



# THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him. These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning. Along the way, your "trust muscle" will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy. Let's take the journey together.

## JOSEPH – Learning Trust through a Long Journey

Nothing in the world works without trust. Trust is established through relationship. Who do you trust? Who do you follow?

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

June 19, 2025

**Scripture:** Genesis 39:6-15; Genesis 40:12-23; Genesis 50:19-21

**Music:** Sawyer Brown - The Walk - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4c9lyu4feg>

**Videos:** Old Testament Summary - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/old-testament-tanak/>

We Bought a Zoo (2011) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1cLCPeCf0>

**Resources:** *Hitchhiking with Prophets – A Ride through the Salvation Story of the Old Testament* by Chad Bird

*Trust – Knowing When to Give It, When to Withhold It, How to Earn It, and How to Fix It When It Gets Broken in Life and Business* by Dr. Henry Cloud

## MOSES – Trusting Beyond Limitations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Trust Grows in the Wilderness. Moses is called by God after forty years of obscurity. The wilderness becomes the place of calling and preparation. Exodus 3:1–12.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Trust Obeys When It Feels Inadequate. Despite feeling unqualified, Moses follows God's call. God doesn't remove the weakness—He promises His help. Exodus 4:10–12
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Trust Is Strengthened by God's Presence. Moses values God's presence more than success. He refuses to move without God's leading. Exodus 33:12–17.

## MOSES - Three Reasons Moses Seemed Untrustworthy – And Why God Used Him Anyway

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Moses kills an Egyptian and flees into the wilderness in fear. Exodus 2:11–12. Encouragement: God doesn't disqualify us because of our past. Redemption rewrites the story.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → He Struggled with Insecurity. Moses repeatedly expresses doubt in himself and begs God to choose someone else. Exodus 4:1, 10–13. Encouragement: God is patient with our weakness and provides help along the way (e.g., Aaron).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → He Disobeyed God's Clear Command. Moses strikes the rock instead of speaking, an act of disobedience that costs him dearly. Numbers 20:7–12. Encouragement: Even great leaders fall short—but God's faithfulness and legacy-building continue.

## The 5 Essentials of Trust

1. **Understanding** - You trust people who 'get you.' They listen, empathize, and validate your perspective without quick fixes.
2. **Motive** - Trust is built when the other person's heart is for you, not just for their own interests. You feel safe when someone genuinely wants your good.
3. **Ability** - Good intentions aren't enough. We trust people who are competent—who have the skills, wisdom, or experience to follow through.
4. **Character** - You trust those who do the right thing when it costs them. Integrity, humility, and consistency over time shape deep trust.
5. **Track Record** - Trust is strengthened when someone has shown up again and again—when they've proven themselves trustworthy through real-life situations.

## CHARACTER: The Fourth Essential of Trust

\_\_\_\_\_ Character is the inner structure that enables a person to handle demands of reality well. Character is not just about being nice—it's about having the emotional, moral, and spiritual capacity to follow through.

Joseph demonstrates deep character through perseverance, self-restraint, and forgiveness. He doesn't break under pressure; he deepens. He doesn't seek vengeance; he restores. His decisions are not based on what he feels, but on who he trusts.

Four traits of trustworthy character:

1. **Grace and Truth** – The ability to offer mercy while still holding to what is right.
2. **Ownership** – The capacity to take responsibility without blaming others.
3. **Emotional Regulation** – Staying grounded under pressure.
4. **Empathy** – Choosing connection over control.



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Joseph's rise wasn't just a change in circumstances—it was a reflection of the kind of man he had become. Trustworthy. Faithful. Formed by character.

**Track Record - The Fifth Essential of Trust.**

Your track record—history of reliability—matters deeply in determining whether you are trustworthy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → One of the best predictors of future behavior. While Moses' track record starts rough (murder, excuses, disobedience), what marks his journey is growth. Over time, Moses becomes the leader who speaks with God face to face, leads a nation with faith, and leaves a legacy.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Trust is built on consistent, observed follow-through. A trustworthy person owns mistakes, grows through them, and builds a new pattern. Moses did just that. His life reminds us that our starting point doesn't define us. Our willingness to grow, own our flaws, and keep walking with God does.

**Take Action! Journal This!**

1. CHARACTER – What makes your character trustworthy?
2. TRACK RECORD – Does your history show reliability?
3. Where do you see yourself in Moses' story—afraid to start, growing in trust, or wrestling with obedience?

**SCRIPTURE – The Message**

**Exodus 3:1-12 - 1** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.**2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.**3** So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."**4** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."**5** "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."**6** Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.**7** The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.**8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.**9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.**10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."**11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"**12** And God said, "I will be with you.

And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

**Exodus 4:10-12 - 10** Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."**11** The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?**12** Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

**Exodus 33:12-17 - 12** Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'**13** If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."**14** The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."**15** Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.**16** How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"**17** And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

**"The Walk" – Sawyer Brown**

<p>Down our long dusty driveway I didn't want to go But I set out with tears in my eyes wondering Daddy took me by the hand Looked out at the school bus and his little man and said "Don't worry boy it will be all right" [CHORUS:] Cause I took this walk you're walking now Boy, I've been in your shoes You can't hold back the hands of time</p>	<p>It's just something you've got to do So dry your eyes I understand just what you're going through Cause I took this same walk with my old man Boy, I've been in your shoes Down our long dusty driveway I set my mind to go I was eighteen and wild and free and wondering Daddy took me by the hand Looked at the world and at his</p>	<p>grown man and said, "Don't worry boy it will be all right" Down our long dusty driveway This time we both would go He had grown old and gray And his mind was wandering Daddy took me by the hand Said, "I know where we're going and I understand Don't worry boy it will be all right" [CHORUS]</p>
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**Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.**

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach  
563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532  
Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: [phil@bpointl.org](mailto:phil@bpointl.org)

Webpage: [www.bpointl.org](http://www.bpointl.org)