

We are talking about our E in LOVE the Word™. We have looked at the L - Listen and O - Observe; we looked at 2 ways to LOVE the Word™ with V - Verbalize or Visualize, and both of those mean to pray back to God what He has given us. Today we are going to look at E. E is Entrust. In Loving the Word like Mary, we want to Listen, Observe, Verbalize, and Entrust. We have looked at all of those except the E. We are going to talk about faith today. What does it really mean to Entrust what God has given us in prayer? As we are listening to the Word -- we are either reading it or listening to it at mass, maybe we are listening to a show like this, however you get the Word of God into you on a daily basis or maybe in a more concentrated way on a weekly basis like we do here - however you get the Word of God in you, we want to be sure that once we have heard it we have been able to interpret it by observing our circumstances and our daily events and our relationships. Then we want to pray it back to God the best we can, the best we know how, and the best we understand it. At that point we have to be able to entrust it to Him. There will be things that He will want us to do in some circumstances, but a lot of times He just wants us to leave it to Him. We'll talk about specifically what I mean as we go through the show, but there are some times that God wants us to see something so that we will pray about it, not that necessarily we should do anything. In fact, what comes to mind at the moment is 1 John 5:16 "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he should ask and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death." What we are told there is if you see a brother or sister or neighbor sinning then you should pray for them, because God will give them life for that prayer. He is specifically talking, some of the commentators believe, about mortal sin there, and he probably is. But sometimes on a daily basis you will see just out of common sense a path that person should take, possibly. Maybe it's one of your children or grandchildren or a friend, whatever. But maybe God doesn't want you to point it out. Maybe He just wants you to pray about it. That's sort of what I am getting ask with this E in Entrust in LOVE the Word™.

We're going to talk today about what faith is. To entrust what we have seen and heard in the Scriptures back to God is faith. We do what God says, if He has told us to do something. If He hasn't we do His will, whatever that is. And that's what I'm getting at. We're doing His will. Faith, then, especially as Mary illustrates it for us in the Annunciation but also in the LOVE the Word™ method, is not belief. I know that we think a lot of times that faith is belief in the truths that the Church has offered to us, but that's not what faith is according to the Bible. In fact, in James 2:19 it says that that even the demons believe and tremble. It's not just faith in a set of doctrines. That's not faith. Even the demons know the truth about things but they don't love what they know. We do, though. We can see what faith is by at least looking at what it's not. That's called a negative approach. We're looking at what it is not in order to see more clearly what it is.

Hebrews 11:1 says that "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." First of all, faith is not the absence of logic or reason. We lay ahold of what the senses and reason cannot grasp. Faith in God is absolutely necessary according to John Paul II's doctoral thesis. That was back before he was John Paul II. He wrote his thesis on faith in John of the Cross. You know I'm going to bring that up since John of the Cross is my patron saint. Because God is pure spirit, there is nothing to see or hear or sense of Him at all unless He makes Himself felt or seen or heard. Because we, though, receive information through our senses and God is pure spirit beyond sense then He has to be

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grasped through faith alone. Faith is the only way to lay hold of God. Faith, according to James 2:19 and Hebrews 11:1, is not the belief in the existence of God or even in some sort of body of teachings. When I say that I mean specifically Catholic teachings or the deposit of faith of the Church. To entrust, then, as Mary teaches it to us does not mean having faith in our faith. I think a lot about what Jesus said when He said "If you have the faith of a mustard seed you can move a mountain. You can say to this mountain 'Go leap into the sea' and it will." What happens when we read that - and maybe not you, but me - but what I do is I go about getting at least that much faith and then I'm trying to move my mountain with that little bitty seed. But that's not really what He's saying there. We often link the effectiveness of our faith to how strongly we can convince ourselves that there is going to be a positive outcome to whatever our situation is. We want that situation to be resolved in a positive way so badly that we'll do just about anything to gin up our faith. That's kind of what I'm getting at. We won't let any doubt enter our minds. Some of us go through these really intricate rituals to convince ourselves that we have pumped up our faith enough that God will do what we want. We sing, we pray, we read the Bible, we scold ourselves for wavering when we have second thoughts and doubts, and we keep trying to convince ourselves that what we are believing is what God wants, first of all, and we have believed enough to get God to do what we think is the right thing. That's not entrusting as much as it is faith in the amount of faith we have. I know that sounds a little bit confusing, but it's not faith in our faith. That's what I'm getting at.

