



TRUST

**ADJUST WHO YOU TRUST**

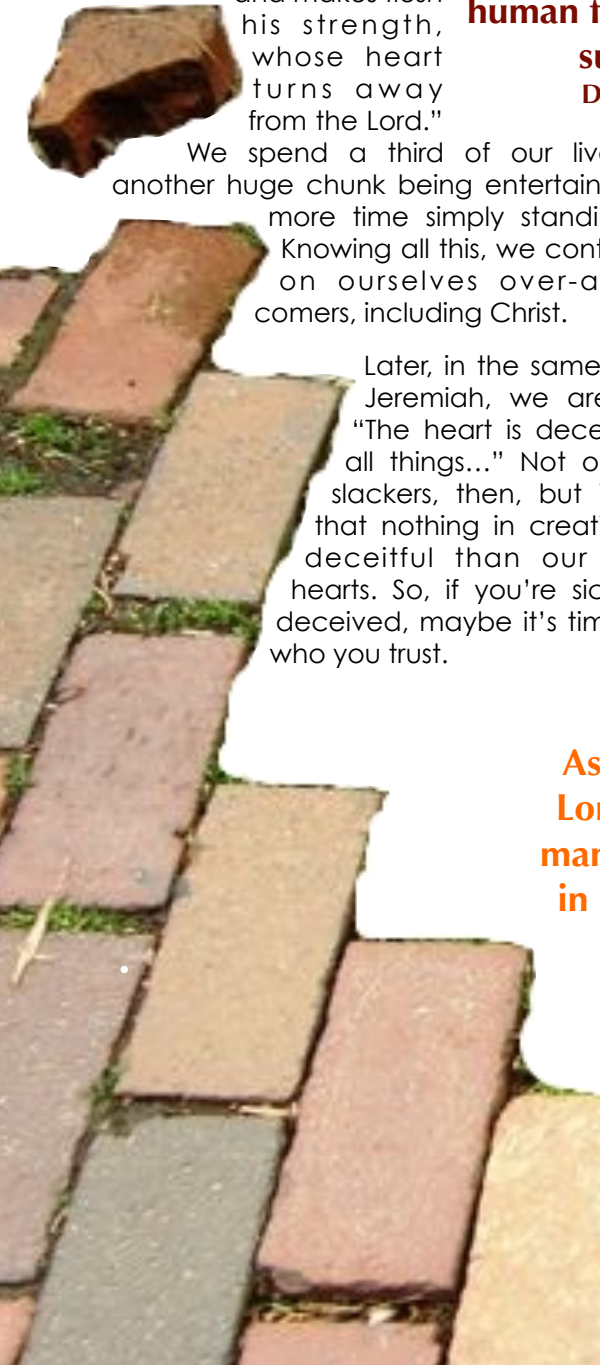
Ken

Diane Langberg, at the 2009 AACC World Conference, said, "A deceived person is one who trusts in something human for heart and soul sustenance." That's a pretty concise and unvarnished definition of a cursed person. That's right, I said cursed.

Says Jeremiah 5:17: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord."

**A deceived person is one who trusts in something human for heart and soul sustenance.**

Diane Langberg



We spend a third of our lives in bed, another huge chunk being entertained and still more time simply standing in lines. Knowing all this, we continue to rely on ourselves over-against all comers, including Christ.

Later, in the same chapter in Jeremiah, we are told that "The heart is deceitful above all things..." Not only are we slackers, then, but it turns out that nothing in creation is more deceitful than our very own hearts. So, if you're sick of being deceived, maybe it's time to adjust who you trust.

**As I've grown with the Lord, he has torn down many strongholds, places in my heart I have held back from God.**

**TEARING DOWN THE STRONGHOLDS**

Linda

The past couple of months, as we've been making our way through John, most of Per's sermons have been hitting on a core issue for me, trusting God with more and more of my life.

