

Fear Not, Little Flock

Is it really possible to live without fear, worry and anxiety in today's world? God's word tells us that it not only is possible, but we are commanded to "be not afraid" and to "not be anxious for anything." There may be wars, calamities and terrors of all kinds out in the world, but the Lord is our Shepherd, and He will protect His flock. Not only will the Lord take care of us in the here and now, but He has also promised that we shall eventually triumph and be the inheritors of the whole earth.

- **Luke 12:30-32** "For all these things do the nations of the world seek after; and your Father knows that you have need of these things. But rather **seek the kingdom of God**; and all these things shall be added to you. **Fear not, little flock**; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
- **Matthew 5:3 & 5** "Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are the gentle (meek), for **they shall inherit the earth.**"
- **Psalms 27:1 & 3** "The Lord is my light and my salvation; **whom shall I fear?** The Lord is the strength of my life; **of whom shall I be afraid?**" "Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; **though WAR should rise up against me**, in this will I be confident."
- **Psalms 23:1** "The Lord is my shepherd.....even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**; for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me **in the presence of my enemies....**"
- **Matthew 6:31** "Therefore, DO NOT WORRY..."
- **Phil. 4:6** "Do not be ANXIOUS for anything...."
- **Matthew 14:27** "....Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take courage, it is I; **do NOT be AFRAID.**'"

You can't obey the commands to "fear not" and "be anxious for nothing" unless you really trust God. You must trust that He won't make a mistake, that He has your best interest at heart, that He knows the future outcome of all the events that are happening, and that He has the ability to work everything out for your good. Fear is the opposite of faith, so how do you increase your faith in God and His ability to protect and take care of you? God's word says that our faith is increased as we read and take in His word. Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Read the following Scriptures from the word of God, and you will see why we as Christians never need to be afraid or worry:

1.) You Do Not Need to be Afraid, Because the Almighty God Is On Your Side - Our God is greater and more powerful than Satan and all his demons, or any human enemy. He is all wise, all knowing, loving, compassionate and merciful. He will take care of His own.

- **Romans 8:31** "What shall we then say to these things? If God be FOR US, who can be AGAINST US?"
- **II Chronicles 32:7-8** "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid or dismayed because...of all the multitude which is with him (the enemy), for **the One with us is GREATER than the one with him**. With him is only an arm of flesh (merely human resources); but with us is the Lord our God to HELP US, and to FIGHT our BATTLES."
- **I John 4:4** "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because **GREATER is He that is in you**, than he that is in the world."
- **Psalms 27:1 & 3** "The Lord is my light and my salvation; **whom shall I fear?** The Lord is the strength of my life; **of whom shall I be afraid?**" "Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise up against me, in this will I be confident."

- **Hebrews 13:5-6** "...He Himself has said, 'I will NEVER LEAVE you, nor forsake you', so that we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my HELPER, and **I will NOT FEAR** what man shall do to me.'"
- **Psalms 37:39-40** "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; **He is their strength in the time of trouble**. And the Lord shall HELP them, and DELIVER them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, **because they TRUST in Him**."
- **Exodus 14:13-14** "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. The Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **The Lord will fight for you**, and you shall hold your peace.'"
- **I Samuel 17:47** "Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for **the battle is the Lord's**, and He will give you into our hands."
- **Romans 8:38-39** ".....neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate **US** from **the LOVE of GOD which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**."

2.)You Do Not Need to be Afraid, Because God is Your Loving Heavenly Father - He REALLY DOES want to supply your needs, and He DOES have your best interests in mind. Even when He allows trials and tests to come into your life, it is always for your good.

- **Philippians 4:19** "But my God shall SUPPLY ALL your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
- **Jeremiah 29:11** "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare (your good) and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.'"
- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that **ALL things WORK together for GOOD** to those who **LOVE GOD**, to those who are the CALLED according to His purpose."
- **Proverbs 1:33** "But whoever listens to Me will dwell SAFELY, and will be SECURE, without fear of evil."
- **Psalms 84:11** "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 (obediently)."
- **Matthew 7:11** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much MORE will **your Father who is in heaven give GOOD things** to those who ask Him!"
- **Psalms 37:25** "I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed (children) begging bread."
- **Matthew 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to (provided for) you."

3.)You Do Not Need to be Afraid, Even Though All Around You are Perishing - God has given us His angels to protect us, and God has His own sort of filtering system to protect His children from the pollution and danger of this world. Do not focus on the terrible things you hear in news, but focus on God's promises. Do not focus on what the devil is doing, but on what God can and will do in your life, if you will let Him.