Entrusting is not having faith in faith, and it's not in the amount of faith we think we have to have in order to control God. That's really what we are trying to do. We are trying to manipulate God by having enough faith to make Him do what we want. I remember learning this the hard way when I was about 10 or 11. I had to ride the school bus to school. There was a girl on the bus. Her name was Natasha. She was several grades older than I was, and bigger. She was just brutal to me. My dad absolutely threatened me beyond an inch of my life if I ever got into any sort of fight or anything like that, which is funny because later I did, but at that time I was afraid. So, I let her bully me and she did. She would do things like chew up lollipops and spit the pieces of candy into my hair. I've always had very long hair, and at that point it was actually below my butt. It was so long. She would spit that candy in my hair and it would get stuck and be almost impossible to get out. One time she filled a water gun with Pepsi and squirted it at me and the other young kids. Of course it's sticky and gross. She was awful and I was afraid of her because she was a lot bigger than I was. I remember standing at the door of our house waiting on the bus to come and I prayed so hard, "Dear Lord, please let the bus blow up. Please let Natasha have died. Please let something have happened that I don't have to ride this bus and I don't have to see her today." I prayed so hard! I was very young. Usually God answers the prayers of kids because they are usually very simple prayers and they do have a lot of faith and He wants to teach them to have that faith in Him. But in this particular case I remember being terrified. We had a glass storm door, and I remember standing in front of that door praying so hard. But here came the bus and I had to get on that bus and ride the bus that day. I remember being so surprised that God did not answer my prayer. Why did God not answer my prayer?

I realize that's a very simplistic example, but what I'm trying to say is, "Did I not have enough faith?" A lot of times, especially with these prosperity gospels, if we watch TV evangelists, if we have charismatic influences in our parish or in our neighborhood or whatever, we think we have to have enough faith. If we have enough faith God will do a good thing for us. I remember a very specific example as an adult. I was teaching an adult class at the time and we had a new family in our church. It was before I came into the Catholic Church and I was teaching a co-ed class. It was a family that had some from a very Pentecostal kind of background. They had a whole lot of prosperity gospel and they were in my class. I'll just say, looking back on it now, he was trying to teach me. The adult male who

led this family was determined he was going to teach me a few things. He kept interrupting my classes and he would try to point out where he thought I might have gone astray and such. But the thing I remember most about them is that we had a family in our parish who had a baby, a late baby. They were so excited about the birth of this baby. The baby finally came and two days after it was born, and nobody knew what had happened, the baby was dying. They took the baby to the hospital. We were all at the hospital. We were waiting to see what was going to happen. The parents, obviously, were just devastated. We were praying and praying and praying for the survival of this baby. We were surrounding them. We were praying. We were crying. And the baby died. We had prayed and agonized with this family. We had seen them in the valley of the shadow of death - not even the shadow, it was death. The valley of death. We were all devastated. When you're in a situation like that you don't know what to do. You don't know what to say. Especially because we had all been praying out loud together in the waiting room for this family and this baby and the baby died anyway. It seemed to be a non-answer to our prayers. This new family, then, was in this Sunday school class. We were sort of vaguely talking about the situation and the baby's parents were not in the class that particular Sunday. This gentleman made some comment about how they could not have had enough faith. I got so mad. Not only me but everybody in the class got really mad. First of all, what a rude thing to say in the face of someone's grief. Secondly, there is something inherently in us that knows that can't be true. That somehow you have to have enough faith to do what you want - we know inherently that is not truly what faith is and we know that is not what entrustment is.

