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### Princes

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## Princes

“Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no salvation.” (Psalm 146:3)

“Princes” stands for princesses, presidents, and anyone we can imagine who might have political or military power. God alone saves us, though God often provides for our welfare through the actions of mortals, including those in authority. Trust in God enables us to determine who, and to what degree, we will trust others who have, or seek to have, influence in our lives.

Almost every day we hear, see, or read about those who wish us to follow their leadership, implying that we should trust them. But our capacity to trust is of great value, not to be squandered. We trust some people in one or other particular situation, but not in others. We might trust a repair person whom we do not know personally to come into our home, but we might want to be present. To another person, we might provide the key so that they could perform the service in our absence. We might trust an organization with our savings, and only begin to wonder about whether or not we made a good choice during a time of economic fluctuations.

We make choices about those we trust, to what extent, and on what issues. We are responsible for our lives; God has entrusted each of us with this one life we are living. We are also interdependent – God has made us so. But we do not want to be led astray by those who claim that they are trustworthy, or that we should follow them, especially if they use fear or anger as motivators.

How do we decide the level of trust we will accord to others as we seek help for many aspects of our lives - social, political, economic, and religious? When we start with God first, we can subsequently make good judgments about anyone else we might consider as a source of information or leadership. God is utterly trustworthy, and knows literally who is and who is not trustworthy in the particular situations confronting us. We can ask for God’s guidance as we make use of our reasoning, logic, and experience, including whatever we learn through consultation with others. We do not expect God to make our decisions for us, but we trust God to guide and inspire us as we make individual and particular decisions about placing some of our precious trust in others.

Most of us have learned that we do not make wise decisions when we are angry or afraid. Why then, would we make a decision while some

would-be leader, whether Television personality, politician, religious representative or writer, elicits anger or fear in order to move us in a certain direction? Our obligation to ourselves and to our fellow humans might well urge us to first bring the negative emotions we experience directly to God, to seek the appropriate perspective.

Whether in an instant, or over time, we will find in our honest communication with God the peace we need for making right judgments about the "princes" of our times.