

Who Do You Trust? Pt. 2- The Need To Be Needy

Discussion Notes- August 10, 2025

1. When you were a kid, what did you depend on your parents for the most?

This week's message, *"The Need to Be Needy,"* challenged the idea that spiritual maturity means becoming more self-sufficient. Jesus taught that true maturity is becoming more dependent on Him—starting with being "poor in spirit," which means recognizing our need and spiritual bankruptcy without Him. We were reminded that abiding in Christ isn't optional; it's a lifestyle of daily connection, not just occasional visits. Just as we ask for daily bread, we're called to live in daily dependence, not just when we're desperate. Neediness isn't weakness—it's the posture of a faithful, fruitful follower of Jesus.

Read John 15:1-6

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned."

Jesus reminds us that apart from Him, we can do nothing—not just less, but *nothing* of lasting spiritual value. This verse calls us to stay connected to Him daily, not out of obligation but because true life and fruitfulness flow only through dependence on Him. When we abide in Christ, we're not being weak—we're choosing the strength that only comes through surrender.

2. How does the metaphor of the vine and branches help you understand spiritual dependence?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Before encountering Jesus, Paul had everything going for him—status, education, influence, and wealth. But once he met Christ, he realized that all of it was worthless compared to knowing Jesus. Even after his dramatic conversion, Paul faced suffering, including being imprisoned, beaten, and rejected. Yet as he grew in faith, his awareness of his need for grace only deepened—he didn't grow out of dependence, he grew into it. This is what it means to be *poor*

in spirit—recognizing our total spiritual need and choosing to rely completely on Christ every step of the way.

3. How might your spiritual life change if you lived with a posture of “poor in spirit”?

Read Matthew 6:9-13

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, every line of the Lord’s Prayer was a lesson in dependence. He begins with *“Our Father”*—reminding us that we’re children who need a parent’s care. *“Your kingdom come, your will be done”* teaches us to surrender control and trust His plans above our own. *“Give us this day our daily bread”* isn’t just about food—it’s a humble request for daily provision, guidance, and grace. Even *“forgive us”* and *“lead us not into temptation”* show our need for mercy and protection. Jesus didn’t teach us to pray from a place of strength or self-sufficiency—He taught us to pray like people who know how much they need their Father every single day.

4. How would our culture define maturity, and how does that differ from Jesus’ teaching?

Read Psalm 34:17-19

“When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

Psalm 34:17-19 reminds us that God is deeply attentive to our struggles — He hears when we cry out, stays close to our broken hearts, and rescues us from every trouble. This passage beautifully shows that being righteous doesn’t mean a life without challenges, but it does mean we have a God who delivers us through them all.

5. How can we pray for you to grow in spiritual dependence?

Prayer/Closing:

- Pray for a daily heart of dependence on God, not on your own strength.
- Pray for the ability to abide in Jesus and bear lasting fruit through Him.
- Pray for strength to rely on God’s grace, especially in times of weakness and struggle.

Deeper Dive

Read Exodus 16:1-36 (key verses below)

(4-5) *“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice*

as much as they gather daily.” (16-20) This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. (35) The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.”

In Exodus 16, the Israelites have just been delivered from Egypt (Exodus 14) and find themselves in the wilderness without stable food or water. They begin to grumble, saying, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in Egypt... when we sat by meat pots and ate bread to the full” (Exodus 16:2–3). In response, God graciously provides manna each morning and quail in the evening (vv. 13–14), but with a very specific rule: “Take only what you need for the day.”

This limitation was purposeful. First, God wanted to teach daily dependence, saying, “That I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not” (v. 4). Through this, God was training their faith by showing that they could not stockpile Him; they needed Him every day, not just once a week. Second, this rule exposed the heart—those who tried to hoard manna revealed a lack of trust, fearing God would not provide the next day. As a result, the hoarded manna rotted, bred worms, and stank, demonstrating that “trying to live off yesterday’s grace will spoil your soul.” Finally, this event pointed forward to Jesus, who in John 6:31–35 references the manna and declares, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger.” The manna was a signpost, showing that the true bread from heaven is not what falls from the sky but the One who hung on the cross.

1. How does God’s daily provision of manna challenge the way we approach our own needs and trust in Him today?
2. In what ways might we try to “hoard” or rely on past blessings instead of fully depending on God’s grace each day?