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Remaining Truthful In the Eyes of God

Trustworthiness often isn't the first characteristic that comes to mind when you are evaluating someone. Oftentimes the first characteristic that you focus on when determining the "worth" of someone is their work ethic, kindness, or ability to work with others. Ultimately there is nothing wrong with analyzing one of those characteristics first, but it is important to remember and understand the impact that trustworthiness has on each of those traits. Without trustworthiness, a world falls to chaos, a nation crumbles, a state isn't strong enough to run on its own, and communities cease to exist. It is in having trust that we are able to learn from a past of mistakes, live in a state of mutualism, and look towards a future of successes.

Throughout world history, we have been through countless wars, endless arguments and many economic rises and downfalls. What does this have to do with trustworthiness? It's best to begin at a local level. At the root of each conflict, is a lack of communication, trust, or mutual understanding between a group of people. As time goes by, they lose trust completely and become divided. Once you have reached division, there is no strength in a community and a single upset can spiral into a state-wide dispute. If a state-wide issue is truly rooted in a lack of trust between its people, there is nothing stopping the people of the state from spreading that dispute to the remainder of the country. A country that is rife with division and opposition is prone to being attacked by another republic or country because if it cannot survive due to quarrels between its own people, then surely it cannot withstand being taken on by a different group of people that have unity and trust among their ranks. In the 1700's people sought a way to escape the reign of the British king. They wished to create a country in which they could trust

their ruler, gain more opportunities, and live as they deserved. By taking this initial step towards freedom, they were able to establish an understanding of trust, and a community of people who shared similar beliefs. These people were the founding fathers of the United States of America. For a long time, there was still war and tragedy, but as they continued fighting for what they believed in and striving to maintain trust in one another, gradually, more and more freedom and respect was gained. From 1787 when the first U.S. state was established, to 1959 when we gained our 50th state, there were agreements established throughout the world, and bargains being made to help our great country thrive. As the U.S. proved its strength and the unity of its people, it began to project the image of trust between its states and greatness throughout its nation and the world. Because our founding fathers were able to establish trust throughout the first settlers in America, they were able to spark their hopes of a land of opportunity and freedom into the bountiful country that we live in today.

Living as we do today is a choice. By understanding, respecting, and trusting each other, we are better able to communicate, deliberate, and decide. As people in the human race, we are filled with flaws and imperfections that keep us from being instinctively good and moral at all times. No matter where or who we are, we are influenced by bias daily and within those biases are different opinions and viewpoints that still keep us divided. Within our nation, we must maintain trust in our people and government to remain stable. If we are able to trust each other and find ways to respect and listen to all opinions -even ones we don't agree with,- we will be able to stand strong through controversies that try to tear us apart. In the United States of America, we recite the Pledge of Allegiance regularly, in which we claim the following: "And to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all". Oxford's dictionary defines pledge as "a solemn promise or undertaking". By pledging

allegiance to our national flag, we are bringing ourselves together as a people. We are solemnly promising to be indivisible, full of justice and ensure liberty for all. None of these solemn promises are possible without trust. Absolute indivisibility, justice, and liberty are subjective and arguably impossible ideas. To be absolute in anything we do, we have to be unclouded by bias and individual thoughts. Of course, as earlier mentioned, we face bias daily and it makes us who we are as well as distinguishes and celebrates the differences between us. These concepts are to be rationalized and expressed to the best of our abilities and again, we must trust each other to enact these in our daily life. After all, how can a nation be indivisible when its people do not trust and respect each other? We must allow fair trial and the discussion of controversies to remain true to the values we hold in our constitution and our hearts.

As we look towards the rising sun of the future, we are faced with a big decision; how will we choose to let faith and trust impact the ways of the world. With more communication and trust between nations, the world as a whole has the ability to become more united and safe for all of its inhabitants. The first step towards this world of the future, is to move past the ways and worries of yesterday. As a world, we must mutually agree that a planet of united nations is something that benefits all. We must be able to share each other's glory and bounties, and bask in each other's highs, as well as help support each other through our deepest and darkest lows. Once we are able to come together, the world will become more peaceful and glorious and somewhere that each human wants to live. Our first step towards a world of united nations begins with our countries. In America, some of our greatest adversaries and conflicts rise from distrust and disagreements between ourselves. Many people see our government as corrupt or dishonorable. In order to move past this image, we must strive for the truth and demand answers but still in a peaceful way. Ask for help though questions driven by empathy and compassion. Those in

charge are more likely to act on something that makes its people less happy, so as people of our land, we must be truthful about what upsets us, and get over the fear of speaking out. We must learn to be bold about what concerns the greater good. Before the national level is reached, we first must come to a consensus as a state. Statewide division is something that is not easy to move past because the strongest beliefs come from the smallest groups. Each state can be broken down into regions, counties, cities, towns, neighborhoods, and even into individual residencies. The issue with coming together as a state is that we do not trust the people that literally live next door. Beliefs vary greatly from household to household, causing the community to rise in uproar when the collective political or moral belief is skewed towards one that they don't agree with or believe in. A lack of belief can come from a myriad of things, but to move forward, we must find a way to discuss these issues in an orderly manner that leaves everyone heard and leaves no secrets between the different parties of belief. If we choose to be truthful and honest, even if it does not directly benefit us, we will be able to thrive as a united world and set off onto the journey of achieving world peace.

Thus far in my time on Earth, I have always found trustworthiness to be an admirable trait in any leader, peer, or friend. Knowing that someone is truthful in the things that they say and that they are honest in their intentions, makes it easier to work with, talk and listen to them, as well as get along with them in general. Throughout the last few years, I have been acknowledging the actions of others more often, and I have come to the realization that people who are not true to themselves are the least happy people of all. If you have to lie about who you are to "fit in", then you simply aren't surrounding yourself with the right people. I myself have been through this exact situation and the things that have helped me become a more truthful person -to myself, as well as others- are the right group of friends, finding activities that make

me happy, acknowledging my own feelings, and developing a better relationship with God. My happiness comes from a sense of comfort in my home and community because I have learned to trust the people around me, and I have learned to trust myself. After finding this way to keep myself in a content state, I have found it easier to talk to new people and try new things, as well as step up and try to be a better leader and embrace who I am. I trust myself to make beneficial decisions in the future and to overcome any adversity that crosses my path. I look forward to leading my own life and living happily. Lastly, if I ever begin to doubt myself I'll simply reach into my pocket, pull out a penny, hold it high and read in its bronze letters; "In God We Trust".