When we are entrusting our concerns back to God we are not - or we shouldn't be - trying to manipulate God. Oftentimes we do. I'll just be honest. A lot of times when we first begin that's what we are doing. Sometimes God allows us to do it because we're learning. My warning, then, is that's not true faith and it's not what Mary is teaching us through LOVE the Word™. When she entrusted what she heard from the angel back to God she was not putting conditions on it. She just said, "May it be done to me according to your will." She just left it very open ended. "Whatever you think, Lord." It's not a matter of having enough faith. It's not a matter of having enough belief in what I want to happen so that God will do what I want. My friends did not have faith in their faith. Their faith was in God's goodness, no matter what happened. They understood that God's ways were not necessarily their ways. Did they come to that the day of the death of their baby? Of course not. They were grieving. It takes a long time sometimes to get to that point. If you are in that place I want to just encourage you. You don't have to get there the minute the tragedy strikes. It's a process. Just understand that is what we are working toward. We're working toward working out what happens after a No.

Our belief is not in having enough faith. Jesus said "if you have the faith of a mustard seed" but He wasn't trying to quantify our faith so that we would get what we want. He was just saying the power of true entrustment is such that a mountain will move. We are not trying to get God to do what we want. We are instead allowing God to be God.

So, first: To entrust does not mean having faith in faith. Secondly, to entrust is not faith in what we want to happen. We cannot put conditions on what is going to happen when we are entrusting back to God what we think we have heard from Him. I know that you have probably heard that faith is an expression of confidence in God. It is still possible to believe that God should do what you think He should do when we're trying to have faith. There is a sense in which we want that to happen. We want to believe that God should do what we think He should do. Possibly we think that God has shown us what His will is in a particular situation. If it doesn't work out we have to be careful. Jonah is a great example of that. Remember that God came to Jonah and said "Jonah, I want you to preach to Nineveh." And Jonah said "Oh no. I don't want to preach to Nineveh." It seems, and it could be, that

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Jonah was prejudiced against Nineveh because they were Gentiles. The Church Fathers have also put forth that Jonah was afraid to be a false prophet. False prophets in the Old Testament, they were stoned. We'll get to that in a moment, but that's part of what we have to watch out for when we are entrusting, that our faith is not in what we want to happen -- especially if we are going out telling people what we think God is going to do, what we think is going to happen in a particular situation. Jonah went out and was supposed to be preaching to Nineveh that God was going to destroy the whole city if they didn't repent. Then they did repent. Jonah was upset, then, because that made him look like a false prophet, according to some of the Church Fathers. It could be that he was prejudiced against Nineveh or he didn't want to preach to them because he was afraid they would repent and he would be a false prophet. Possibly it's both. Who knows? Jonah is a perfect example of how we have to be careful about having faith in what we want to happen. Jonah probably did not want them to repent, whether he was prejudiced against them or whether he was afraid that God would not actually follow through with what He said He was going to do through Jonah. Whatever it was.

Maybe you have avoided having faith in your faith but have you ever found yourself trusting God to do something, some very spiritual thing that you have decided He needs to do? I'll just be honest: I have done that. What comes to mind is a particular woman and her children. Now her children are grown but she had issues with alcohol and drugs. There was porn in the marriage. They were very materialistic. They didn't go to church. Her faith was in her husband's ability to provide for her. When the marriage fell apart her teenagers rebelled, her marriage fell apart, and she was completely devastated to the point where she had a nervous breakdown. Her faith was in her husband's ability to provide for her. When he cheated on her to the point where she had to dissolve the marriage that was no longer a viable possibility. She had to take care of herself and that just sent her into a total tailspin because her faith was in doing things that she thought were the right things to do to ensure her financial stability. That's just the truth of it. I can say that because I know her very, very well, and I know their situation. What devastated her was her faith was in either her husband or in doing things the right way, she thought, so that things would work out the way she wanted. When they didn't she was completely devastated. Her whole foundation was ripped out from under her. She has not recovered. To this point she has not recovered. Her children don't talk to her because of the fallout from that situation. She became alcoholic. She became disconnected from them. You have these situations. Maybe they're in your own life, maybe they're in your children's lives, maybe they're in friends' lives. We all know of situations like this where our faith has been in a particular outcome. That's what we don't want to happen. We don't want to put faith in our faith. "I have faith, I go to church, so God's going to do this for me." We don't want also to have faith in a particular outcome. We have to be careful about having faith in what we want to happen. Sometimes we start counting on what we think should happen. For example, if you see this particular situation and you start to pray "Lord, she needs to get in church." Maybe she does and maybe that's the will of God, but that may not happen. We have to be careful in investing in that particular outcome just because we think it's in God's best interest to make it happen, or maybe it's in the other person's interest, or maybe the outcome we desire is for God's sake to make God look good or to have that person put their faith in God. Whatever we think is going to benefit another person we become convinced that has to occur.

