

We need to trust our brothers. That is not always easy because at times they disappoint us. In this article, we will consider how applying Bible principles and meditating on examples from the past can help us to build our trust in our fellow believers or to rebuild trust if they fail to meet our expectations.

#### Paragraph 1

(2 Timothy 3:1-4) But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, 3 having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, 4 betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God,

(2 Corinthians 4:4) among whom the god of this system of things has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that the illumination of the glorious good news about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through.

#### Paragraph 2

(Jeremiah 17:7, 8) Blessed is the man who puts his trust in Jehovah, Whose confidence is in Jehovah. 8 He will become like a tree planted by the waters, That sends out its roots to the stream. He will not notice when heat comes, But his leaves will always flourish. And in the year of drought he will not be anxious, Nor will he quit producing fruit.

(Psalm 9:10) Those knowing your name will trust in you; You will never abandon those seeking you, O Jehovah.

(1 Peter 3:18) For Christ died once for all time for sins, a righteous person for unrighteous ones, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17) All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.

#### Paragraph 3

**(Mark 10:29, 30) Jesus said: “Truly I say to you, no one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news 30 who will not get 100 times more now in this period of time—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the coming system of things, everlasting life.**

(Psalm 133:1) Look! How good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

#### Paragraph 4

(Romans 15:1) We, though, who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those not strong, and not to be pleasing ourselves.

(Galatians 6:2) Go on carrying the burdens of one another, and in this way you will fulfill the law of the Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) Therefore, keep encouraging one another and building one another up, just as you are in fact doing.

(Hebrews 10:23-25) Let us hold firmly the public declaration of our hope without wavering, for the one who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, 25 not forsaking our meeting together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you see the day drawing near.

Paragraph 6

(1 Corinthians 13:1-13) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and understand all the sacred secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all the faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my belongings to feed others, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I do not benefit at all. 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous. It does not brag, does not get puffed up, 5 does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury. 6 It does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with. 9 For we have partial knowledge and we prophesy partially, 10 but when what is complete comes, what is partial will be done away with. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, to think as a child, to reason as a child; but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a child. 12 For now we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be face-to-face. At present I know partially, but then I will know accurately, just as I am accurately known. 13 Now, however, these three remain: faith, hope, love; but the greatest of these is love.

**(1 Corinthians 13:4-8) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous. It does not brag, does not get puffed up, 5 does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury. 6 It does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all**

**things. 8 Love never fails. But if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with.**

(Ecclesiastes 7:9) Do not be quick to take offense, for the taking of offense lodges in the bosom of fools.

(Ephesians 4:26) Be wrathful, but do not sin; do not let the sun set while you are still angry;

Paragraph 7

(Psalm 130:3) If errors were what you watch, O Jah, Then who, O Jehovah, could stand?

**(Matthew 7:1-5) "Stop judging that you may not be judged; 2 for with the judgment you are judging, you will be judged, and with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you. 3 Why, then, do you look at the straw in your brother's eye but do not notice the rafter in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Allow me to remove the straw from your eye,' when look! a rafter is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the rafter from your own eye, and then you will see clearly how to remove the straw from your brother's eye.**

(1 Corinthians 13:7) It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- \*\*\*\*(Jude 4) My reason is that certain men have slipped in among you who were long ago appointed to this judgment by the Scriptures; they are ungodly men who turn the undeserved kindness of our God into an excuse for brazen conduct and who prove false to our only owner and Lord, Jesus Christ.
- (Acts 20:30) and from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Paragraph 8

(Luke 16:10) The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, and the person unrighteous in what is least is unrighteous also in much.

Paragraph 9

(1 Samuel 1:12-16) While she prayed for a long time before Jehovah, E'li was watching her mouth. 13 Han'nah was speaking in her heart, only her lips were trembling, but her voice was not heard. So E'li thought she was drunk. 14 E'li said to her: “How long will you stay drunk? Stop drinking your wine.” 15 At this Han'nah answered: “No, my lord! I am a woman under great stress; I have not drunk wine or anything alcoholic, but I am pouring out my soul before Jehovah. 16 Do not take your servant for a worthless woman, for I have been speaking until now out of my great anguish and distress.”

(1 Samuel 1:11) And she made this vow: “O Jehovah of armies, if you look upon the affliction of your servant and remember me and you do not forget your servant and give to your servant a male child, I will give him to Jehovah all the days of his life, and no razor will touch his head.”

