



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Trusting God: When Life Doesn't Make Sense, Pt. 1

Pastor John Riggs

Sermon Summary:

This sermon addresses the challenge of trusting God during seasons of confusion, disillusionment, and uncertainty. Pastor John emphasizes that living in deceptive last days requires believers to return to the fundamental truths about who God is—particularly His immeasurable, infinite power. Through extensive scriptural teaching and scientific illustrations about the vastness of the universe, the message demonstrates that the God who created trillions of galaxies spanning millions of light-years is the same God who dwells within believers through the Holy Spirit. Pastor John calls Christians to remember that even when circumstances make no sense, God's sovereign power is at work, Christ intercedes for believers at the Father's right hand, and the Holy Spirit prays God's will into their lives. Rather than leaning on limited human understanding, believers are encouraged to trust wholeheartedly in God's unlimited power and faithful character, knowing that nothing is too difficult for Him and no one can stand against those whom God is for.

Main Scriptures:

1. Romans 15:4 - Written for our instruction
2. Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart
3. Psalm 20:7 - Some trust in chariots and horses
4. Isaiah 26:3-4 - Perfect peace for those whose minds are stayed on God
5. Ephesians 1:16-23 - Paul's prayer for wisdom and revelation
6. Matthew 28:19 - All authority given to Christ
7. Isaiah 40:12-18 - Who has measured the waters?
8. Isaiah 40:21-26 - God sits above the circle of the earth
9. Isaiah 40:28 - The everlasting God
10. Jeremiah 32:17 - Nothing is too hard for God
11. Ephesians 3:20 - God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
12. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 - Characteristics of the last days
13. Romans 1:16 - The gospel is the power of God unto salvation
14. Romans 8:26-27 - The Spirit intercedes for us

15. Romans 8:34 - Christ intercedes at the right hand of God
16. Romans 8:31-32 - If God is for us, who can be against us?
17. Romans 8:28 - All things work together for good
18. 1 John 5:11-15 - Confidence in prayer according to His will
19. Luke 6:37 - Judge not, and you will not be judged (Christabel's favorite verse)

KEY POINTS:

- We are living in deceptive times where nothing seems to make sense, requiring us to anchor ourselves in fundamental truths about God
- Trust means placing our full weight, hope, and confidence in God with calm assurance, regardless of circumstances
- We must not lean on our own limited understanding but acknowledge and reflect on God in all situations
- God's power is immeasurable and infinite—demonstrated through the vastness of creation (2 trillion galaxies, billions of stars)
- The Western church has exchanged the power of God for programs of man, becoming void of genuine spiritual power
- Believers have three incredible advantages: direct access to the Father, the Holy Spirit interceding within us, and Christ interceding for us at God's right hand
- If God is for us, no one can ultimately be against us—nothing is too hard for God
- God is omnipotent (all-powerful), and His understanding is unsearchable
- Being in God's will doesn't exempt believers from difficult circumstances, but God works all things for good
- We need to remember who God is and who we are in Christ, especially during trials

NOTES:

Question and Answer:

How does understanding God's immeasurable power change the way you approach situations in your life that don't make sense?

Pastor John mentioned that we often put God in a box based on our limited understanding. What are some ways you may have unknowingly limited God in your thinking?

Proverbs 3:5-6 instructs us not to lean on our own understanding. Why is it so difficult to trust God wholeheartedly when we cannot see the full picture of our circumstances?

In this sermon, Pastor Riggs contrasted the power of the Tsar Bomba with God's infinite power. How does reflecting on the vastness of creation help you trust God in seasons of confusion or suffering?

Both the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ intercede for believers according to Romans 8. How should this truth impact the way you pray when you don't know what to pray for?

The Western church has exchanged the power of God for the programs of man. What are some specific ways your own church or community might be prioritizing human effort over dependence on God's power?

Joseph's story shows that being in God's will doesn't exempt us from suffering. How can we maintain faith when we experience hardship despite living obediently?

Pastor John emphasized that the church needs awakening rather than revival. What does spiritual awakening look like practically in your own life and community?

If God is truly for us and no one can ultimately be against us, why do Christians still struggle with fear, anxiety, and feelings of hopelessness?

How does remembering who God is and who you are in Christ change the way you face the deception and chaos of these last days?

Small Group Guide: Trusting God When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you witnessed something in nature (stars, mountains, ocean, etc.) that made you feel small and amazed at God's creation.

Sermon Review (5 minutes)

Main Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

Key Theme: Understanding God's immeasurable power and learning to trust Him completely, even when our circumstances don't make sense.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding Our Current Reality (15 minutes)

1. **The pastor mentioned we're living in "great days of deception" where nothing seems to make sense anymore.**
 - What are some examples from your life or the world around you where things feel confusing or deceptive?
 - How has this affected your faith or peace of mind?
2. **The sermon shared a personal story about an AI-generated band that seemed real.**
 - How do you navigate discerning truth in our current culture?
 - What safeguards do you have in place to stay grounded in truth?

Part 2: Remembering Who God Is (20 minutes)

3. **The sermon emphasized God's immeasurable power through examples from space and creation.**
 - What aspect of God's power or character stood out most to you in this message?
 - Why do you think we so easily forget how great God is?
4. **Read Isaiah 40:12-18, 21-26, 28 together.**
 - What phrases or descriptions of God impact you most?
 - How does remembering God's power change your perspective on your current struggles?
5. **The pastor said, "Have you forgotten your God? Have you forgotten who He is?"**
 - In what ways have you unconsciously "put God in a box"?
 - How does limiting God in our minds affect how we pray, serve, and live?

Part 3: Trust vs. Understanding (20 minutes)

6. **Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to "trust in the Lord" and "lean not on your own understanding."**
 - Why is it so difficult to trust God when we can't understand what's happening?
 - What's the difference between trusting God and understanding God's plan?
7. **The sermon mentioned that being in God's will doesn't mean we won't experience difficult things.**
 - How does this truth challenge common Christian thinking?
 - Can you share an example from your life or Scripture where someone was in God's will but experienced hardship? (Consider Joseph's story mentioned in the sermon)
8. **Isaiah 26:3-4 says God keeps us in "perfect peace" when our minds are "stayed on Him."**
 - What does it practically look like to keep your mind "stayed on God" during difficult seasons?
 - What distracts you most from maintaining this focus?

