
June 14, 2017

Trust in the Lord with all you heart and do not rely on your own insight.
Proverbs 3:5

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me.
John 14:1

Dear Mennonite Church Saskatchewan,

When all three of my boys were beginning to stand on their own and show some interest in taking their first steps, I played the following game with them: I would pick them up, sit on the ground, stretch my legs out wide, stand them up between my knees and let them go, saying, “walk to daddy.” At first, they were hesitant. Then I would put out one hand and they would grab it, take a few steps and tumble into my arms full of tickles and laughter. We would do this over and over until they would take a step without me holding their hand. As they became more confident, I would put them a little further than my knees, slowly moving them to the distance of my feet. These were certainly enjoyable times. And as I reflect upon Isaiah’s, Elliott’s and Bennett’s first steps, trust was vital to the whole activity.

When we think about the trust of a child, we often call it “blind” trust; they trust simply because they do. I’m not sure if that is entirely accurate. This playful activity worked not because of blind trust, but because of relational trust. They trusted me because of our relationship. They trusted because I was near. And as a result, they were able to take their first steps. I believe this is also true in our relationship with God and one with another.

In his book, *The Sin of Certainty; Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our “Correct” Beliefs*, Peter Enns suggests that when Jesus says to his disciples, “do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me,” he was not first and foremost seeking out sound, theological doctrine. Instead, Jesus was saying to his disciples, “trust me”^[1], the days ahead will be confusing and won’t make sense. Jesus just told them he would be killed, betrayed and denied... and yet somehow, in these events God’s redemptive work would still be revealed. And the night before this all happens, Jesus is asking them to trust him. Again, this is not blind trust, but relational trust; trust born of time spent together in prayer, fellowship and ministry.

As we consider the changes that are taking place in both society and the church, changes that can be overwhelming and confusing, we are being invited once again to trust in God. This is not blind trust, but relational trust – trust that is developed as we spend time together in prayer, fellowship and ministry. Even though we don’t fully understand the changes to come, we can trust that God’s redemption will be made known.

Yours in Christ,

Ryan Siemens

¹ The Greek word πιστός (pis-tos’) can be translated as “trustworthy, faithful, believing”.