

## talk | part 2

- ◆ How do these words of King Solomon reflect our **BE CONFIDENT** line of the Serenity Prayer?

## pray

- ◆ Thank God for the people in our lives who have reflected Jesus to us and encouraged us to trust God more
- ◆ Ask God to help us mature in the full fruit of the Spirit (see memory verse below) giving us stories and testimonies that will help others trust Him more
- ◆ Pray together the Serenity Prayer

### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

*"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."*

*Galations 5:22-23 (NRSV)*

## Daily Bible verses

1. **Jeremiah 17:6-8**
2. **Romans 8:28**
3. **Ephesians 3:14-19**
4. **Hebrews 4:14-16**
5. **Psalm 23**
6. **1 John 4:13-18**
7. **Ecclesiastes 3:11-13**

With permission and in partnership, St. Thomas Lutheran Church has adapted this study guide from Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church's (Clarkston, MI) series: 40 days of Courageous Prayer. It was inspired by Trevor Hudson's book, [The Serenity Prayer: A simple Prayer to Enrich Your Life](#), Rick Warren's 40DAYS campaigns, and Rich Milheim's [FAITHS](#)



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*real people.  
real life.  
real faith.*

# SERENITY

## PRAYER OF HOPE

be Calm  
be Bold  
be Present  
be Ready  
be Confident

# WEEK 5: be Confident

# be Confident | trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will;

## share | part 1

Last week

**BE READY | Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it**

- ◆ What were some of your experiences last week praying this part of the prayer?
- ◆ In considering the hardships or storms in your life that have passed, what do you still need to do in order to **BE READY** to help someone else in the midst of a similar storm so that God may redeem your hurt?

## read | part 1

This week,

**BE CONFIDENT | Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will**

The Bible is filled with passages that call us to enter into a greater relationship of trust with God. **"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,"** Jeremiah declares. **"In God I trust and am not afraid,"** proclaims the Psalmist. **"He cares for those who trust in Him,"** Nahum promises. **"Trust in God, trust also in me,"** Jesus himself says to us. Yet sometimes such trust just doesn't seem within our grasp.

- ◆ When in your life have you had real difficulty trusting God?
- ◆ How have your past experiences with God influenced your ability to trust that "He will make all things right"?
- ◆ How would you describe your present level of trust and faith in God?

## talk | part 1

It's hard to be confident when trust is lacking, but learning to trust God is possible, step by step, one day at a time.

First, determine if you have any perceptions about God's character that are false. Jesus' words and example will always be our primary source of information about who God is, and is not. Is there a part of you that believes...

- God causes evil things to happen in the world?
- God punishes you by making bad things happen in your life?
- God loves you less when you do the wrong things?

It would be very difficult to trust such a god. However, Jesus assures us that God is good, loving and competent—always. He is 100% trustworthy.

- ◆ What false perceptions of God have you had in your life? How did they affect your ability to trust Him?

As you trust God, you begin to learn what God is really like (Jesus). In the Church worship experiences, making friends, and hearing real life accounts of God's power and faithfulness can fan into flames even the tiniest ember of faith.

- ◆ Who's story of faith has fanned into flames the embers of your faith?

When you submit to Christian faith practices (prayer, worship, serving others, Bible study, giving) you put into action whatever faith you do have and grow in relationship with both God and his people. Over time, you see your experiences building on one another - perhaps tying pieces of your life together in ways that enable you to trust God more as you witness his power and presence in your life.

- ◆ How have you witnessed the Holy Spirit tying pieces of your life together? Has this enabled you to trust God more?

## share | part 2

**BE CONFIDENT | Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will**

- ◆ How do you determine what is, and is not, God's will?

You can take concrete steps to equip yourself to recognize and achieve God's will in your life. Discovering, developing, and deploying your spiritual gifts can be a huge part of this process. Studying God's Word and making it a top priority to become an ever more loving person is crucial. In John 3:30 (NIV), John the Baptist says, **"He (Jesus) must become greater; I must become less."** God's will always points us toward becoming more like Christ—and that is, always, more loving.

- ◆ Is it possible for God's will in your life to be more than one thing? What kinds of things are up for grabs? What are the non-negotiables?
- ◆ How willing are you to ask God to use you to accomplish his will in the world—physically, emotionally, spiritually? What holds you back?

## read | part 2

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV translation printed)

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."** - King Solomon