Part 4: The Power Available to Us (15 minutes)

9. **The sermon reminded us of three powerful truths:**
 - We have access to God the Father as His children
 - The Holy Spirit prays for us when we don't know how to pray (Romans 8:26-27)
 - Jesus intercedes for us at the Father's right hand (Romans 8:34)
10. **Which of these truths do you need to be reminded of most right now? Why?**
11. **Romans 8:31 asks: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"**
 - How should this truth affect the way you face opposition, difficulty, or uncertainty?
 - What would change in your daily life if you truly believed this?

Key Takeaways

Write these down and share which one resonates most with you:

1. Trust in God is placing your full weight on Him with calm assurance, regardless of your circumstances or feelings.
2. Our understanding is limited—we see knots and strings, but God sees the beautiful tapestry from beginning to end.
3. God's power is immeasurable—nothing is too hard for Him (Jeremiah 32:17).
4. Being in God's will doesn't exempt us from trials; even Joseph endured slavery and prison while in God's plan.

5. We must remember the fundamentals of who God is, especially when life doesn't make sense.
6. The Western church has often exchanged the power of God for the programs of man.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

Option 1: Stargazing with God

- Spend 15-30 minutes outside at night looking at the stars
- Use this time to pray and meditate on God's immeasurable power
- Journal about how this affects your view of your current struggles

Option 2: Scripture Meditation

- Choose one of these passages to memorize this week:
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Isaiah 26:3-4
 - Romans 8:31-32
 - Ephesians 3:20
- Write it on a 3x5 card and place it where you'll see it daily
- Each time you see it, pause and remember who God is

Option 3: Gratitude in the Midst

- Create a list titled "What I Know to Be True About God"
- Even if your circumstances are difficult, write down fundamental truths about God's character
- Read this list daily, especially when you feel confused or discouraged

Option 4: Prayer Shift

- When you pray this week, begin by acknowledging who God is (His power, sovereignty, faithfulness) before presenting your requests
- Practice praying "God's will be done" even when you don't understand the situation

Option 5: Encourage Someone Else

- Identify someone in your life who's going through a difficult season
- Share one truth from this sermon with them
- Pray with them, reminding them of God's immeasurable power and presence

Prayer Focus

Pray together as a group:

- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal where you've limited Him or forgotten His greatness
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for His immeasurable power and that nothing is too hard for Him
- **Intercession:** Pray for group members who are in seasons that don't make sense
- **Petition:** Ask for the spirit of wisdom to truly know and understand God's power (Ephesians 1:17-19)
- **Surrender:** Commit to trusting God even when you don't understand

Looking Ahead

- Next week's topic: Continuing the series "Trusting God When Life Doesn't Make Sense"
- Consider inviting someone who's struggling with doubt or confusion to join the group
- Remember: Ranch Camp volunteers are still needed—consider how you might serve

Closing Thought

"Nothing is too hard for my God. And even if everything in life doesn't make a whit of sense, I still put my faith and trust in the one true sovereign God because I know who He is and what He is doing and working."

Remember to follow up with group members during the week, especially those who shared about difficult circumstances. A simple text or call can be a powerful reminder that they're not alone.

NOTES:

Sermon Transcript:

Hey, guys, I want to just tell you we're going to take a short break from our study in 1 Corinthians.

I didn't realize how long we had been in 1 Corinthians, and I was told that I'd been preaching and teaching since September of last year.

So I thought, you know what, we probably need to stretch our legs a little bit and to spend a little time on a little short mini-series that I would like to title, Trusting God When Life Does Not Make Sense.

You ever been there?

You might be there right now.

What are we to do when we experience moments or even seasons in life when we struggle to make sense out of this life?

The events and circumstances that we face and experience can leave us feeling at times very confused, disillusioned, and even hopeless.

Anybody ever felt that way in your life?

Have you ever struggled with those feelings even after your faith, coming to know Jesus Christ?

Have you ever found that you've experienced a season or some things in life that have really caused you to have some of these feelings?

You may find yourself even at times asking God where he is or where are you, God?

You ever say that?

God, where are you in the midst of what I'm going through?

Yeah, I think all of us have.

Maybe it's something like this.

God, why didn't you intervene in my situation?

Your faith might even have been shaken or depending on the situation that you're in, you may have even called to question your faith.

That's normal sometimes for that to happen.

One thing to add to all of these experiences is the last days in which we're living in here.

Jesus said they would be great days of deception, and that the reality for us is, living in this time as Christians, as you look at the landscape of the world, you find yourself asking the question, what in the world is going on?

Nothing seems to make much sense anymore.

You can't trust what you hear, what you see.

In fact, to demonstrate this for you, I want to just share with you something that happened to me last week, and I'm a little embarrassed by what happened.

I've always been pretty, you know, I guess, I feel like I've had ability to discern a little bit about what's going on, but when it comes to technology, I'm a little behind the curve, okay?

And some of that is by my own choice.

But nonetheless, there was a band that came across my feed.

And it had a really strange name.

So it kind of struck my attention.

And so I went ahead and thought, well, I'm going to find out what they're actually singing about and listen to their lyrics.

Because lyrics matter a lot in music.

Well, it turned out to be that they were a Christian band.

And they had some really great music, but when I began to really look at their lyrics, I was absolutely just blown away at the theology that was in their lyrics.

And so when I'm at the gym working out, I listen to music, and I'd kind of gotten tired of listening to everything that I had been listening to, and so I began to listen to this band, and man, you talk about just rock the house.

This band was amazing.

In fact, one of our own here, Austin was in the gym one day, and I said, man, I have found a new band.

They are incredible.

Just listen to the lyrics of this music.

