



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

UNSHAKEABLE

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. Psalm 125:1



UNSHAKEABLE

Part 1: Can I Trust God?

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.”

Psalm 125:1

Can I **TRUST** God? Is He _____ of trust?

Can I trust God? Am I _____ to trust?

WHAT DOES “TRUSTING GOD” LOOK LIKE?

see John 4:46-53

LEVEL 1: HOPE

“When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.” John 4:47

LACK OF FAITH IN _____

LEVEL 2: OBEDIENCE

“Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.” John 4:50

FAITH IN HIS _____

LEVEL 3: TRUST

“Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.”

John 4:52-53

FAITH IN HIS _____

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1:25

TRUST IN THE _____ , NOT THE _____ .

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

**“NOW HE DID NOT DO MANY MIGHTY WORKS
THERE BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.”
MATTHEW 13:58**



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Part 2: The Sovereignty of God

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125:1

**At _____ times and in _____ circumstances,
my life is _____ in the Hand of God.**

Pantocrator = “controller of all”

“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.” *Isaiah 40:22*

“I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.” *Isaiah 45:7*

“Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed?” *Lamentations 3:37-38*

GOD IS IN CONTROL WHEN...

... _____ **ARE BAD (Joseph)**

“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” *Genesis 50:20*

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.” *Psalms 27:1-2*

... _____ **ARE EVIL [3 holy youth]**

“But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace to be with Azariah and his companions, and drove the fiery flame out of the furnace, and made the inside of the furnace as though a moist wind were whistling through it. The fire did not touch them at all and caused them no pain or distress.” *Prayer of Azariah 1:26-27*

“Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One... The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath.” *Psalms 2:1-5*

... _____ **IS LOST [Susanna]**

“But Susanna cried aloud: “O eternal God, you know what is hidden and are aware of all things before they come to be... The Lord heard her prayer. As she was being led to execution, God stirred up the holy spirit of a young boy named Daniel and he cried aloud: “I am innocent of this woman’s blood.” *Daniel 13:42-46*

**TRUSTING GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY
MEANS SEEING _____
IN EVERYTHING THAT COMES MY WAY.**

“Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with the peace of soul and with the firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by You.”

Prayer of St. Philaret



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Part 3: Goodness of God

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125:1

“The LORD is _____ to all.” Psalm 145:9

WHAT IS “GOOD”?

Our definition:

subjective, self-_____, short-_____

“Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.” Mark 10:18

Absolute good:

God is always working for my _____
and His _____.

“...grant us our Christian perfection that would be pleasing unto You...”

Litany of the Departed

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” 1 Peter 5:10

Trusting God's goodness =

_____ accept and _____ whatever God sends

"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food..." *Genesis 3:4-6*

"You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips." *Job 2:10*

**Trust in the _____ ,
despite what you see in the _____ .**

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" *Psalms 34:8*



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Part 4: Fatherhood of God

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125:1

**“In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven...” Matthew 6:9**

**Earthly fathers: unpleaseable and _____,
unstable and _____**

Heavenly Father: CARING and _____

“But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” *Mark 4:38*

“casting ALL your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” *1 Peter 5:7*

Luke 19:1-6

“Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he (Zacchaeus) ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He (Jesus) was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.”

EVEN WHEN WE'RE FAR, GOD IS STILL _____.

“Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” *Luke 12:6-7*

“The LORD is near to all who call upon Him” *Psalm 145:18*

“You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?”
Psalm 56:8

“But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.” Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.”
Isaiah 49:14-16

**My job: _____ to God,
trusting that He is already near to me.**

**“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed
on us, that we should be called children of God!”
1 John 3:1**



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Part 5: Justice of God

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125:1

**Where does _____ idea of
_____ come from?**

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust...”

- C.S. Lewis

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? **Surely you know!** Or who stretched the line upon it?”

Job 38:1-5

**We judge God’s justice without knowing
the _____ or the _____**

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:4-5

God is _____ the _____ judge

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

**We need _____ about justice
and _____ justice**



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Part 6: The Love of God

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125:1

“GOD IS LOVE, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” *1 John 4:16*

“that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
Ephesians 3:17-19

HUMAN LOVE ≠ DIVINE LOVE

Source of human love: _____

Source of Divine love: _____

God doesn't love us because of who we are.
He loves us because of who He is.

GOD'S LOVE IS...

1: _____

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.” *Jeremiah 31:3*

2: _____

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:7-8*

3: _____

“When Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

John 13:1

“Over the years, I’ve come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity or power, but self rejection. Success, popularity and power can indeed present a great temptation, but their seductive quality often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self rejection. When we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions. The real trap however is self rejection. Self rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the Beloved. Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.” Henri Nouwen

MY RESPONSE

READ (Bible)

RESIST (substitutes)

RECYCLE (give it away)

“Though the mountains be shaken, and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken.” *Isaiah 54:10*

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TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

STSA Church was established in April 2012 with a mission to "bring an ancient faith to a modern world." We attempt to do that by presenting the depth and richness of our Orthodox Christian faith, in a way that's relevant and applicable to life in the 21st century.

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