

The Shack – Reflection (4)

Quiet yourself and become aware of God's presence at this very moment ... As you listen to this song, ask Jesus to grant you the grace to trust more in Him, especially in pain and trials ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDxTGW8DPhs>

From the book *'The Shack'* by WM Paul Young:

"Mackenzie" It was the voice of Papa again, especially gentle and tender. "You really don't understand yet. You try to make sense of the world in which you live based on a very small and incomplete picture of reality. It is like looking at a parade through the tiny knothole of hurt, pain, self centeredness, and power, and believing you are on your own and insignificant. All of these contain powerful lies. You see pain and death as ultimate evils and God as the ultimate betrayer, or perhaps, at best, as fundamentally untrustworthy. You dictate the terms and judge my actions and find me guilty"

"The real underlying flaw in your life, Mackenzie, is that you don't think that I am good. If you knew I was good and that everything – the means, the ends and all the processes of individual lives – is all covered by my goodness, then while you might not always understand what I am doing, you would trust me. But you don't."

"I don't?" asked Mack, but it was not really a question. It was a statement of fact and he knew it. The others seemed to know it too and the table remained silent.

Sarayu spoke. "Mackenzie, you cannot produce trust just as you cannot "do" humility. It either is or is not. Trust is the fruit of a relationship in which you know you are loved. Because you do not know that I love you, you *cannot* trust me."

Again there was silence, and finally Mack looked up at Papa and spoke. "I don't know how to change that."

"You can't, not alone. But together we will watch that change take place. For now I just want you to be with me and discover that our relationship is not about performance or you having to please me. I'm not a bully, not some self-centred demanding little deity insisting on my own way. I am good, and I desire only what is best for you. You cannot find that through guilt or condemnation or coercion, only through a relationship of love. And I do love you."

From the Holy Scriptures:

- For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11
- Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. John 14:1

- Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7
- But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God" Psalm 31:14

Conversation with God:

Let God speak to you with the excerpt from *'The Shack'* and also with these verses from the Holy Scriptures. Then speak to God and tell Him how much you desire to trust more in Him and to let go in Him. Amen.