It's kind of like harder music, but they got banjos in it and everything.

I mean, this is just awesome.

And so I sent him the link, and he listened to it, and on the way out of the gym, he looked over at me, and he gave me a thumbs up, and he said, that's great.

You know what I mean?

Well, the next day, I find out that the band that I'm listening to is not even real.

It is actually A.I.,

And what's so weird to me is that I watch these people do a concert live with this music.

And in the background are all the people and they're just having a wonderful time at this concert.

And the musicians are playing and the lead singer is up there singing and talking to the crowd.

And you're watching all of this.

And come to find out that all of it is 100% made up.

This is how deceptive our times have become.

Blew my mind.

I sent Austin a message.

I mean, I'm like, I can't believe I did this.

I sent him a fake band.

And I'm over here bragging about how great they are.

But let me tell you something.

Their theology, guys, was something that I've never heard in any other band written by men.

Unbelievable from the Old Testament clear through the New Testament.

Parts of it are placed throughout all the music.

They're bringing in things that I'm thinking there's no, I've never heard music that had this kind of solid theology.

Tell you what, that's scary.

So what I'm saying is we're living in times where things just don't make sense, man.

They don't make sense anymore.

And so I want to just spend a little bit of time over the next few weeks helping us work through some of these things.

Like what are we supposed to do not only with the experiences of life that we may be going through right now that have kind of left you disillusioned.

It's been a, you've lost your job or something tragic has happened to someone you love.

Or we can go down the list.

The list goes on and on and you're just kind of numb and you can't believe and you just can't make sense of anything.

Well, I want to direct your attention to some passages this morning, and we're going to look at several Bible verses before we actually get into some of the application of the people in the Old Testament and other places who actually lived in times and experienced things much like we do that just didn't make sense.

And let me say this too, being a child of God does not keep us from experiencing these types of things.

In fact, when we study these people in the Old Testament and even in the New Testament, many things were happening to believers just like they were unbelievers.

And in fact, some of the things that these believers were experiencing that made absolutely no sense, they were still part of the will of God.

You're gonna see how God works in those things.

So let's begin with Romans chapter 15.

You can write these down if you wanna scribble them down on a pad.

We will provide them for you, but I do invite you to please bring your Bibles with you because we really preach and teach out of the Bible here.

And so Romans chapter 15 verse four, I know for the sake of time I'm not gonna belabor a lot of waiting in between, but I want you to see these with your eyes and be able to mark them up in your Bible if you want to.

But the scriptures are very applicable for our time.

Do you know they transcend all time?

And they're very important for our days because much has been recorded for us for our benefit so that we know how to live in this time.

In fact, Romans 15.4 says, For whatever was written in former days, speaking of the previous, like the Old Testament, all that was written throughout the Old Testament, those things that were written in former days, they were written for our instruction, the apostle Paul says.

God recorded all of those stories and the entire of the Old Testament for our benefit.

And he even left the warts and all in there.

You know what I mean?

Things that we would like to cover up and not record about the people of God.

You know, like David, a man after God's own heart, committed murder and adultery.

And you go down the list, right?

And those things we would like to just pull out of Scripture.

And if you were going to write a story, you wouldn't put them in.

But God put all these things in Scripture for our own instruction that we can learn from those things.

And so that's the significance of that, that through endurance, we have to have endurance, don't we?

Endurance is the ability to continue going on after setbacks and after difficulties.

It's the ability, like resilience, to get back up and to move forward again.

And so we need resilient faith in the days we're living in.

Also, and through the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope.

And so God has written for our instruction so that we would be encouraged to endure all of the things that we're going to endure in this lifetime.

That we would find encouragement in reading stories of other men and women of God who endured many of the same things and some far even greater in difficulty than what we will ever experience today.

And yet we learn and find and gain encouragement from their stories as we witness the faithfulness of God and their faith in God to the end.

Also, their stories bring us great hope.

And we need hope in this world, right?

Because our world is full of hopelessness.

Proverbs chapter 3, 5 through 6.

It's very fitting that Chris put this in his testimony.

He didn't know I was going to be using this verse or preaching on it.

But this is one of our primary verses today.

Proverbs chapter 3, verses 5 through 6.

It's in the Old Testament.

And this is actually a section where Solomon is writing to his son.

And he's leaving him some encouragement, but also instruction on how he is to live.

You know, like you fathers and you mothers do for your children, you instruct them.

That's what Solomon is doing here.

He's giving his son instruction on how he needs to live.

And here in Proverbs 3, 5 through 6, Solomon says to his son, and for our benefit today, trust in the Lord.

Trust in the Lord.

The Hebrew word here for trust is the word *batak*.

It means to have hope.

confidence, and security.

That's what it means here.

The word trust means these words.

It is to place one's full weight on something or someone with absolute, total, calm assurance.

Thankfully, we are not putting faith in an object.

Aren't you glad for that?

Aren't you thankful that you're not putting your faith in our government or in our politicians or in some idol, if you will, some chunk of wood or a piece of metal that's been fashioned and carved, some God to be trusted and prayed to?

Aren't you glad that that's not where you are?

No, we don't put our full hope and confidence in an inanimate object.

No, we as Christians have come to know the living God.

And our faith and our trust and this full confidence of putting our full weight, we put it all on God because of who God is.

In spite of our circumstance, in spite of how we feel, we place our full trust in God because he alone is worthy of our trust and our faith.

Trust has nothing to do with your situation, by the way.

Trust is what we put confidence in that is outside of our situation.

Psalm 20, verse 7.

I think of this verse often, especially in our modern time.

People are struggling to continue to put their faith in politics.

Even those that are outside of Christ today are struggling with what's going on in our nation.

They know everything is off the rails.

They're fighting and they're carrying on and thinking they can bring the next one in that's going to fix the problem.

But as we've learned, it doesn't matter who's in office.

The pendulum continues to go left.

And left and left and left.

It's because we're in a system that is wicked and evil and is sinful.

Because sinful men lead sinful things.