Mary did not have a faith that said that God had to act in a particular way. She said "Do **whatever** He tells you." Faith is not trusting in what we want to happen. Entrusting is having faith in Him, and that is all.

Thirdly, to entrust is not to simply have faith in our ability to read God's will or to know what His will is. If we think God has said something to us through LOVE the Word™, we can't put our faith in even

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that thing. As soon as we begin to do that, Dear One, He will kick that support right out from under us and He will make sure it doesn't happen. He doesn't want our faith in the thing or the circumstance or the person. He wants it in Him alone. He will remove every impediment to that faith, the faith that is truly in Him and Him alone. He will kick out every support from under you to make sure that your faith is in Him. He wants that relationship. He wants you to know, and to know that you know, that He is faithful and He is the rock.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my newest Friends of the Show, Patsy and Carlene. I still not have not gotten your thank you gifts out. Please be patient. I promise I'm getting to it. I'm working on a deadline here and I have to be done by mid-September. I hope you'll pray for me as I work diligently on a new study for you. Thank you again to Patsy and Carlene.

We left off talking about what faith and entrustment are. The last thing I said was that God wants you to know that He is the rock. You are not the rock. I am not the rock. When things happen, even devastating things, we are determined that we are going to be strong and we are going to have faith. And that's good. In my experience is that God lets me go as far as I can possibly go and then He breaks me. The thing is that at this point I can go a long time but I eventually will get to the point where I break, and He is exercising that faith muscle. That's what He is doing. He's not punishing us. When we do break we should not be down on ourselves at all, because that's a pop quiz. God is giving us opportunities to practice having that faith, but we have to be careful not to put our faith in that faith or in the particular outcome, as we've been talking about. I am not the rock. The fact that I can be strong or not is not where my faith needs to be. My faith has to be in Him and whatever He allows, that He is good in whatever He allows. Ultimately that's what we're getting at. We haven't said that but that is where we are headed.

Third, then, faith is not a trust in our own ability to read God's will. Jonah was a perfect example. In Daniel 3:17 that's a great example too. Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the lions' den because they won't worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol. He says "Either you bow down and worship or I'll throw you into the lions' den or into the fiery furnace." And they say, "If it be so, our good whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and He will deliver us out of your hands, O King. But if not, be it known to you that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up." Daniel and his friends show us that faith is not trusting in our ability to know God's will. Whether He saves us or not, they say, we still aren't going to worship your God. That's the kind of faith we really need. That's where Satan tries to divert us. He wants us to have faith in our faith. He wants us to have faith in a particular outcome. He wants us to have faith in how long we can have faith. He wants us to have faith in our ability to know what God's will is. But God doesn't want that to be our faith. What He wants is our faith in Him. Whether it happens the way we want it or not, we are going to serve God. Period. That's really an act of the will. We have to just decide that that's what's going to happen. Whether God does what I want or not, I'm going to serve Him. Whether I get what I need in this particular situation (or what I think I need. We will get what we need because God promises that He will provide for us). Whatever we get is what we need, but in the meantime if I don't get what I think I need or I don't get what I want, my faith is not in that. My faith is in the goodness of God. That's what Daniel teaches us. That's what Jonah teaches us. That's what Mary teaches us.

