

Volume 3, Day 19: Trust in God, Never Yourself

So here's how those things have worked out in my life. When I was feeling tempted, like maybe I should do something, or wondering, "What if I'm wrong about this journey," I kept coming back with this. This is the only thing that counts. It doesn't count when I'm working hard for God. It doesn't count just because I'm doing things that other people expect. So I found the freedom then to live inside what God's saying to me.

So, first of all, follow what God's showing you. I think the tendency a lot of us have when God shows us something, we want all of our friends and family and everyone else to believe it. So we spend more of our time arguing, trying to convince others, push them into the same thing we are seeing instead of simply following it ourselves, letting God love us into a place of change instead of trying to push other people to it as well. Secondly, beware of religious people. You know the type, and if you've grown up in religious environments, they may be all the people. They may be still living by old expectations and they want you to do so as well. They use guilt and fear as tools to try to manipulate you to the conformity they want.

When you really discover that the only thing that counts is a growing **trust in who God is** expressed in our love for people, that manipulation of religious folks loses its power. No longer do you feel compelled to follow that. You don't have to push them out of your life and go away. Just be wary. Learn to care for others. Watch out for other people around you. You learn how to love them in a different way as that trust in Him grows. Now I love easily and trust carefully. But it is God that I trust!

ENGAGING God -- Bob Clarkson