The direction that they go.

Psalm 20 verse 7 says, In other words, military might.

Some trust in horses, which is referring to the same thing, and things that have power.

A horse has a lot of power.

Some trust in chariots and horses, speaking of one's military, that they will protect and they will provide and they'll do all the things necessary.

But that's not how we Christians have come to know Christ.

We don't put our trust in those things.

They are necessary for certain aspects of our protection, but we don't put our full trust in those things because those things fail us.

We, though, trust in what?

The name of our Lord, our God.

That's what a Christian does, right?

We put our trust in the Lord.

No wonder Satan desires to shake your faith and trust in the Lord.

So we're instructed to lean also.

So it says, trust in the Lord with all of your heart.

In other words, don't have a divided heart here.

Trust in God wholeheartedly, but don't lean on your own understanding.

This word lean here literally means to rest or support one's self, to prop yourself against something.

We don't want to lean up against our own understanding is what we don't want to do.

Why?

Because our understanding is limited and our understanding is not able to see the big picture.

And our understanding becomes very skewed when we're in a very difficult season in life.

One of the things that we're going to learn about how God is operating.

God sees things above time, space, all of it.

God sees the end from the beginning.

We look at our life and we see knots and strings and we see a ball of mess.

But when we get to the end of it all, what we're gonna see, that God has been working his plan, and it's a beautiful plan that will be accomplished by God's power, might, will, and strength one day.

We are a small part in that.

You can't see the entire picture.

You only see a very limited aspect of your life.

That's all you see.

We're going to learn that about this man Joseph in the future, about how he was even in the will of God.

He didn't understand he was in the will of God.

Why would God allow him to be sold by his brothers into slavery?

I mean, you start thinking about all that Joseph endured in his life, and it didn't end there.

And yet the entire point, by the time we get to the 50th point in the chapter, we learn that he says, oh, by the way, God taught me something through this process.

What you meant for evil...

God has what?

He meant it for good.

In other words, God's not done with our story.

You have to understand that.

And even being in the center of God's will doesn't mean you won't experience challenging and difficult things in life.

Some of you have had some incredibly challenging health issues that have just come out of nowhere.

Everything is going right.

Man, you're living life.

Everything is good.

And then just wham, that quick it all just comes to a stop.

You're not out of the will of God.

But you've experienced this thing in your life.

And it can rattle your faith.

It can cause you to be disillusioned.

It can create all of these things.

But we have to remember this one thing.

We have to go back to what?

The very basics of what we know to be true.

The fundamentals.

The fundamentals are so important for us.

And so we're gonna learn more about that today here.

And so we don't want to rely on our own understanding because it's limited, guys.

That's the reality.

And so we are rather, in all our ways, to acknowledge or to know God.

That's what we want to do.

The word is yada.

It means to know, to recognize, and to reflect on God in all of our ways.

In other words, whatever circumstance that we're in, whatever trial we're in, whatever difficulty or season of not understanding what's going on, we have to go back to the essential basics of what we know to be true as Christians, even in times like this.

And what we must do is we must recognize and reflect on God in any situation that we are on.

It is to set God always before you.

That is what we're trying to accomplish.

To have our minds stayed or fixed on God because of who God is.

Isaiah 26, let me read you just a short passage here, verses 3 through 4.

Speaking of having God on our minds.

It's a challenge because that's one of the things we face when we're disillusioned or we don't understand a season in life.

Oftentimes we actually don't go back to the basics.

We actually recoil away from those things into our own self, into self-pity or into whatever it could be.

What we want to do, though, is we want to be those that go right back to the very basics, to the fundamentals of who we are in Christ Jesus.

And we keep God in the forefront of our mind in the midst of times that make absolutely no sense.

Because, guys, moving forward in this world, you ain't seen nothing yet.

It's going to be very difficult moving forward to be able to wrap your minds around things and go...

Oh, this makes absolute sense.

No, it won't make any sense unless your minds are fixed on God, unless you're saturated with his word.

Aren't you glad God already wrote about these days, what we can expect, what they're going to be like, what we should do?

Aren't you glad God already wrote that for us?

He did that for our instruction and for our benefit, by the way.

But if you don't know the word of God, you could easily be deceived or disillusioned and led astray in these days.

They're crazy times.

Isaiah 26, 3 through 4 says, you keep him, speaking of God, God keeps him or her in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him.

Because he trusts in you.

The man who trusts in the Lord, puts his full weight on the Lord, in spite of how he feels, in spite of what he sees, puts his trust in God, he will be kept in perfect peace.

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God, he is the everlasting God.

One of the things we're going to do in this short mini-series is revisit what Scripture teaches us and what God has revealed to us about who he is.

Have you forgotten your God?

I don't mean have you forgotten he exists.

Have you forgotten who he is?

I think oftentimes we can do that.

We can forget who God is.

Ephesians chapter 1 verse 16 through 23.

I'm going to read you here.

This has been fresh on my mind, obviously.

Just finished writing the study for men on Ephesians.

By the way, guys, all of you here, we're going to be having a summy, a summer summy.

Wouldn't you like to come to a summy?

No.

That sounds like one of those sweaters they have on CSV or CVS or whatever that is.

Come buy a summy.

No, we're not doing that.

No, we're going to offer a study for you men through the book of Ephesians, and that will begin, I believe, on the 24th of June.

If you want to purchase your study and take part in that, I'm inviting all of you men to come take part in that.

Why is that so significant?

Because we here desire to raise up men to be what God has called men to be.

and that we are to be leaders, and we are to protect our families, lead our wives and our children spiritually.

We are called by God, men, to be the leaders of our home, and to instruct our families, and to direct them and lead them, and we need this desperately in our time.

If you want to take part in that, you can contact Cy or the office, and we'll let you know more about it, but you guys want to come take part in that.

Six weeks in length, and it's gonna be a great study, so I just mentioned that, because here we are in Ephesians.

Here we go.

Ephesians 1, 16 through 23.

After we get through Ephesians chapter 1, which is mind-blowing, now Paul is going to...

