

“So That We Would Not Trust in Ourselves”
2 Corinthians 1:9

Concepts that hinder trust in God

1. Authorized religious activities
 - a. The concept of religious authority has been used to suppress the truth.
 - 1) Matthew 21:23, Mark 11:28, Luke 20:2: The chief priests and elders challenged Jesus teaching with the concept of authorized activities.
 - 2) John 2:18: The leaders of the Jews challenged Jesus right to drive animal sellers and moneychangers out of the Temple with the concept of authority.
 - 3) Acts 26:10: Paul received authority from the Jewish leaders to arrest Christians.
 - b. Rejection of religious authority has been used to justify sin.
 - 1) 2 Peter 2:10: Some in the church despised authority
 - 2) Hebrew 13:17: Religious authorities have responsibility for our souls.
 - c. The fact that something is permitted does not make it best under the present conditions.
 - 1) Luke 9:59: Seemingly proper activities may not be best at the time.
 - 2) Matthew 19:8: Permitted activities may have been granted due to weakness, not righteousness.
 - 3) 1 Corinthians 8:13: Paul limited his own liberty for the sake of the weak.
 - d. Conclusions:
 - 1) Rejecting authorized activities is ill advised.
 - 2) Supporting banned activities is ill advised.
 - 3) Limiting ourselves to authorized activities limits our freedom
 - 4) Settling for only authorized activities sets too low a standard
2. Minimum requirements
 - a. Setting minimum standards is the product of poor hermeneutics
 - 1) Acts 2:37: “What must we do to be saved – minimum?”
 - 2) James 2:24: The definition of faith was defined by its minimums and perverted.
 - b. Satisfying the minimum does not please God
 - 1) Luke 18:23: The rich young ruler.
 - 2) Micah 6:7-8: The true goal is not so easily defined.

How do we go about trusting in God?

1. Faith is acting on the proven promises of God, not doing what we know we can do.
2. We walk by faith, not by sight. If we knew how to do it, it wouldn't be faith.
3. If we feel justified by our level of effort, we become the rich young ruler.
4. What Scriptural activities seem impossible to us?