Christians are not more holy just because they have this certainty that so-and-so is going to happen, or maybe because they have identified (or think they have) what God needs them to do next. The account of Daniel and his friends shows us that believers are not more faithful when they think they

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know what God's going to do. Sometimes we try to prove our faith to ourselves or to other people by predicting what we think God is going to do. Some people even link that to faith itself; being able to read circumstances, I mean, through some sort of filter of providential insight. This kind of faith is measured by the conviction by which somebody speaks. For instance, I know you have seen this or possibly even had it done, where you are in some place and somebody walks up to you and they offer you this prophesy. I take those things with a grain of salt. I've only ever had two of those ever come true. It can happen, I'm not saying it can't. I'm just saying you have to be very careful about putting your faith in that kind of thing. The true test of whether or not something like that is true is whether or not it comes true. You can't know at that time if it's going to come true. It's not the assurance with which someone speaks something to you that makes it true. That's what I'm getting at. I realize that I am really splitting hairs here but I want to show you how subtly Satan gets in and diverts our faith from God to other things: to the circumstance, to our own faith, to the outcome, to the conviction with which somebody says something to us. We can't put our faith in those things. We have to put our faith in Him alone.

In my early 20s we were living with my mother-in-law. Bless her soul for letting us stay with her, because we had moved from another state. At that time I just happened to read in Matthew 21:1 this verse: "And when they drew nigh into Jerusalem and they were come to Bethpage unto the Mount of Olives, they sent Jesus two disciples." And when I read Bethpage I thought, "Oh my gosh, that's where we are supposed to live" because there was a town called Bethpage up the road. Because I had read it in the Scriptures I was sure that God had a house for us there. We looked for a house there because I was pushing that agenda. We looked for a house. We didn't find a house but there was land for sale so we went to an auction, a land auction. I was absolutely convinced that because I had seen the town Bethpage in the Bible that was where God wanted us to live. I was determined we were going to get land there. I drug my husband along. I had this faith. We go to the auction, we bid on the land, and we didn't get it. I was completely devastated because I had told everybody "God told me we're supposed to live in Bethpage." Here I was running my big trap and it didn't come true. At the time it was completely devastating because I was just absolutely positive that I had heard from Him, but I hadn't or it would have come true. Later what I discovered was that I was very, very thankful that we didn't buy that land because it ended up being separated into very small tracts with all sorts of questionable people living there. It was not a good situation and it would not have been a good situation for us. I'm really glad that God prevented that from happening, but it was devastating because I was very sure I had enough faith to make that happen.

Another example: This is a true story. There was a woman who attended a Bible Study with me where she was praising God because He was going to heal her sick dog. She said she knew He was going to do it because the very day the dog got sick she happened to read in the Psalm that the Lord heals all your diseases (Psalm 103:3). She was just absolutely sure that this was nothing less than God's providential leading and she just knew that He was letting her know what He was going to do with this dog. Well, the next week she came back to Bible study and her dog was not better; in fact, he had died. She told us then that she was very sure that instead, her husband had had this heart attack during the week but that she was very sure that God had not been telling her that He was going to heal her dog but that He was going to heal her husband. He was letting her know ahead of time that He was going to heal her husband. I was just thinking "Okay, I hope that happens", but I was wondering what she would have said if her son had gotten sick the next day, or what if she read in Numbers 14:12 "I will strike them down with the plague."? Was she going to revise her estimation of what God had said? I'm not making fun of her. We all do this. In the beginning when we're learning our faith, learning to LOVE the Word™, learning to hear God and discern His will we all do this. I'm not making fun of her. I'm just

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saying be careful that your faith is in God himself and not in your ability or my ability to read God's will. We have to just have simple trust in God and Him alone.