Share a little bit more here.

He says, I do not cease to give thanks to you, speaking in his prayers to God, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that he may give you the spirit of wisdom.

We need the spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.

In other words, we need to have wisdom and understanding about who God really is.

Who he is.

Paul says, I'm praying for you because God, to describe even who he is, if we didn't have the word of God, we have creation, we can learn a lot about God in creation, yes, but God has revealed these things to us so we might know who he is.

Paul says, I'm praying that you will have the spirit of wisdom and understanding so you can know who God is.

Having our eyes, he says, and our hearts enlightened.

that you may know the hope to which he has called you.

How great is our hope in salvation in Jesus Christ.

He says from here, he moves on.

Also, he prays that they would know the riches of the glorious inheritance that are in the saints.

And what is the immeasurable?

I love that word immeasurable.

You can't measure something that is immeasurable.

And what is Paul saying is immeasurable?

Let me show you.

The greatness of God's power.

It is immeasurable.

Did you know that?

That's awesome, isn't it?

Toward us who believe according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in heavenly places far above all rule.

Where is Christ our king now?

He is seated next to the Father in heaven.

He is above all rule.

All rule.

You know what all is in the Greek?

I've taught you this.

All.

All is all.

You're a Greek speaker now.

You didn't even know it, man.

All is all.

Christ is seated above all, guys.

All authority.

Did you know he told his disciples in Matthew 28, 19, I have been given all authority.

Christ has all authority, not the dominion of darkness.

Your God has authority over all things.

Christ, your Redeemer, he has all authority.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He is above all rule, all authority, all power.

Think of that.

All dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age, the age of grace that we are in right now, that will one day come to an end, but also in the ages to come.

And he has put under his feet all things.

All things are under the feet of Christ.

And gave him his head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

We can't understand immeasurable power, can we?

It's impossible for our finite minds to grasp the power of God.

But Paul prays that God will give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that we might know God, that we might understand his power.

We can't measure it.

We'll never fully grasp it.

But Paul says, here's the deal.

It's a reality.

Now listen, the most powerful weapon on earth, here we go, now we're going to get into the physical realm here of what we're looking at.

The most powerful weapons on earth are what?

Nuclear weapons, at least that we know of, right?

The most powerful nuclear weapon that has ever been tested to date was tested by the nation of Russia.

In fact, it was called the Tsar Bomba.

That was the name of the bomb.

It is a thermonuclear bomb that was tested by the Russians in 1961.

The Tsar Bomba yielded over 50 megatons of TNT.

Now, you hear that and you read that and go, oh, that sounds pretty cool.

Oh, no, you wait till you hear what that really is.

In this one bomb, it had what?

It had...

50 megatons of TNT explosives.

Now to put that into perspective, one megaton, this one here had 50 megatons.

Just to give you an idea, one megaton here is equal to one million tons of TNT.

That's one.

One megaton is one million tons of TNT and this bomb was 50 megatons.

The bomb is comparable to 50 million tons of explosives.

When the Russians detonated this bomb, the shock waves circled the earth three times.

On the surface of the earth, it was measured, and also in the atmosphere.

Just the explosion that this bomb put off when it was detonated.

The cap of the mushroom cloud rose over 40 miles into the atmosphere.

40 miles.

Is that not incredible?

It peaked well into the mesosphere.

The base of the mushroom sprawled 25 miles wide.

And if you think about this, man has made a bomb that is pretty powerful.

But guys, man's best attempt cannot even compare to the immeasurable power of our God.

In fact, this Tsar Bomba would be like a lady finger compared to even a partial example of the power of our God.

Do you all ever play with lady fingers when you were a kid?

They actually, you could hold them with your fingers and let them go off in your hand.

Did you know that?

Yes, it stung a little bit, but hey, no big deal.

I don't know why we said that, but nonetheless, I was an idiot as a kid.

I like to blow things up.

What can I say?

Anyway, moving right along.

This is a demonstration of how powerful our God is.

We need to be reminded of who God is and how powerful our God is.

And that's why Paul was praying for these Ephesians to know the immeasurable power and the greatness of God.

That's what Paul was praying, that his power is without limit.

We use the word to describe this as an attribute of God.

We speak of it as the word omnipotent.

Omnipotent means that God is all-powerful.

He is all-powerful.

God's power cannot be measured because there is no end to his power.

Put that in your hat.

Think on that for a while.

That is the God who has adopted you as sons and daughters of
of Himself through faith in Jesus Christ.

That is the God whom you serve, the God in whom lives in you by His Spirit, the God who will raise you one day from the dead, the God that will raise us up when the rapture comes, the God that has all this power, who will rule and reign over all things.

This is the God who is your God.

That is what we need to keep in our mind at all times.

Amen?

Yes.

Isaiah chapter 40, 12 through 18, if you would turn there, we're going to look at a few passages here this morning, just speaking a little bit about God's power.

Hopefully next week we might even look at a few passages in Job.

If you really want to be blessed and think about the power of God, all you have to do is read Job's account when God asked Job a question, and Job is left speechless to respond to the absolute power of God.

But here's Isaiah chapter 40.

I'll wait for you to get there.

It's great to hear you all turning your pages of your Bible.

It's a good question posed here.

We're going to read verses 12 through 18 in chapter 40.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of God's hand?

And who has marked off the heavens with a span?

Enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance.

Who has measured the spirit of the Lord or what man shows him his counsel?

Who did he consult and who made him understand?

Who taught God the path of justice and taught God knowledge and showed him the way of understanding?

No one obviously because he's eternal.

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket and are accounted as the dust on the scales.

Behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for burnt offerings.

All the nations are as nothing before him.

They are accounted to him as less than nothing and emptiness.

To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

Isn't that incredible?

Now Isaiah, we're going to continue in verses 21 through 26.

Do you not know?

Do you not hear?

Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to dwell in, who brings princes to nothing and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown.

Verse 2.

Read verse 28 now of the same chapter.

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The Lord, He is everlasting.