(1 Samuel 4:17) So the bearer of the news related: “Israel has fled from the Phi-lis'tines, and there was a great defeat among the people; also your own two sons, Hoph'ni and Phin'e-has, have died, and the Ark of the true God has been captured.”

(1 Samuel 1:17-20) Then E'li answered: “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of him.” 18 To this she said: “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” And the woman went on her way and ate, and her face was no longer downcast. 19 Then they got up early in the morning and bowed before Jehovah, after which they returned to their house in Ra'mah. El-ka'nah had sexual relations with his wife Han'nah, and Jehovah

gave attention to her. 20 Within a year Han'nah became pregnant and gave birth to a son and named him Samuel, because, as she said, “it is from Jehovah that I have asked him.”

Paragraph 10

(2 Samuel 17:1-16) A·hith'o·phel then said to Ab'sa·lom: “Please let me choose 12,000 men and rise up and chase after David tonight. 2 I will come upon him when he is weary and powerless, and I will throw him into a panic; and all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike down only the king. 3 Then I will bring all the people back to you. The return of all the people depends on what happens with the man you are seeking. Then all the people will be at peace.” 4 The proposal was just right in the eyes of Ab'sa·lom and all the elders of Israel. 5 However, Ab'sa·lom said: “Please call Hu'shai the Ar'chite as well, and let us hear what he has to say.” 6 So Hu'shai came in to Ab'sa·lom. Then Ab'sa·lom said to him: “This is the advice A·hith'o·phel gave. Should we act on his advice? If not, you tell us.” 7 At this Hu'shai said to Ab'sa·lom: “The advice that A·hith'o·phel gave is not good in this instance!” 8 Hu'shai continued: “You well know that your father and his men are mighty, and they are desperate, like a bear that has lost her cubs in the field. Moreover, your father is a warrior, and he will not spend the night with the people. 9 At this very moment he is hiding in one of the caves or in some other place; and if he attacks first, those hearing of it will say, ‘The people following Ab'sa·lom have been defeated!’ 10 Even the courageous man whose heart is like that of a lion will surely melt in fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and that the men with him are courageous. 11 I give this advice: Let all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Be'er-she'ba, as many as the grains of sand by the sea, and you should lead them into the fight. 12 We will come against him wherever he is found, and we will come upon him just like the dew that falls on the ground; and not one of them will survive, not he

nor any of the men with him. 13 If he retreats into a city, all Israel will carry ropes to that city, and we will drag it down into the valley until not even a pebble is left." 14 Then Ab'sa·lom and all the men of Israel said: "The advice of Hu'shai the Ar'chite is better than the advice of A·hith'o·phel!" For Jehovah had determined to frustrate the sound advice of A·hith'o·phel, so that Jehovah could bring disaster on Ab'sa·lom. 15 Hu'shai later said to Za'dok and A·bi'a·thar the priests: "This is what A·hith'o·phel has advised Ab'sa·lom and the elders of Israel, and this is what I have advised. 16 Now quickly send word to David and warn him: 'Do not stay at the fords of the wilderness tonight, but cross over without fail, or the king and all the people with him may be wiped out.'"

**Paragraph 11**

(1 Samuel 25:2-35) omitted due to length

**Paragraph 12**

(John 15:15, 16) I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master does. But I have called you friends, because I have made known to you all the things I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you, and I appointed you to go and keep bearing fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that no matter what you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

(Mark 10:35-40) James and John, the sons of Zeb'e·dee, approached him and said to him: "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 He said to them: "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 They replied: "Grant us to sit down, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them: "You do not know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup that I am drinking or be baptized with the baptism with which I am being baptized?" 39 They said to him: "We can." At that Jesus said to them: "The cup I am drinking, you

will drink, and with the baptism with which I am being baptized, you will be baptized. 40 However, to sit down at my right hand or at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared."

(Matthew 26:56) But all of this has taken place for the writings of the prophets to be fulfilled." Then all the disciples abandoned him and fled.

(John 13:1) Now because he knew before the festival of the Passover that his hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father, Jesus, having loved his own who were in the world, loved them to the end.

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

(John 21:15-17) When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter: "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He replied to him: "Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you." He said to him: "Feed my lambs." 16 Again he said to him a second time: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied: "Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you." He said to him: "Shepherd my little sheep." 17 He said to him a third time: "Simon son of John, do you have affection for me?" Peter became grieved that he asked him the third time: "Do you have affection for me?" So he said to him: "Lord, you are aware of all things; you know that I have affection for you." Jesus said to him: "Feed my little sheep."

**Paragraph 17**

(Proverbs 18:24) There are companions ready to crush one another, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.