

He Spoke a Word of Trust

‡ Perfect trust in His heavenly Father
‡ Trust that is now ours by faith

In the name of Jesus our generous Savior, dearly believers living in His gracious presence:

Good Friday changes our minds about so many things, about loneliness, sickness, sorrow, even death. We find here a whole different way of looking at God who is so angry at sin that His own innocent Son must volunteer to pay for guilty sinners like us. And yet the true God is so loving as to take upon Himself our guilt in order to set us free. Here we find God's answer to the question of suffering and the reality of death. Here we find the confidence to stop hiding from God and rest in the grace He gives in Christ Jesus our Savior. And it's all because of the Seventh Word our Savior spoke from the cross. No matter how shaky your faith may feel of late, tonight God strengthens our faith as we hear again how Jesus **Spoke a Word of Trust**. Think about this first that Jesus had...

‡ Perfect trust in His heavenly Father

A. Dropping the Son

1. Ever seen a father drop his son?
 - a) My little baby boy Joel fell a few inches from my hands onto the carpeted car floor.
 - b) But what if you were watching at a park to see a father purposely drop his son?
2. Jesus was purposely dropped by His heavenly Father.
 - a) He asked for another way in the Garden of Gethsemane, yet trusted, *"Thy will be done."*
 - b) Now noon to 3:00 PM, darkness over the land – God's judgment.
 - ‡ God the Father dropped Jesus in the middle word from the cross. (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)
 - ‡ How did that feel for Jesus? It was hell!

B. Jesus was dropped because of us.

1. Had to be that way because the world was full of the raw sewage of our sin.
 - ‡ How foolish and hypocritical for humans to think God should just ignore it.
 - ‡ Would you if next to your home on a lake or river some factory or city was pumping raw sewage and chemicals into the water?
 - ‡ God created the world to be a beautiful, holy place like Him – for His holy creatures.
 - ‡ Adam brought sin, suffering and death in by this sewage of sin.
2. In a barn for a while you don't realize how bad the smell, how burning the air.
 - Dollar bills, "In God we trust," but do we?
 - Trust in dollars...savings...investments...retirement?
 - Long before a crash we still worry and fret about paying the bills or feel guilty for God's blessings.
 - What happens in a crash makes people into volunteer 9/11 "jumpers."
3. Jesus' trust in His heavenly Father was perfect – paratiyhmi
 - ‡ Suffering was *"finished"* in Sixth Word. (John 19:30)
 - ‡ Death still needed to be defeated. (1 Corinthians 15:26)
 - ‡ Jesus had the authority to lay down His life and take it up again. (John 10)
 - ‡ With all our guilt upon His shoulders, He had to trust perfectly for Seventh Word.
 - ‡ He clung to promise of eternal life. (Psalm 16:10)

Transition: But Jesus' **Word of Trust** is so much more. It also means to "place beside" as one sets out a meal. It means Jesus gives us this same trust to live and die in Him.

✠ **Trust that is now ours by faith**

A. Jesus' perfect trust is ours by faith.

1. Jesus was our perfect Substitute.
 - ✠ *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* (Matthew 5:17 NIV)
 - ✠ He fulfilled God's law all for us: *"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."* (Romans 5:19 NIV)
 - ✠ When God looks at us, He sees Jesus.
2. The curtain tore, the wall of sin separating us from God is gone. An open altar is for...
 - ✠ Lean times when the pay checks don't seem to stretch as far as the bills.
 - ✠ Mountains of problems too big for us or the doctors.
 - ✠ Criticism from the ungodly world that will never understand or care: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33 NIV)
 - ✠ At the foot of the cross we trust in God for *"all things."* (Romans 8:32)

B. "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit."

1. A believer's prayer for victorious life.
 - ✠ New Life Education wing mostly from Dorothy Lindig's gift.
 - ✠ One class for accounting, investments.
 - ✠ Never lonely with Jesus.
2. A believer's prayer for peaceful death.
 - a) Reading from the Psalms of Ascent.
 - b) The breath passed from her roommate's oxygen tank as she gave up her spirit to God.

C. We trust with Jesus in the hope of the resurrection.

1. That was everything Jesus had left when **He Spoke** the **Word of Trust**.
2. In the end God's promise will be all we have and all we need.
3. Like Jesus, we know the Father's plans are not yet finished.

Conclusion: Be like joyful child calling, "Abba, Abba!" Even when tossed into the air, life is an adventure from which our heavenly Father will never let us down or drop us. You have Jesus' word on it: *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."* (John 10:27-28 NIV) "I am trusting, Thee, Lord Jesus." Amen.