He is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint.

He does not grow weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

These are great passages for you to read and to have in the forefront of your mind when you go through times where things don't make any sense.

You know that your God has everything under his sovereign control.

You know he does because of who he is.

Don't forget who you belong to.

Don't forget the God, this God, who redeemed you, who brought you to life, who made you his own.

Don't forget who you are in God, in Christ Jesus.

Don't forget it.

Now, Jeremiah 32, 17, just a verse I'd like to read to you also.

Oh, Lord God, it is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm.

Nothing is too hard for you.

You know what you need to write down on a 3x5 card and keep in your vehicle or in your Bible or somewhere on your fridge?

Nothing is too hard for my God.

Nothing.

Nothing means nothing.

Nothing.

We can grasp even a small tidbit of who God is.

It will change your life.

And it will change you in your situation, even if your situation does not change.

Bring God into your situation.

When was the last time you went out at night and you looked up at the stars?

It's getting less and less for us because we're spending a lot of time looking down.

We spend a lot of time looking down.

In fact, where I live, I live about 30 miles north of here, north and to the east.

There's still so much of a glow from the city lights that I don't see the stars that great even where I'm at.

But when you go to Colorado and you get in the back country and you're at 12,000 feet, the stars look like they're nearly resting on your tent.

And there are billions and billions of stars.

The God who created all these, as we learned here in Isaiah chapter 40, has called each of these by name.

Created every one of them.

We see in this his infinite power.

That's what we see.

His infinite power.

Unfortunately, more and more people live in cities with so much light pollution, they never get to see what God has created.

They only get to see and walk around in what man can do.

Our God has infinite power.

Our galaxy.

This is from NASA.

This is what they wrote.

Comes out of one of their magazines and it's called Our Milky Way Galaxy.

How big is space?

It's ironic to me that they still have not got this figured out.

But here's the thing that they have discovered.

Let me show you what man has discovered by looking up and seeing what God has created.

Let me show you.

NASA puts this, this is what they said.

Quote, our galaxy is a gravitationally bound collection of stars swirling in a spiral through space.

Based on the deepest images obtained thus far,

It's one of about two trillion galaxies.

Our Milky Way galaxy, according to NASA, from what they have seen by looking far into space with their great big eyeball, says that we are one of two trillion galaxies.

Think about this.

Two trillion in the observable universe.

Groups of them are bound into clusters of galaxies.

And these into super clusters.

And the super clusters are arranged in immense sheets that stretch across our universe.

They are interspersed with dark voids leading to whole kinds of spider web structures.

Our galaxy, probably, this is our galaxy, one of two trillion galaxies.

Our galaxy, the one that God makes this universe like a tent that he can sleep inside of.

The God that created every galaxy that is here.

All two trillion galaxies, if this is true, God created every one of them.

You think about the power of your God, Christian.

This is our God.

This is my God.

Nothing is too hard for my God.

We are one of two trillion of these galaxies.

They are interspersed all throughout our galaxy, all through space.

Our galaxy probably contains, this is our galaxy, the Milky Way, 100 to 400 billion stars in our galaxy.

Think of that.

Think of that.

And my God created everyone, calls them by name.

This is amazing.

And also in our galaxy, not only are there 100 to 400 billion stars, but our galaxy is about 100,000 light years across it.

Now I'm going to blow your mind.

Are you ready?

If I haven't already blown your mind, this is going to do it.

Listen to this.

Our galaxy, one of two trillion galaxies that they think exists that they've been able to see.

Our galaxy, which is made up of between 100 to 400 billion stars, our galaxy is 100,000 light years across our galaxy.

Now let me put this into our perspective.

This sounds really huge, and it is at least until we start comparing it to other galaxies.

Our neighboring galaxy, which is the Andromeda galaxy, here's the size of it.

It is 220,000 light years across our neighboring galaxy.

Ours is 100,000 light years.

The next one to us is 220,000 light years across it.

And another galaxy that they called IC 1101, this galaxy.

Now, you ready?

Hold on to your hair.

Your hats are fixing to blow off your head.

Are you ready?

That galaxy, the one next, this galaxy here that they're speaking of, that is called IC 1101.

It spans as much as 4 million light years across that galaxy.

I'm speechless.

Think about this.

Now, I'm going to put this power in perspective for us.

Just a small bit.

To put this infinite power of God, who created all these galaxies, some of them over 400,000 light years across, excuse me, 4 million light years across, to put it in perspective, one light year is the speed at which light travels, obviously, in one year.

Most of you know this from school.

A light year is what?

Light travels at 186,000 miles, not per year, but per second.

Per second.

That's how fast light travels.

If you add up all the seconds in one year and you multiply them by the speed of light, here's what you get for one light year.

The distance, 5.8 trillion miles.

Let me ask you something.

Is there a box around here?

Do you know what most of us have done with God?

We've created a box.

Some of us have bigger boxes, but some of us have smaller boxes.

Some of us have really, really, really little boxes.

And what we've done is we've really been idolatrous because we've created a God who would fit in the box that we're comfortable with understanding.

Have you placed God in a box by chance?

In your own mind?

I mean, I'm speaking metaphorically here.

I mean, this is not something we can literally do, but I'm talking in your own understanding or love for God, or have you placed him in some sort of box?

Like, well, my God's this big.

No, there's no box that contains your God.

There's not even this whole universe that contains God.

In fact, these trillions of universes cannot contain your God.

Think about this.

This is who our God is, folks.

So, let me continue with this so you can see it.

So 5.8 trillion miles light travels in one year.

Our galaxy is 100,000 light years across.

And there are 2 trillion observable galaxies.

Are you starting to begin to understand the immeasurable power and greatness of our God?

I've been thinking of a verse, my own verse for the entire year.

And it is Ephesians 3, 20.

Can you imagine one day to actually be in the presence of this God?

I mean, we're in His presence now, but to be in the throne room of God?

Some of you have family members who are already in the throne room of God.

We can't even comprehend all that God has prepared for us.

