

September 2018

Dear Brethren:

Greetings, in the name of the soon-coming King of Kings and our Savior Jesus Christ. We are in another year, and it is amazing how the year is fast running away. I would like to write about something that has been left behind, and many do not possess it, be it in society or in the church. That is *trust*.

### Trust

The Bible tells us to trust the Lord with all—not part—of our hearts. We live in a world where trust must be earned, and seems to be in short supply. King Solomon knew that trust is exactly where we must start.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding, In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5–6, *New King James Version* throughout).

Most of us have faced disappointments which have taught us that we can only depend upon or trust ourselves. Why in the church is there no trust, yet we follow the same faith, the same God, and are in one body? Ideally, we should be able to trust our brethren if each of us is a part of Christ as the Bible says:

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those

members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honour to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually (1 Corinthians 12:12–27).

Each member has a part to play in the body—i.e. legs help in walking, hands in picking, eyes in seeing and ears in hearing. The eyes must trust the legs and the ears too. This is when they can work together for the benefit of the body. If there is no trust among the parts, then that body is in trouble. Jesus said that we are to love one another. Where mutual love exists, trust will follow. In order to grow with Christian accountability, there needs to be trust. We have to learn to trust among the Body of Christ.

A non-judgmental attitude is another essential element of trust.

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you (Matthew 7:1–2).

Caring for each other is also essential: "And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:21).

If mutual love exists, we will be more open to share our innermost thoughts without concern of betrayal. Christian trust is possible when the church shares a common mind and bonds people who relate to one another and can empathize and share with understanding; people can feel comfortable in sharing their circumstances and can be totally accepted without fear of rejection. When there is trust in the Body of Christ, then we will know how to handle any situation that might arise in the church. The Apostle Paul told the church in Galatia that we should not "show" what we do in the flesh.

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:12).

This takes place when there is no trust among members. If a brother has done something wrong, do not jump to the conclusion that you do not need him at all. You are to confront him in love.

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins [gently confront him and forgive him] (James 5:19).

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21–22).

This may be done only if trust is prevailing between the two or among all. God's Word also admonishes you to consider yourself, because no one is above temptation—there is nobody who does not sin.

For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:10).

When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin) . . . (1 Kings 8:46; 2 Chronicles 6:36).

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing (1Thessalonians 5:11).

Mutual love involves trust. We love God and trust Him, because He is trustworthy. Let us turn to the book of Ruth. In chapter one we find true love is loyal, and in the second chapter that love is kind.

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and

he will tell you what you should do." And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do" (Ruth 3:1–5).

She said, all that you have said I will do. "I will do." This involved trust because she knew that her mother-in-law would not betray her.

Peter tried to stop Christ from washing his feet during the Passover and Christ replied:

. . . "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me (John 13:8).

To be unified is to have love and trust. Even in marriage if there is no trust and love, that marriage will fall apart. That is why the rate of divorce is high. Love goes with trust. Governments cannot appoint into offices those they do not trust. In the church there should be a high level of trust. But, look at most of the splinter groups. They split every year because there is no trust among the ministers. Each and every one thinks he is the only one. He must be heard speaking or teaching.

When we all believe the revealed doctrines, we should be able to trust each other, and trust the ministry because they are working under the authority of Christ. My prayer is that in this small remnant body, trust might be found. In my fourteen years in this small group, I have come to develop trust in the one having the mantle. Having trust will teach us to forgive one another when anything arises. If we choose not to trust, we could miss out on so much joy God desires for us. We are created for relationships based on both trust and forgiveness.

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection (Colossians 3:12–14).

Let us consider David and Jonathan: They both trusted each other, and Jonathan decided to separate from his father and join David.

Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from

me? It is not so!" Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death." So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you" (1 Samuel 20:1–4).

He trusted David with all his heart:

"[B]ut you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies." Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul. Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. And when you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel" (verses 15–19).

The mutual trust they shared led them to make a covenant. Friendship and love cannot grow without trust. Jonathan agreed to lay his life down for David's sake. He did not bother with what his father said about David.

Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully (verses 30–34).

Do we trust our brethren in that we are ready to lay down our lives for their sakes? Do we trust this small remnant in that we are ready to defend the faith once delivered? Do we trust the ministry, and are we ready to defend? No matter what people will say about this ministry, if we trust that this ministry is led by the Holy Spirit of God and works under the authority of Christ, then we will weep together as David and Jonathan.

As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so. Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city (verses 41–42).

Trust walks with love. Many do not trust the ministry, that is why there are problems day in and day out, and that is why some groups have doctrinal committees, or councils of elders, to set out church doctrine because they do not trust the ministry to do it.

If there is trust between brethren, the journey will be smoother.

Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel (Proverbs 27:9).

One day somebody sent me an email saying ill things about the current director of this small group—that he is changing doctrine, blah blah blah! I did not entertain any of it, and I told him to back off with his accusations. Much has been said about this small group, good and bad, but with the Truth that we have, we cannot entertain the bad things. We will continue trusting till our time comes to die. We follow the one we trust as long as he will continue following Christ.

