



John Bunyan

(1628 – 1688)

A Man of TRUST

John's Story

At the age of 9, John Bunyan had already earned a bad reputation in Elstow, England, where he lived. John's parents could not control him, and he couldn't control himself!

Secretly, John knew that he was not pleasing God. Finally, he left home at about age 16 and joined the army. One day, he switched duties with another soldier, and an enemy's bullet struck the other soldier. God had spared him from danger, and he began to believe God wanted him alive for a reason.

John left the army and got married when he was 19. He and his wife were very poor. They didn't have "so much as a dish or a spoon betwixt us both," John wrote. But his wife served as a godly influence in his life.

Then, when John was about 21, he met three ladies who were full of joy and peace because of putting their trust in Jesus. The women and their pastor encouraged John to trust the One who saves those who cannot save themselves. "Your own works can't save you," the pastor explained. John listened to him and trusted completely in the Lord.

Full of joy, John began to share his faith with others. Preaching outside an official government church was against the law; consequently, John went to jail. While in jail, he began to write a story about a Christian pilgrim who struggles, but because of God's great grace remains on the narrow path to heaven.

In 1678, a few years after John's release from jail, he took *The Pilgrim's Progress* to a printer and said, "I have a book of little worth." That book became one of the best-selling books of all time. Since the first printing of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, it has been translated into over 200 languages and distributed around the world.

Key Bible Verse:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Key Word: TRUST

Trust: A firm belief in the truth, dependability, power, or strength of someone or something