I grew up attending church, and that has been a blessing in my life. As a child I learned many songs in Sunday School and VBS. One that has been coming to mind this past month is "Trust & Obey." One line keeps coming to mind: "Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey." I've heard this song and been taught this concept throughout my life. Easy to remember...tough to do.

As I've grown in my relationship with the Lord, he has torn down many strongholds, places in my heart I have held back from God. I'll never forget our pastor in St. Louis warning us about our "pet" sins, those we hold close to our hearts. I have many pet sins, but most fall into the category of wanting things under my control, so that I can't get hurt. Grasping for control is really a ridiculous sin; there are many things I know I cannot control, but I try anyway, to the point of emotional and physical pain.

Through these times of pain, God has shown me the deeply hidden pet sins that I have. I didn't even know they were there; I had buried them so deeply. I've also endured suffering for his own glory, for reasons I can't see right now. How crazy is that! He has purposefully put suffering in my path. How can he be good?

God is good because he allows me to journey through suffering. And growth comes in that journey, the walking

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through...while holding Christ's hand, not in the relief at the end. I'm learning that God is present in the midst of all life's circumstances. I didn't understand that before. When I was suffering, it felt as if God was a long way off, that he was angry or had forgotten me. Instead I am aware that the God of the universe is walking

**God is good because he allows me to journey through the suffering.**

along beside me. God is showing me how to live... really live. If I really get that, where does worry fit?

Even though it's tough to do, it is true that we need

to trust and obey. I see clearly now how God uses struggles to incline me to seek him, to walk daily in his presence. And I'm learning how to reach out in dark times, to ask others to help carry the load. Is it humbling? Yes. Is it hard to feel "happy" in the midst of agony? Yes. Am I glad when the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight? Yes.

At the same time, I am learning to be glad for the process, too. I can see how God is shaping and refining me. And I love the freedom that comes when I rest in God's plan. When we were young, folks always said, "Leave your worries at the feet of Jesus." Now I know they are always at his feet, I've just got to stop trying to pick them up.



**FINANCIAL CHALLENGES THIS YEAR**

We are in the fourth year of our five year start-up plan. Our plan included raising financial support from outside donors to get our church going, so that as our congregation grew larger, less and less outside support would be needed.

- 1. In these first three years, we have been paying bills and salaries almost completely out of what these outside donors have given to Free Grace.
- 2. This spring (April) our rent will increase as per our lease agreement.
- 3. This winter we will pay heating bills for this building for the first time.

All of this means our financial needs are going to increase significantly in the coming months.

**CONTACT INFO**

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**SOME UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

more information on any event can be found on the web site or by contacting the church office

21 Oct

Serving dinner at the Root Cellar

This is a chance to meet and serve our neighbors in downtown Lewiston. See Heather for details.

05-06 Nov

Northern New England Presbytery

Missions Conference

12 Nov

Friday Night Fun

15 Nov

Women's Self-Defense Seminar

Rich Pelletier will teach a seminar covering the physical, psychological, and emotional aspects of defending yourself. Come out to learn to protect yourself - and invite your friends to come as well.

**LIVING WHAT WE BELIEVE**

When was the last time you read the words on your money, "In God we trust"? Even our money reminds us that the financial challenges we face this year are a call for us to trust in God - and not our money.

We do not want to respond to these challenges in our own strength. We want to look to God, trusting in his providential care for his church. But

this trust means both stepping back to let him work outside of us and being faithful to work for his kingdom. So what is our part?

**Regular prayer.** Pray regularly for God to provide for his church, for God to bring others to worship with us, and for others outside of Free Grace to partner with us financially.

**Giving.** Give regularly and generously to the church.

**Inviting.** Be active in inviting people to church. See the "The Selling Power of Friendship" in the September newsletter and on the website.

**Getting involved.** The church can only do what her members do. If you are not active, the church is not active.

Let us do our part to support our church, and thank God for all he is doing for his bride.