

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Trust Is Earned

(Jerry Fite)

**T**he words, faithful, industrious, wise, and kind blend together to form the beauty of the wife and mother in Proverbs 31. Her praiseworthy character creates something else in the heart of her husband: “*The heart of her husband trusteth in her*” (Proverbs 31:11). Her faithfulness to him over time is emphasized: “*She doeth him good and not evil all the days of her life*” (Proverbs 31:12).

She does not do him evil **and** good, but good and **not** evil. She does not do him only good just **some of the time**, but she does him good **all the days** of her life. Continuing to do good day in and day out creates trust in the heart of her husband. He “trusts” in her because she is “trustworthy”. She has earned his trust.

God calls us to trust Him, but that is not without evidence of this trustworthiness. God claims He will “*not fail*” us nor will He in “*any wise forsake*” us (Hebrews 13:5). Christ faithfully provided strength for Paul throughout varied circumstances of his life (Philippians 4:13).

Third century Polycarp faced the Roman Empire with the resolve to die for the Lord instead of renouncing Christ. Before the proconsul he said, “*For eighty-six years I have served Him and he never did me any injury: how than can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?*” God’s faithfulness throughout a life time gave Polycarp strength at a critical time to rely upon yet another promise of the Lord: “*...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10).

A man and a woman are attracted to one another and they then commit to one another as husband and wife. Their mutual love is like God’s love; it is unconditional love. Seeking the well-being of one’s mate continues regardless of what that mate does.

Love is unconditional, but trust is earned. The commitment of keeping oneself only to one’s husband or wife in sexual purity is carried out day by day and year by year. The commitment of sharing one’s life together is ful-

filled in communicating as to what has happened during the day, how one feels about things, even to how much money was spent. This sharing continues day by day and year by year. Trust has been seamlessly sewn into the loving commitment of marriage. Trust has been earned.

Sadly, marriages are ruined because of sexual and financial unfaithfulness. When this trust is broken it is difficult to restore needed trust. But is it impossible?

Repentance and forgiveness, both aspects of love toward God and one another, is an essential beginning healing place (2 Corinthians 2:7-8). But trust must now be rebuilt. “I will check in with you throughout the day giving you my whereabouts, and will not mind if you ask me where I am at any time.” “Here are the credit cards, and I will come to you first with my purchasing desires.” “This commitment to you will continue until you can trust in me again.”

Keep trust alive!