

I have ministered to suffering and dying believers who have handled their pain with serenity and who faced death with hope. Some may consider such people naive or gullible, but they do so because they don't know the three tenses of trust.

Concerning the past, we know that God has proven His love and power, especially in giving His Son to die for our salvation (Rom. 5:8) and in bringing Him back to life (Rom. 1:4). In the present, He speaks to us through His Word (Heb. 1:1-4), hears our prayers (Mt. 7:7-11), and provides grace in our trials (2 Cor. 1:3-4). For the future, He promises that we will live with Him forever (1 Th. 4:17).

Remember, trust involves three tenses. Reflect on God's faithfulness in the past and present. You'll have good reason to trust Him for the future. What a wonderful God! --HVL

*In the past the Lord has helped us,
Guiding, loving all the way;
Let us therefore trust His promise:
Grace sufficient for each day! --Anon.*

Feeling tense about the future? Remember that God is always present.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Three Tenses Of Trust

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. --Heb. 11:31

Rahab had a remarkable faith. Although it seemed incredible that Joshua's unequipped army would be able to break down or scale the walls of Jericho, she remembered what God had done for the Israelites in the past. So she put her trust in Israel's God by protecting the spies, and by staking her future on the hope that God would do what seemed impossible. Her trust in God involved the past, the present, and the future.





The Scarlet Thread

The story of Rahab can be unfolded in three parts:

1. The _____ blood, Joshua 2:9-15, 17-21

(Genesis 3:21) "Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."

(Ezekiel 18:20) ""The soul who sins shall die..."

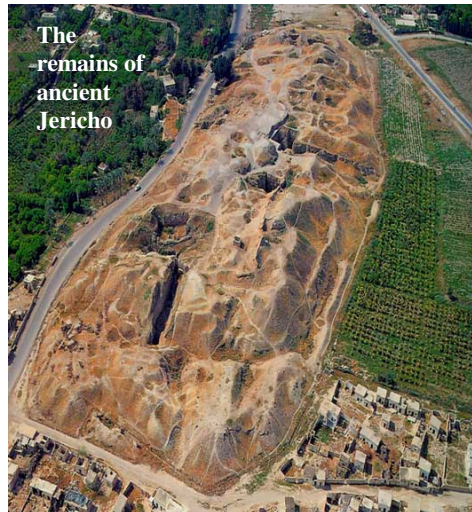
(Genesis 4:3-8) "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

[4] Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

[5] but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. **[6]** So the LORD said

to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? **[7]** "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." **[8]** Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him."

(Leviticus 17:11) "'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, ...'"



The remains of ancient Jericho



2. A _____ of blood,

(Exodus 24:1-8) "Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. **[2]** "And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him." **[3]** So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." **[4]** And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built

an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. **[5]** Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. **[6]** And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. **[7]** Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." **[8]** And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.""



(Hebrews 9:22) "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

(Hebrews 10:11) "And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."

(Hebrews 11:31) "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

3. The _____ blood,

(Hebrews 9:27-28) "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, **[28]** so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

(Hebrews 7:27) "who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself."

(Romans 3:23-25) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

[24] being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **[25]** whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, ..., "

(Mark 1:15) "... Repent, and believe in the gospel.""

(Acts 20:21) "... repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."



Sin

Sin covered

Sin removed