What are those people enjoying?

What must it be like to be in the presence of this God?

What is it like to be in the presence of Christ, our Redeemer, who is God, who has always been with God from the foundation of the world?

What is it like to be in the splendor and the glory and the majesty of our King?

What must it be like?

I'm telling you, we don't have a lot of things describing to us what heaven's like.

I'll tell you why.

Because if we ever knew even an inkling of the greatness of what is coming, we wouldn't want to be here for one more second, no matter how much you love this world.

What's coming, folks, we can't even comprehend.

Isn't that awesome?

I apologize if you knew, and I do get a little excited at times, but man, we're talking about the greatness of God here.

I've seen people get more excited than this watching dudes pass a pigskin down a 100-yard field.

But when we talk about God, eh, I don't want to talk about him.

I'm certainly not going to get excited about who he is.

Are you kidding me?

I can't hardly contain myself.

I want to jump off this.

I mean, I'm telling you, this ought to just so encourage you, Christian.

Some of you are going, boy, I don't know if I can believe all that.

That's why Paul prays for this.

Go outside tonight, I dare any of you, and just look up at the stars.

You want to know how big your God is?

That doesn't even explain or describe how great our God is.

Ephesians 3.20 says, now to him, speaking of God who is able...

To do far more abundantly than all that we could ask or think according to the power at work within us.

I learned this from the NIV.

Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or imagine.

These words that he uses, exceedingly, abundantly, above, these are all words that are just so far out there.

This is talking about what our God can do.

And this is the power that is at work in those who are in Christ Jesus.

How limited we have made this to be.

We limit so much what God can do.

Oh my word.

Can I pose you a question here?

Do we really believe this verse to be true?

Now I have to admit to you that I've been convicted while writing this study.

This sermon here has been convicting just writing this part because I realize that I can't even grasp how great God is and I've limited in my own mind what God really can do.

It's not true.

Do I live like I believe that my God's power is immeasurable?

able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that I could ask or even think.

Paul says that it's according to the power that is at work within us.

That's speaking of the Spirit of God living in us.

God the Spirit lives inside every single believer.

Now we know why Paul prayed this for the believers here to understand this power.

It's because it's difficult for us to grasp this even a little bit.

But if we do, it will transform our lives.

How we think will affect how we live.

It affects how we pray.

It affects how we live.

It affects how we love.

It affects how we serve.

It affects how we work.

It affects how we share this gospel with others.

I wonder how many of us have unknowingly, as I mentioned to you, put God into a box.

The Western church, guys, has exchanged the power of God for the programs of man.

In other words, it's what we can do.

What we need is what God can do.

I want to encourage our church here.

We have a whole entire community that needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have God and this infinite power through the Spirit living in us.

And the gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe.

Man, we have been given such an incredible work to do here.

The Western church, as I mentioned, has exchanged the power of God for programs of man.

And that's why they've become so incorporated.

And that's why they're structured corporately.

And that's why it becomes big business today.

It's because we're exchanging the programs of men for the power of God as if we really think we're doing something.

But you can't do one act of the kingdom work without the power of God.

It cannot happen.

Because the gospel is the power.

No one can be saved without the power of God.

It can't happen.

We have traded the powerful presence of God for lights, for smoke, for performance, claiming that all this is God's activity moving in our midst.

Something big is missing, though, in the church.

Something big, unfortunately, is even missing in our own church.

And I see it, and I'm part of the problem.

It's that we don't know how great our God is.

We've forgotten our God.

We need to get back to remembering who our God is, trusting and believing our God in order that we might fulfill what God has given for us to do.

Something is definitely missing.

Much of the church in the West is void of God's power.

Lots of men doing activity.

Lots of people coming and attending.

But that doesn't mean the power of God is even present.

For if God's power was present, it would blow our minds.

It would cause us to repent immediately of our sin.

We'd be drawn to Christ.

We would repent of sin.

We would come before Him and beg God to fill us with His power.

The church does not need revival in America.

The church needs awakened in America.

We're past reviving.

It's so dead it needs an awakening.

It's what it needs.

Pulpits no longer preach boldly or biblically.

It's all being replaced with charismatic entertainers broke up and segmented things like here's an entertainment section here.

Here's an advertisement for you here.

Here's 10 or 15 minutes of preaching and using one verse that absolutely makes no sense.

Because people want entertainment today.

What do you think God thinks of our churches?

Oh my goodness.

It's been replaced with bold biblical preaching.

Offering entertainers or gifted speakers who are just offering self-help and psychological sermonettes everywhere.

The body of Christ has been replaced by non-profit business and sell products and programs to consumers today.

The crowd's flock to Christ when he offered them free meals.

Do you know the stories?

They followed Christ.

They were searching him out, man.

When he was providing free meals for them, I'm talking doing miraculous signs and turning a few fish and a few loaves of bread, feeding 15,000 men in one setting.

I mean, these people are like, dude, I don't have another day to miss a meal.

I'm following that guy.

But they all left.

The moment that Jesus began to teach and preach the hard truths.

Why?

Because that's not the Jesus they were interested in.

That's not him.

They didn't want to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ.

They wanted to eat the fish and eat the bread that he provided.

Big difference.

2 Timothy 3, 1 through 5.

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of great difficulty.

people will be lovers of self.

They'll be lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving, good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness but denying the power and avoid such these people.

This is speaking of what the last day church is going to look like in many ways.

As powerful as the Tsar Bomba is, it can't compare to the powerful weapons that we have been given in Christ Jesus.

Think about the power of the word of God.

Think about the power of prayer.

Romans 11, 14.

I'm almost finished today, so I know we can get out of here for too late.

Romans 11, 14 through 15 says, Isn't that awesome?

I know you might be in a season right now that you don't understand.

And many things around you right now don't make much sense.

But I want to bring you back to help you remember how great our God is.

That we belong to.

We are his children.

It's incredible.

Romans 8, 26 through 27.

And in the same way, the Spirit also helps us in our weakness.

For we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words, and he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Here's something else to remember.