Entrust, as we are learning it in LOVE the Word™ does not claim to know what only God can know. It claims only to know the God who knows. That's the difference in having faith in faith, in having faith in our outcome, in having faith in the conviction with which we know God's will, or anything like that. We have to just let God be God. To entrust the way that Mary shows us is to simply just let Him be God. Our faith, the entrusting, does not depend on our own efforts. It does not depend on our view of what God should or should not do. It is trusting in the truth that God is God and we can trust Him no matter what happens. The truest test of our faith, then, is when God says no; when there is not a healing, when there is not a deliverance, when the house does foreclose, when we lose the job, when the loved one doesn't recover or even dies, and all that time we've been doing the right thing. We're trying to live a life that honors God, we're trying to be in the Scriptures, we're doing the things that we know God wants, and still He doesn't do the thing we've asked. When that happens, Dear One, you are being invited to a very deep faith, the kind of faith that Mary had in entrusting all things back to God.

I have had this very strange thing happen during the break. As I was going on the break it just struck me very strongly that somebody out there needs to hear this message today, so I want to just take a moment to pray for you. I hope that you will pray for me too. My story is not finished either. I have a lot of experience with putting my faith in the wrong things. I shouldn't actually even say wrong. I think we have an immature faith in the beginning and God is just working with us to strengthen it and to purify it and to make sure that is placed on Him alone. He doesn't do it because He is punishing us. He doesn't do it because we've made the wrong choices. He doesn't do it because we are in the wrong at all. He wants our faith in Him because He is the only foundation that will be there for eternity, and He wants to make sure that your faith is in that, in Him and Him alone, so that you can endure no matter what. There is a peace that passes all understanding that He gives us, St. Paul says, and it is because our faith is in Him who is eternal and Him who is not shaken. No matter what happens He is always stable. He is always the rock. If our faith is in Him it won't matter what happens outside of us. It won't matter our being martyred, even. The saints and the martyrs show us that. It doesn't matter what's happening on the outside. All that matters is our faith is in Him and His goodness and His plan for His good, the book of Jeremiah says. "I know the plans I have for you, to give you a hope and a future", He says. Our faith has to be in Him and in that hope. Hope is a cardinal virtue. It is one of the three biggies. It takes divine help to have, especially when we are in situations that are very dark, very long, very extended, and very traumatic. We have to just center our faith on Him and His goodness and on the assurance that there is a plan, there is a reason. It's not arbitrary. It's not punishment. God is not mad at us. That is where our faith has to be.

As I was working through this whole father wound thing -- I just actually had a situation in the last couple of weeks that tweaked that father wound and I knew that's what it was. As I said, I was kind of proud of myself that I had gone for so long under the pressure of that situation and it wasn't affecting me too awfully much. Until it did and I had a meltdown like Monday. I went to Him and I said "Look Lord, I made it this long." And it was almost like He patted me on the back and said "Yes, you did!" I didn't focus on the fact that I finally fell because I know now, after following God all this time, that He will let it go. It's not that He's trying to make us fall, it's that He's exercising that faith muscle and He wants me to grow in faith. I didn't get down on myself when I finally did have the meltdown. It wasn't that I didn't have faith anymore, I just crumpled under the pressure of it. I just couldn't handle it any longer. I started whining and bawling and I'm mad at God. "When are you going to do this?"

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You know how it gets. Maybe you don't, but I get to be a big baby. He let me do that. He lets us all do that. He understands that we are weak, but He wants us to put our faith in Him alone. Through all of this time that He has been working with me on this father wound and He sends me these situations that tweak that father wound, what I believe is supposed to happen has not happened and is not happening and it seems like it's not on the horizon at all, and maybe it's not. I'll be honest and say when He gave me the promise back in the 20s it's just now coming to fruition. It's been over 20 years.

