheless, the Bible warns repeatedly that suffering will probably come to the believer. 2 Timothy 3:11-12
 - Remember, Jesus is our Savior (Deliverer). Paul said that Christ had delivered him out of all these afflictions. But notice how he was delivered? "*What persecutions I endured.*" God gave him the grace to endure.
3. Paul called this church age "*the sufferings of this present time.*" Many times we suffer because Satan is the god of this world system (author and instigator), and we live in it. Sin and suffering are woven into the fabric of this world system. Pain is inevitable.
4. God doesn't always swoop in and take us out of the suffering. But He will always provide the grace to endure the suffering victoriously.
5. Sometimes our suffering can result from our love and dedication to our Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - Being a follower of Christ will not always win you a popularity contest. Our Captain suffered reproach, and as His soldiers, we have been called to suffer reproach with Him.
 - Sometimes the Christian will have a clear-cut choice. We have to decide between the riches and approval of the world or suffering the reproach of Christ. Hebrews 11:24-26
6. When you are trusting in Christ daily, you stand for Him. You are not afraid to swim upstream against the current of Satan's world system. You may lose power, promotion, popularity, or possessions, but your trust is in Christ. Trusting Him brings boldness in our walk.
7. Many believers get very upset at God when life brings suffering. They suspect that God is giving them a raw deal. God is just not being fair. This demonstrates a lack of faith and

trust in God and in His Word. God warned you that suffering would come on our journey through this earth.

8. On the other hand, Paul had learned to embrace suffering because he made an interesting discovery. When he suffered, it reminded him of how much he needed Christ (a good thing). It caused him to trust Christ, and Christ's power could flow through him in a greater way.
9. Paul said, "*We trust in the living God.*" Therefore, we labor and we suffer willingly. Paul said to command and teach these principles to other believers. vs. 11
 - **Illustration:** Music is a powerful teaching tool. Look at the words of this beloved hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." The writer obviously understood these principles.