Scripture: Proverbs 3 v 5 & 6.

With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment.
Always let him lead you and he will clear the road for you to follow.
Don't ever think that you are wise enough but respect the Lord and stay away from evil.

Subject: Triumph through Trusting.

People throughout the world put their trust in many things, the Psalmist said some trust in horses some in chariots, but we will remember the Lord our God.

There are many who put their trust in riches, in their careers in their ability to arrive at the goals they have set themselves. Some trust they will keep well and live long. Trust is something we live with all the time. It is the positive outlook we have day after day.

The Bible says a lot about trust, people were always putting their trust in the Lord and their confidence in the Lord is expressed through the confidence they have that the Lord will undertake for them.

We trust him for our healing and our deliverance our salvation and strength to serve him.
There are some things about trust I would like to share with you. We triumph through trusting the Lord. There are three examples I will use to illustrate triumph through trusting, which came through their experience because each one had total faith in the Lord and complete trust in him.

The first man I want to speak about is Job so let's consider that.

1. Job although he was tested, he triumphed. Job 1 v 1 t

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five

hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom."

One day the angels appeared before the Lord and Satan appeared with them, the Lord addresses Satan and says verse 7 "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Satan then says "Does Job fear God first nothing". Satan inferred that Job prospered because the Lord favoured him. Take way his prosperity and he will turn again against you was Satans reply.

The Lord gave Satan permission to Test him and see what happens. Job went through the most trying testing period anyone could go through. He was tested emotionally, materially and financially he was left totally destitute. His wife told him to curse God and die. Job would not blame the Lord for the hardship he was experiencing.

His friends who were supposed to comfort him, turned against him implying that this testing time was his own fault because of some sin he had committed. Job stood firm in his faith and trust in the Lord. When he had wealth he trusted the Lord, now he had nothing but still trusted the Lord, his confidence was never in his own strength, but his strength came from trusting the Lord.

We must not be judgmental about the difficulties some Christian's encounter. There are some who believe that when a Christian goes through difficulties in their

Christian life, they must have sinned or done something wrong. Be careful not to judge.

It is hard to conceive how difficult it must have been for Job, his testing was almost unbearable, without his trust and faith in the Lord he could not have gone through what he went through. In the end of the story, we read how
Job was triumphant, having in the end more than he had at the beginning of his trial. He triumphed through trusting. The second one I want us to consider is Joseph.

2. Joseph although he was turned against triumphed.

From Genesis chapter 30 to chapter 50 the whole life story of Joseph can be read. In chapter Genesis 37 v 3. We read "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

It can be rightly assumed that his brothers envied him because of this favour given Joseph by his father.

Whilst in his late teens Joseph was sent by his father to seek to know the welfare of his brothers who were looking after the flock of sheep belonging to his father and then report back to his dad. When approaching his brothers they devised a plan to get rid of him.

Jealousy motivated a hatred of Joseph because of the favour bestowed on him by their father, they turned on Joseph aiming to destroy him, he was placed in a pit in the ground, however when a Ishmaelite camel train on its way to Egypt was passing by them they decided to sell Joseph who was sold at a slave market and bought by a man named Potiphar.

It must be hard to conceive what must have been going through his mind at this time, to have his brothers turn against him and then selling him as a slave and then

being put up for sale at a slave auction. The man who bought him Potiphar was an important Egyptian official who put Joseph in charge of his household. Potiphar had noticed that Joseph was someone of a distinctly good spirit and attitude, this was because Joseph although quite young was a Man of God.

Joseph had faith and trusted in the Lord, he never questioned the Lord about what was happening to him, he kept the faith his father had obviously taught him to have. It was the hand of providence that moved his brothers to lift him out of the pit and sell him to the Ishmaelite's.

It was the hand of providence that moved Potiphar to buy him at the slave market. The hand of blessing was on his life, Potiphar recognized it. However Potiphar's wife set her eyes on Joseph hoping he would succumb to her advances, Joseph lived close to the Lord and would do nothing to endanger his relationship with the Lord.

Joseph was in danger again when the only occupants in the house were Potiphar's wife and Joseph, she tried to take advantage of this by catching hold of Joseph, but he fled from her clutches leaving a piece of his garment in her hand.

When the servants returned, she took revenge on Joseph by falsely accusing him of abusing her. He was imprisoned as a result. Joseph still held onto his faith and trust in the Lord and had a good position in the prison, having been given charge of the other prisoners.

After another two years in prison in which he never lost his faith or trust in the Lord, he was called to appear before Pharaoh to interpret two dreams he had, had. A butler whose dreams Joseph had interpreted correctly when the butler was in prison, told Pharaoh about Joseph, the hand of providence working again in Joseph's favour.

After interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh correctly Joseph was released from prison and put in charge of a program he had been inspired by the Lord to introduce. His faith and trust in the Lord made him triumphant. He was never in defeat, he had a faith and trust that was victorious. He overcame every difficulty because he trusted in the Lord who never once let him down.

The final one to consider is the Apostle Paul.

3. Paul although he experienced Tribulation triumphant.

Since his conversion on his way to Damascus to arrest Christian's Paul experience a life changing encounter with the Lord Jesus. It was on this road he was changed and afterwards proclaimed the Lord Jesus as the Messiah.

It was indicated to him that he would suffer much because of his faith and trust in Jesus. Throughout his ministry the Apostle Paul triumphed through trusting the Lord. During his first missionary journey he was stoned suffering immense pain.

Acts 14 v 19 "And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead."

But the Apostle was not dead. he may have been stunned and badly hurt; however he was alive. Acts 14 v 20 says, "Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Debre."

He could trust in the Lord to deliver him from every difficult situation he could be found in. He always triumphed through trusting the Lord. He wrote to the Philippians in chapter 4 v 12 & 13 " I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me."

The apostle Paul never lost his trust in the Lord, from the first day he accepted Jesus as Messiah he trusted the Lord. He trusted because he knew that the Lord would never let him down and he never did, he face many hardships but trusted the Lord to help him.

At the end of his life, he could say in 2Timothy 4 v 6 to 8 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all of them also that love his appearing.

Three examples of being triumphant through trusting. Joseph, Daniel, and Paul.
In finishing let me bring an application to being triumphant through trusting.
Even though you can be tested, turned against, experience tribulation you can triumph,

You can triumph and live a victorious Christian life by always putting your trust in the Lord. Jesus victory over Satan is your victory, his triumph over the devil is your triumph. As Christians we are to live on the triumphant train of Christ, we are to enjoy the victory he gained for us.