Dear One, don't get discouraged if what you believe you are supposed to have has not happened yet. I can promise you this: If you continue to follow God no matter what, He will give you the desire of your heart. I know that because His word says it, and I know that God does not lie, and I know that He is faithful and true. He would not tell you something that wasn't true. The Bible says that God gives us the desires of our hearts when we follow Him. That means when we trust Him no matter what. He puts that desire in us because He wants to give it to us. I believe it was John Henry Newman who said that. "God knows what will make me the happiest and He intends to give it to me", he said. You can put your trust in Him. Not in how you think it's supposed to happen, not in the timing with which you think it's supposed to happen, not in the people with which you think it's supposed to happen. Just trust Him. He promises that He will provide. He promises that He will give you the desire of your heart, but He wants you to trust Him and not in that stuff. Not in the things that He can give but in Him alone. That is what we are learning. That's why it is hard. Our trust is in so many other things. Mary is trying to teach us through LOVE the Word™ that when we hear the word of God - for instance that promise right there, that God will give us the desires of our hearts when we trust Him, when we follow him. That particular verse right there is a promise. You can stake your life on it because God is trustworthy and He cannot lie. That doesn't mean that we must trust in how we think it's going to happen, or in the timing, or in the order, or through the people, or anything else.

We have to walk with Him step by step just as Mary did. When she heard that she was going to bring forth the Messiah that her people had longed for for thousands of years, she put no conditions on God for how that was going to happen. In fact, she said to Him "How is this going to happen? I don't even know a man. I'm not going to know a man. I've made a vow." And God said, "Just trust me. I will overshadow you." And she said, "Let it be done to me according to your word." She did the very same thing at the wedding in Cana. She saw there was a need. She believed that God would take care of that need but she did not put any conditions on him at all. She went to the Word, Christ Jesus who is the Word -- the Word is not a book, the Word is a person. That is where our trust is; it is in the Word of God as a person. She went to the Word and she took the circumstance to the Word. "They have no wine." Then she said, "Just do whatever He says." Her trust was not in a particular outcome at all. It was in Him and the fact that He would do something. She didn't stipulate what it had to be, she just knew He would do something.

That's really what we have to do. We take our problems, our worries, we take all of that to the Scriptures on a daily basis and we wait to hear from Him what He wants to give us. We listen to that Word. We observe our landscape. We see where that Word fits in to our relationships and our circumstances for that day. Remember that God only gave them manna for one day. We got to the Word every day to make sure we're getting our manna. Then we fortify it with the Eucharist. The Word of God is a person and we need Him both in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist. The Eucharist will help us persevere under the pressure of the darkness, the long time coming, and the pain of all that we are enduring as we wait. That is what trust is. It is to wait on God, on His timing, on His provision, in His own way. We just let God be God. This is our greatest test: Is my faith still in God when He answers "No", when there is not miracle?

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All the Biblical people - Daniel, Jonah, all those that we've looked at to this point, all of the saints and martyrs; St. Lawrence, whose feast day was yesterday, was purported to have said, "I'm done on this side, turn me over." All of the saints and all of the Biblical heroes, even one of our early Church Fathers, John Chrysostom, who lived in the late 4th and early 5th century. One day the emperor brought him to himself and demanded that John renounce Christ. He said "I can't do that." The emperor threatened him and said "If you don't renounce Christ then I'm going to banish you from the country forever." John said, "You can't separate me from my Father's land. The whole world is my Father's. You can't banish me." The emperor said "Okay, then I'll take away all your property and treasure." And John said, "You can't because all my treasure is in heaven." And the emperor said "Then I will send you to a place of absolute solitude where there is nobody for you to talk to. You'll be in complete isolation." And John said, "You can't because I have a friend who is closer than a brother to me. He is Jesus Christ who has promised to be with me always, even to the very end of the age." The emperor then said, "Then I'll take your life." And John said, "You cannot take my life because my life is forever hidden in Christ with God."

John Chrysostom had the same spirit as Mary. Mary teaches us to LOVE the Word™. May it be done to me according to your will, no strings attached. That is my prayer for you, Dear One. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

