

Isaiah 26:3

The steadfast of mind, You (Lord),
will keep in perfect peace,
because he trusts in You.

The Steadfast Mind

Trusting in God is not just a one-part action or word. Nor is it a routine act of banking on a detached God to come through in times of need. Trusting involves maintaining a steadfast spirit that continues to believe that God, the creator, the faithful, trustworthy provider, will provide a solution regardless of current circumstances.

Often when we trust that something will come to fruition, we are thinking more about the thing itself, and less about the provider. Is it the quality we expect? Will it be delivered on the date promised? Will we meet our deadline?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines trust as *having an assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something; one in which confidence is placed*. How easy it is to switch the focus of our trust from the need itself to the LORD when we apply Webster's definition! When we put our trust in another person (other than God) or company, we are subject to the will of man, which generates doubts. But with God it is different. We still have those moments of doubt for sure, but that is where the steadfastness of spirit comes in, defined by Webster as that *firm belief, determination, or adherence* to something or someone, in this case to the expectation that God will meet the need.

The definition of trust – an assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone – draws to consider God's attributes, which in scripture, and in my life, point out His attributes of goodness, mercy, us truth, faithfulness, provision, etc. Can you identify His attributes woven throughout your life?

-- Is there a time you can identify, where God provided for you in your greatest extremity, when you recognized that only He could have met that need?

-- Is there a time when you exhibited grace towards another individual that you knew could only have come from Him given your feelings at that time?

-- Was there a time when you asked God to help you manage your emotions until you could deal with them later, and He did?

-- Was there a day when your financial needs were met with perfect timing that could only be called supernatural?

I can answer yes to each of these questions, and in moments when I really feel the wolf is at the door, I am forced to remember how He has provided in the past, and how He cannot go against his own character of truth, goodness, provision, etc. Trusting God is important, but on its own is hard work.

Maintaining a steadfast trust in God means acknowledging His unfailing nature, not comparing Him to fallen man, and letting Him have His way. I believe this is much easier than trying to shore up my confidence with my own self-talk about the problem and positive thinking; that is like trying to stop a house from sliding down the hill! It's wasted work.

The steadfast mind fixes itself firmly in place, firm in its underlying belief that God will deliver according to His will and His character. The steadfast mind understands that God's inability to deviate from His attributes is the safety net to our doubt and the link to our faith in that which is unseen.

God will keep in perfect peace those who steadfastly trust in Him, regardless of current circumstances, regardless of hardship, regardless of outcomes. The steadfast mind attaches itself to the One whose *character, ability, strength, and truth* can be relied upon.

Blessings.

- 1 Merriam-Webster Dictionary – def. Trust - <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trust>
- 2 Merriam-Webster Dictionary – def. Steadfastness - <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/steadfast>