

Trust in the LORD

Making this scripture my personal theme helped me when trials came.

By Lisa Marie Clayson

When I was 17, my oldest brother, John, passed away. He was only 27 and left behind a wife and young son. I could not have endured through this tragedy without the scriptures to lead and guide my life.

If you have ever had anyone close to you pass away, then you know the pain that strikes in every part of your being. It hurts for a long time. Even though we learn to be happy again and move on, no matter how much time passes, there's still a pain.

When my brother passed away, I learned that it was OK to let myself hurt. It was OK to be sad. I didn't need to be so strong all

of the time. Sometimes there are challenges where we have to rely on others. And I learned I had to rely on the Lord.

About nine months before my brother passed away, I had prayed to my Heavenly Father to find a scripture I could use as a theme in my life that year. I was reading my scriptures and came across Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

This scripture struck me with such force that I knew this was supposed to be my theme scripture for that year. For the next nine months, I tried to "trust in the Lord." In every experience I went through, those words would echo in my mind.

About a week after John's death, the words in Proverbs echoed in my mind again, and I realized why the Lord wanted me to practice trusting in Him. When my brother passed away, I could have asked my Heavenly Father, "Why? Why did this have to happen to us?" But that question never crossed my mind, because for nine months the Lord had been preparing me to trust in Him. Instead, I was ready to bring comfort to other family members around me who needed it. I felt the peace that comes from the knowledge that family is eternal, and I knew that I hadn't seen John for the last time. Although at times I feel that pain that comes from losing someone you love, I know that my family can be together again after this life. This scripture in Proverbs brought me hope, peace, and guidance in a time of great need. **NE**

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