

Lean On or Lean Into?

A standard Christianese is to say, “Lean on the Lord in the time of trouble”. This is quite an acceptable saying in those circles, so much so, that it appears in prophetic messages as well. For example:

*“Beloved, rest in the assurance that I know your circumstances and the things that are a concern to you, and I will help you through every difficult challenge in your life. Put your trust completely in Me to do for you what you cannot do for yourself. **Lean on Me**’, says the Lord.”¹*

When it’s constantly spoken from the pulpit, expressed in personal support, written in devotionals and included in prophetic messages, it adds an aura of authenticity to it that no one contradicts. However, the question is, “Is this a Kingdom statement that sons should follow?”

Firstly, “Lean on the Lord” is not an important biblical teaching for those who must have proof from the Bible. “Lean on” the Lord doesn’t appear in the NIV at all. It only occurs twice in the NKJV, in the prophecies of Isaiah² and Micah³. All other instances are about leaning on an object or the body of a person.

Secondly, the spiritual principle is actually about trusting him, which is a completely different concept. Trust is about implicit confidence and reliance, whereas, leaning is more a temporary support mechanism. The truth of the temporary nature comes out in the expression, “Lean on the Lord in the time of trouble” – a directive to get his support when it’s needed. The inference there is that for the remainder of the time, the person does their own thing, relying on themselves. The outworking of the ‘leaning on’ teaching is that believers are only interested in trusting (relying on) the Lord when things go out of balance.

I used to do that method of trusting him each time my life was a mess, but I learnt through relationship with him that he desires me to trust him implicitly with my life, all the time. Every day, now, I trust him and rest in that trust, as much as I’m humanly able to.

One of the ideas that got me to trust in the right way was the expression of Ian Clayton⁴, “Lean into”. It made more sense in relation to what I had begun to understand about trust. ‘Leaning into’ has the idea within it of leaning completely on something with your whole weight, so you’d topple over if it was taken away. ‘Leaning into’ can only be done when you completely trust the person, and that’s what the King wants.

As a visual aid, ‘Leaning on’ is like the woman leaning on a sideboard⁵. She only has a little weight on the object as it’s a support, not a reliance. ‘Leaning into’ is more like the man pushing a car.⁶ He has his whole weight projected into the vehicle.



In the Kingdom, then, we ‘lean into’ the Trinity and completely rely on them, even though there are components of our life that we look after ourselves. We also ‘lean into’ whatever they personally say to us. We even ‘lean into’ spiritual things that they show us so we can move on to greater maturity.

1 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (Feb. 25, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

2 – Isaiah 48:2

3 – Micah 3:11

4 – www.sonofthunder.org

5 – GRAPHIC: www.clker.com/clipart-woman-leaning.html [copyright free]

6 – GRAPHIC: www.clker.com/clipart-612023.html [copyright free]

IMPORTANT: Why does “lean on” appear in prophetic messages, just like some biblical expressions and church jargon does? It’s because the Spirit uses our lingo to speak to us. That’s what we understand, so it’s easier for the Spirit to get his message through to us. However, that **doesn’t** put the Trinity’s ‘seal of approval’ on those types of expressions. It’s just their grace in allowing sons to make their own belief choices.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)