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Where there is no trust, doubt will grow, and you will see new doctrines come up. The church should put trust in the ministry as long as the true doctrines are defended. Trust is the glue that binds us together in hard times. This will help the church not to jump from one doctrine to another.

The prophet Amos says in Amos 3:3: "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" There must be trust so that they can agree on what they will be doing.

Jesus trusted Peter, and He wanted to know if truly Peter trusted Him also. That is why He asked Peter three times.

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You

know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep" (John 21:15–17).

Now we come to this remnant group. Mr. Raymond Cole trusted Mr. Brisby. That is why he ordained him to take over the leadership of this group; we too must trust him so that he can care for us fully.

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct (Hebrews 13:7).

Having true love will make us lay down our lives for our brethren.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him (1 John 3:16–19).

This is where the early church was headed. They had enemies too, but they did not look back. They were accused by many, but the trust they had among themselves did not fade away. We should have confidence that we are all called by God, no matter our color, race, ethnicity, language, education, body size, poor or rich—we are all the children of God.

Many people want to be trusted, but they do not want to trust in return. Trust is two-way traffic. God also trusted us with gifts, and if we keep well His trust in whatever He has given us, He will trust us more in His soon-coming Kingdom. I believe that if trust is available, be it in a society group or in the church, life will be easier with the members. We as believers—the children of the same Father because we will be born into one Family—need to have more oneness than politicians. We should not say as the world says: *Love All, but Trust No One*; not if God's Truth is what binds us. This is a Satanic voice, but the children of the Kingdom know that "love without trust is not really love," as also trust without love is nothing. Maybe many do not know what trust is. It is firm

belief and confidence in the reliability of a person. This kind of trust produces companionship, friendship, love, agreement, relaxation and comfort. One of the pillars in any relationship is trust, and this is also true in the church. But trust is a fragile pillar. When it comes to trust, you will hear people say, "handle with care." Some find it hard, but some find it easier. Trust is making yourself dependent upon another person in some way for some result or outcome. It is healthy dependency. You cannot be forced to trust. You must believe that a person is trustworthy.

If we truly trust God, we should also trust his children who manifest His Spirit. If we love God, we are to love His children—church members—because we are the Body of Christ. The trust that God had with Abraham was perfect.

And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know (Genesis 18:17–21).

Real trust involves forgiveness and freedom. Trust looks at the heart, not just the "packaging." True trust overlooks faults, and it also involves being truthful.

"Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4:25). We should speak truth to one another. This too builds trust. The New Testament church was in one accord. This could have not been if there was no trust among them.

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart (Acts 2:44–46).

We love God and trust Him. But who else? "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:39).

And the second, like it, is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
There is no other commandment greater than these (Mark 12:31).

We love the Word of God, and we trust Him. You find many saying that they love Jesus, but they do not do what He says. It really means that they do not trust Him.

If you love Me, keep My commandments. . . . Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him (John 14:15, 23).

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). To "keep" means we trust or have confidence in Him.

If a ministry is faithful to those commandments, they have earned our trust. "Brethren, pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25). The Body of Christ should be an example of trusting each member. When there is no trust in the ministry, each will preach his own doctrine. That is why there are splits into other groups. If there is trust, the church will speak the same thing.

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (1 Corinthians 1:10).

We are all called by God. We ought to trust our fellows because we share the same values and faith. "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (1 Corinthians 1:2). This is when people will know that we are Christ's.

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).

Joshua trusted Moses, that is why every time Moses directed him to do something, he did it.

Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I

will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand (Exodus 17:8–9).

I thank Mr. Raymond Cole for the trust he had in Mr. Armstrong's legitimate commission. That made him keep the doctrine till his death, and I trust Mr. Brisby because for over the fourteen years that I have worked with him, he has not changed the doctrine that he received from Mr. Cole. Elijah, when he was to be translated (taken) to another location, wanted Elisha to leave him, but Elisha refused until he passed the mantle to him. Elisha continued in the same direction without changing anything because, even though Elijah was not with him, he kept the trust.

And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel. Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!" Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho. Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!" Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his

own clothes and tore them into two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan (2 Kings 2:1–13).

This is the kind of trust needed in the Church of God, not in name only, but in deeds. If members trust the ministry, then they will have opportunity to lead. Ministers should also have trust between themselves so that the members may see Christ in them and the Truth being kept perfectly. Just see what happened in the parent church: there was no real unity and therefore no trust. Look at the splits of more than 300 groups and still more are on the horizon. We should be eating the same spiritual food and drinking the same spiritual drink. If so, why would we fail to trust each other? If we keep the Faith, keep our trust, keep the right attitude, and if we are grateful, we will see God open the doors.

Trust is the glue of life. It is the foundational principle that binds all relationships. It is the most essential ingredient in effective communication. General Russel Honoré (retired US Army general) once asked, "When you form a team, why do you form a team? Because teamwork builds trust and trust builds speed." God's Truth creates love, and love builds trust.

May the God of peace, the Creator of heaven and earth who called us ahead of time, bless you and keep you safe.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaya Owak', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Isaya Owak