
Why Worry When . . . ?

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

IF IN NEED of engine repairs, I will not look up some teenage hotrod enthusiast to repair my auto that cost thousands of dollars. I shall check carefully the credentials and successful experience of the mechanic before giving him my repair money. Many listen to the wrong people for advice and counsel. You will not have my ear if unsuccessful in the field you are giving advice. Imagine a woman who has never been married telling me how to rear children.

God, Who created us for His purpose, has every right to give instruction. Have you read His Book full of such? The Bible reveals His grace which motivates our action. "For the GRACE OF GOD that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. TEACHING US that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11, 12).

Of course, it is sin to allow circumstances to give us anxiety and frustration. We worry only about that which we fear. Such an exercise is not communicated from heaven. "For God hath not given us the SPIRIT OF FEAR; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). It is impossible to comprehend the love of God and possess fear at the same time. They do not coexist. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18).

WHY WORRY WHEN God tells me to be anxious about nothing? "Be careful for nothing; but IN EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). This is the plain command we dare not disobey! To do so means that we forfeit the promises of the following verse: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

WHY WORRY WHEN I possess the strength of Christ? God instructed Paul to put it in our language. He did it! We too can, by the enabling power of Christ, do everything we are directed. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me" (Philippians 4:13). We are without excuse. How dare we hesitate to follow the plain direction of God? Obedience is always connected with promise. So it is in Philippians 4:9: "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, DO, and the God of peace shall be with you."

WHY WORRY WHEN God will supply my need. Whatever it is, the God of grace has promised. Whether it be faith or strength, it is already available and can be personally appropriated. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Now, remember that God does not stipulate our wants and desires. It is our needs determined by Divine Omniscience. He knows His own. "Nevertheless the

foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (II Timothy 2:19).

Our God knows that which we do not. How wonderful to depend upon Him to do what He knows is needed in our behalf. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26).

WHY WORRY WHEN everything is working for the good? God said it! We are to believe it! "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Here is absolute assurance - "WE KNOW." When the conditions of this verse are met, only good can be the result from every circumstance we find ourselves in. If we do not love the Lord, nor are resigned to His purpose, then this promise will never be a reality in our lives. Why worry? If we know Him, our keeping His commandments and direction will be automatic.

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him" (I John 2:3-5).

WHY WORRY WHEN I have His promises? "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)" (Hebrews 10:23). The Bible is filled with the declaration of God's intentions toward us. Faith on our part allows God to keep His Word in our behalf. He will not force His intentions upon us. He gives us faith that He might freely give us all things promised in His Word. Faith is communicated to us through the Word of God. We must read and study it.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith simply means: Forsaking all I trust Him. We rest completely that God will fulfill His every promise. Try to do this and worry at the same time. They will not mix.

WHY WORRY WHEN I have His care? "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7). Why should I care when He does? My anxiety will produce only deterioration in my body and spirit. If He cares and has absolute control over everything, what a waste of time for me to become anxious about anything. He is on the throne to accomplish His purpose. You and I should desire nothing else.

WHY WORRY WHEN He does all things well? "And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak" (Mark 7:37). Never forget that God is sovereign and maintains absolute control. He is the One who brings things to pass and determines who we are and what will happen. God help us to be more dependent upon Him.

Here is a verse that disturbs many people. Before you read it, remember that I am using it in this message about worry to reveal His absolute control. We may not understand with full comprehension, but His motivation is for our good. It always has been and always will be. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or

the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord?" (Exodus 4:11). A blind person may have a larger ministry for Christ than if he had sight. God knows the effect and influence of a ministry on others. Nothing comes our way independent of involvement with others surrounding us. Understand it or not, I urge you to believe that He does all things well. This is His promise. Why worry about it?

WHY WORRY WHEN no good thing is kept from me? "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11). There is a condition attached to this promise. To walk uprightly is to possess no conscious unconfessed sin in our lives. The only way we will ever see ourselves as we really are is to recognize God's standard as outlined in His Word. Listen to the prophet, Isaiah: "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 5:5).

We determine that which the Lord will do to and for us. We pay a terrible price for failing to believe and obey the Lord! The Bible is filled with blazing lights of examples. "Take my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience" (James 5:10). "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:11).

If you are still reading these lines, I wonder, will these promises be of value to you? This question is easily answered. I can tell by your continuing to worry, instead of believing truth communicated your way in this simple message from the Bible. Continue to worry? You can only do it in disobedience and direct rebellion against a God Who has demonstrated His love and concern for you.

To some reading these lines, this truth will be of little more importance than the article you read in today's newspaper. You shall continue to worry as long as God allows you breath. To others of you, long before you reach these last words in this message, your defense mechanism has already built a stone wall, concluding that it will not work for you. I sincerely pray that a few of you who are Christians will find a place of prayer and be absolutely honest before God, confessing to Him the sin of fear and worry. Believe Him to forgive and cleanse you. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

Now, if you are not a born-again Christian (there is no other kind), you have reason to be fearful, for you are heading for the flames of hell without one hope or any help. If you refuse to repent and trust Christ alone to take away your damnable sins, I have no other message for you independent of the gospel, which declares that God will adopt you into His family on the basis that you will turn to Him and cry Out for deliverance. If you are too proud to do so, you will go on in your sins with sufficient reason to fear,

falling into the hands of a God who has already pronounced judgment upon all sin (yours included).

My earnest plea for you is to find a place of prayer, name your sins to God, ask His intervention into your eternal destiny. Ask Him to save you from sin and all of its ugly consequences. Believe Him to do it! By faith receive Christ into your life to take control from here on throughout eternity.

Could this be the year that produces the most happiness thus far? Will it mean the departure of the dearest one to you on this earth? Good or bad news changes not the promises of our God. Here is a verse that grants you assurance in the midst of your greatest possible casualty: "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE. THEREFORE WILL NOT WE FEAR, THOUGH THE EARTH BE REMOVED, AND THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS BE CARRIED INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA" (Psalm 46:1,2).

Our Action

1. How different our days will be if we spent time every day telling the Lord EVERYTHING in prayer as in Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in EVERY thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
2. With God's Love Letter open, we read and study it daily. What a difference in our lives! Come, join with me, friend! Let's keep our knees bent in prayer and our nose in THE BOOK!
3. Since we have absolute control over that which we think about, let's practice the instructions found in Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS."

If there are changes in your schedule and life-style in the days ahead, how about letting me be one of the first to know?

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