

July 22, 2012  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Psalm 31

**“A Reasonable Trust”**

**Background: For the choir director. A Psalm of David.**

**I. Reasonable Cycles of Petition & Trust – v. 1-22**

**A. Cycle #1 – v. 1-4**

**1. Trust – v. 1a**

**2. Petition – v. 1b-2**

**3. Reason – v. 3-4**

**B. Cycle #2 – v. 5-13**

**1. Trust – v. 5-7a**

**2. Reason – v. 7b-8**

**3. Petition – v. 9-13**

**C. Cycle #3**

**1. Trust – v. 14a**

**2. Reason – v. 14b-15a**

**3. Petition – v. 15b-18**

**D. Cycle #4**

**1. Trust – v. 19-21**

**2. Reason – v. 22**

**II. Call To Petition & Trust – v. 23-24**

**A. Call to Personal Trust – v. 23a**

**B. Reason – v. 23b**

**C. Call to Persistent Trust – v. 24**

## Discussion Questions:

1. What does the word “trust” mean? What does it mean to “trust the LORD”? In what specific circumstances do you find it the most difficult to trust the LORD? Do you ever cycle in and out of trusting the LORD and then doubting? If so, describe one of those times.
2. Why is it “reasonable” to trust the LORD? Why isn’t it a “blind leap of faith into the dark” as many say?
3. David uses word pictures to describe the LORD (“rock of strength,” “stronghold,” “fortress”). What did those words mean to David? What are some modern word pictures we could use for our God that would encourage us to trust in Him instead of other things?
4. David says, “For Your name’s sake You will lead me and guide me.” What does that mean? How is God’s name connected with leading and guiding us? How does that encourage you when you go through times of doubt and feel like the LORD isn’t there?
5. What does it mean to be “ransomed” (v. 5)? What price did the LORD pay to ransom us? If He was willing to pay that price why would we doubt His commitment to be faithful to us into the future?
6. What are some of the “vain idols” (v. 6) that people trusted in when David wrote this Psalm? What are some that people trust in today? Is it important that we “hate” those idols or merely “dislike” them?
7. Read vv. 9-13. How many different kinds of trouble was David experiencing? How would you describe his physical / mental / emotional / spiritual state? How would you respond if you were experiencing all of those things at once?
8. Read vv. 14-15a. What did David specifically believe to be true that helped him overcome? What does it mean to acknowledge to the LORD that our “times are in His hand”?
9. Read v. 18. How does this contrast with Ps. 30:8-9?
10. Even though David had cycled through trusting the LORD so many times, what still happened to him in v. 22? Why does this happen? Is it possible to ever get to the point where we don’t do that? How would we get there?
11. Read v. 23-24. What are some things you can apply from those two verses to help others learn to trust the LORD just like you are?