Even when life doesn't make sense, the Holy Spirit of God who lives in you

he is praying the will of God to be done in your life isn't that incredible he is did you know that Christ our redeemer who is at the Father's right hand is making intercession for you did you know that Romans 8:34 says who is the one who condemns Christ Jesus is he who died

Yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who intercedes for us.

Think about this just for a moment.

We have access to the Father as sons and daughters of the living God.

Think of that, through faith in Christ.

The Holy Spirit who indwells us, this limitless, powerful God.

This Spirit of God dwells inside every single believer.

And the Holy Spirit is praying for us when we don't even know how we're supposed to pray.

You ever been there in a season of your life?

God, I don't even know where to start and pray for this.

Well, here's the good news.

God the Spirit is praying the will of God to be done in your life.

And then Jesus Christ, our Redeemer...

who gave his life for us so we could be reconciled to God.

He was raised from the dead gloriously with power.

He has ascended to the Father.

He is at the right hand of God.

And what is he doing for you and I?

You've got to let this sink in a little bit.

He is interceding to the Father on your behalf.

You've got to let these things sink in.

These are truths.

I'm telling you, you're going to walk out here stumbling.

You're just like, my mind is shot.

Wives, if you're trying to talk to your husbands at lunch, forget it.

We've just overloaded here.

This is true.

Think about it.

Whatever your situation is, this is the reality for everyone who's in Jesus Christ.

It's amazing, is it not?

Romans 8, 31 through 32.

We know this one well.

And the reason we can say this to be true is because of what we've already learned.

We have access to the Father.

God the Father.

unlimited power just looking at the universe and learning those few details mind-blowing we in Christ Jesus by faith we have been adopted as a son or daughter of the Lord of the Lord God we have access now to the Father think about this and we come and we pray and we ask but when we don't know what to pray for we have the Spirit of God who lives in us that is praying God's will be done for us in our life

And to top it all off, Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is God, who created everything according to the will of the Father, He is at the right hand of the Father, who is above all power, all authority, all rule, all dominion.

Your Savior intercedes for you on behalf of you to the Father.

This is why we come to Romans chapter 8, and we read Romans 8, 28, and we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

Christian, wow, is this not the greatest thing you've ever heard?

This is the reality of who we are in Christ Jesus.

This is who we are.

Romans 8, 31 through 32 says, what shall we say then to all this?

Paul says, if God is for us, who can be ultimately against us?

Let that sink in.

Who can be against you?

No weapon formed against you shall prosper.

Why?

Because you belong to God.

You have no one to condemn you.

Why?

Because Christ has redeemed you by his blood.

He is at the Father.

This is so incredible, but this is the reality of where we are.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us, how shall he not with Christ also freely give us all things?

Everything that we need.

I'm going to wrap up with this one.

1 John 5, 11-15.

And this is the record.

That God hath given us eternal life.

And this life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son has life.

And he that has not the Son of God does not have life.

These things I have written unto you that...

Believe on the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.

And this is the confidence that we have in Him.

That if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask...

We know that we have the petitions that we have desired.

And this is the confidence that we have as those who are children of God because of all that is true.

Christian, as you get ready to leave here today, I wanted to just remind you or bring you to a better understanding who it is you belong to.

This world is going to get crazy.

But listen, nothing is too great for my God.

And you may go through some very difficult things in life.

But nothing is too great for my God.

That's why scripture says no one can pluck you out of his hand.

Who has the power to pluck you from the hand of God who redeemed you by faith in Christ?

I can tell you the answer.

No one can.

We don't have anything to really worry about, do we?

Because nothing is impossible for my God because of who I am in Christ Jesus.

And even if everything in life doesn't make a whit of sense, I still put my faith and trust in the one true sovereign God because I know who he is and what he is doing and working.

He's working his plan and I can trust it fully to the end.

That is the truth.

I hope that this will bring encouragement to you today.

If you're new here for the first time and you say, man, that guy gets excited.

Listen, there's nothing more exciting to me than Christ.

Nothing.

Nothing at all.

Well, let's close in prayer.

I hope this was a blessing to you this morning.

Think on some of these things throughout the day.

I know they're too great for us to even comprehend, but I pray like Paul that we would have the ability to have the wisdom of God to understand how great is the miserable power of our God.

How great is the hope that we have in Christ.

How great is the inheritance in the saints.

How great all of this is.

Pray that God would give us the ability to understand that.

Why?

So that when we leave this place and go out into a world that doesn't know Jesus, we're going to stand out like the stars in the darkest galaxy that there ever was, shining forth the light of Christ in this world.

Why?

Because if God is for me, who in the world can be against me?

And because his gospel is the gospel that saves, that has power to give life to men who are dead.

Amen?

Let's pray.

Father God, we love you.

Lord, I thank you so much for your word.

Lord, I pray that you would help us, Lord, even in our finite understanding, Lord, like myself, to be able to begin to grasp the reality of this truth.

And because this is true, it changes, Lord, not maybe in my circumstance, but it changes absolutely everything about me in the middle of a circumstance.

God, no matter where your people are this morning, and God, you know exactly where they are.

You know where they're struggling.

Some of them here might be thinking this last week, God, where are you?

I'm in a desert right now.

Lord, I need your presence, but I don't feel your presence.

God, why aren't you intervening in my difficult situation?

God, I don't understand.

What in the world's going on?

Lord, I pray, God, that this message today, the word that has been preached, the truth of Scripture,

God would go deep into their hearts and minds today.

And that, Father, they would find life in the words of Christ today.

That, Lord, you would bring them great hope in their circumstance because you alone are God.

And, Father, we want to be those who praise you because you are worthy of praise.

Father, I pray that you would help us to go out into this world that needs Jesus, that is without hope, Lord.

This world that is living in a time that is full of chaos and uncertainty and all the things going on in the world, Lord, we don't have to worry about those things because we know who we belong to, and God, we know, even in our limited understanding, how great our God is and that you are working everything according to your perfect

[illegible]