

August 28, 2026

## Trust Takes Time

*August Series: Christ-Centered Relationships*

*Week Focus: Making Peace*

**Scripture – Proverbs 28:13** - *“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

---

## Devotional Reflection

When a relationship has been damaged, we sometimes expect everything to return to normal as soon as an apology is offered or forgiveness is extended. We may think, **“I said I was sorry,”** or **“We talked about it, so why are things still different?”** But forgiveness and trust are not identical. Forgiveness can release an offense without requiring the injured person to pretend the damage never occurred, while trust is often rebuilt through what happens next. **Peace can be offered immediately; trust may have to be rebuilt gradually.**

Proverbs 28:13 connects confession with something more: renouncing what was wrong. Confession acknowledges the behavior; renouncing it turns away from the behavior. In relationships, trust begins to grow again when repentance becomes visible through consistency—truthfulness after dishonesty, dependability after unreliability, gentleness after harshness, and accountability after broken confidence. **Where trust has been damaged by our actions, one of the most loving things we can do is give our repentance enough time to become credible through the way we live.**

Jesus consistently joined mercy with truth and wisdom. He freely extended grace to those who failed, but His relationships also demonstrated discernment, responsibility, and genuine transformation. His grace did not require pretending that choices had no consequences, and His forgiveness did not eliminate the importance of a changed life. Christ shows us that restoration is not built by pressure or appearances; it grows where truth, grace, repentance, and wisdom are allowed to work together.

As followers of Christ, we must therefore resist the pressure to rush trust—whether we are rebuilding someone else’s trust or discerning whether our own can be restored. If we caused the hurt, our focus should move from **“Why don’t you trust me yet?”** to becoming increasingly trustworthy through patient consistency. If we were hurt, forgiveness does not require immediately restoring the same level of access, and where abuse, coercion, manipulation, threats, or danger are present, forgiveness never requires returning to an unsafe situation. **Christ-centered reconciliation pursues peace without abandoning wisdom.**

Today, consider where trust may need time rather than pressure. God can restore relationships, but genuine restoration is not produced by pretending the past did not happen or demanding that everyone move forward at the same pace. Ask Him to help you value faithfulness over urgency, consistency over promises, and wisdom over pressure. **When trust has been broken, patience can become part of the peacemaking process.**

## Focus for Today

**Forgiveness can be extended in a moment; trust is often rebuilt through consistent faithfulness over time.**

## Practice

Consider a relationship where trust has been affected.

If **you damaged the trust**, ask:

**“What consistent action would demonstrate that my repentance is genuine?”**

If **your trust was damaged**, ask:

**“What evidence of truth, accountability, and change would help me wisely discern whether trust can grow again?”**

Do not rush the process simply to remove discomfort.

**Choose faithfulness over pressure.**

---

## Prayer

Father, thank You for Your mercy and for the transforming power of Your grace. Give me wisdom concerning trust in my relationships. Where my actions have damaged trust, help me become truthful, consistent, accountable, patient, and faithful. Keep me from demanding restoration before my repentance has had time to become visible. Where I have been hurt, help me forgive without abandoning wisdom, discernment, or healthy boundaries. Guide every step of restoration according to Your truth and Your timing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

---

## Reflection Question

**Am I trying to rush trust back into a relationship when God may be calling me to patiently allow truth, consistency, and changed behavior to rebuild it?**