- **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me you may have PEACE**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
- **Isaiah 26:3** "You will keep him in perfect PEACE, whose mind is stayed (focused) on You."
- **Psalms 91:2-7, 9-12** "I will say of the Lord, He is my REFUGE and my FORTRESS: my God, in Him will I trust. Surely He shall DELIVER you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence." "**You shall NOT be AFRAID** of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. **A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten**

- thousand at your right hand**, but it shall NOT COME NEAR YOU." "Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, NO EVIL shall befall you, neither shall any plague (calamity) come near your dwelling. For **He shall give His angels charge over you**, to keep (guard) you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone."
- **Hebrews 1:14** "Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth **to render service on behalf of those who will inherit salvation?**"
 - **Psalms 34:4 & 6** "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and **delivered me from ALL my FEARS**. This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."
 - **Isaiah 54:15b & 17** "...whosoever shall gather together against you shall fall for your sake. **No weapon that is formed against you** shall prosper (be effective), and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and 'their righteousness is of Me', says the Lord."
 - **II Chronicles 16:9** "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is completely His."
 - **Isaiah 41:10** "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, yes, I will UPHOLD you with My righteous right hand."
 - **II Timothy 1:7** "For God has **NOT given us a spirit of FEAR**, but of POWER and of LOVE and of a sound MIND."
 - **Hebrews 2:14-15** ".....that through [Christ's] death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, **the DEVIL**, and RELEASE those who **through FEAR of death** were all their lifetime subject to BONDAGE."
 - **Psalms 107:19-20** "Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saves them out of their distresses. He sent **His WORD**, and HEALED them, and **DELIVERED them from their DESTRUCTIONS**."
 - **John 14:27** "PEACE I leave with you, My PEACE I give unto you; not as the world gives, do I give unto you. **LET not** your heart be TROUBLED, neither **let it be AFRAID**."

4.) You Do Not Need to be Afraid, If You Do What God Says Is Your Responsibility -

God's protection may be automatic many times, because we can't always see what is coming, or know the danger we are in, but experiencing His peace in the midst of turmoil is not automatic. You have to cast all your cares and fears on Jesus. You have to **LET NOT your heart be troubled, or do not ALLOW it to be troubled**. The only way you can do that is to **TAKE your thoughts captive** whenever negative thoughts come into your mind, **REPLACE those negative thoughts** with the WORD of GOD, and **be THANKFUL and PRAISE the Lord** for EVERY situation and circumstance in your life, no matter how ridiculous or unreasonable that may seem. Jesus said that **you CAN have PEACE** in the midst of tribulation (John 16:33) simply because you TRUST in Him. When He says that He has "overcome the world," part of the meaning in the original Greek is "I have deprived it of power to harm you." **The storm may be raging all around you, but you are SAFE in Jesus**. He has deprived that situation of whatever harm it might have done you, and He promises that He will work ALL things together for your GOOD (Rom. 8:28). However, you will not **experience His PEACE** until you BELIEVE it, and start thanking Him for EVERYTHING and PRAISING Him in all situations. You CAN'T AFFORD to lean and rely on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). God is much smarter and far more powerful than you are, and **He is in control of your life! Start acting like it!** Then and only then will you have real peace and victory in your life, and then God will be able to start making whatever changes need to be made. Until you trust Him completely, you block His power from working in your life by your unbelief (Matthew 13:58).

- **Matthew 13:58** "And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief."
- **Psalms 55:22** "**Cast your BURDEN on the Lord**, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."

- **I Peter 5:5-7** "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **casting ALL your care (worry, anxiety, fear) upon Him**, because He cares for you."

PRAYER FOR TRUSTING IN GOD INSTEAD OF WORRYING

Heavenly Father, You already know what I have need of, but Your word says **MY PART is to TRUST YOU WITH ALL MY HEART** in this situation, LET MY REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO YOU, and to CAST (THROW) ALL **MY BURDEN OF WORRY & ANXIETY** about it onto You. I do that now, Lord: I commit

_____ to You right now (today's date) _____, and I believe that **You are working out ALL these circumstances FOR MY GOOD**. It's Your problem, now, Lord, not mine. I humble myself before You, Lord, and wait on YOUR TIMING. I DO NOT LEAN (RELY) ON MY OWN UNDERSTANDING (wondering HOW You will work it out, or trying to tell You how to do it), but **I wait patiently for You to BRING IT TO PASS**.

I THANK YOU AND PRAISE YOU, LORD, that You are working it out, and I RECEIVE THE PEACE OF GOD to guard my heart and my mind (thoughts and emotions) **in Christ Jesus**. If anxious thoughts come to me (if I am TEMPTED TO WORRY and DOUBT), I will stand against that temptation just as I would any other TEMPTATION TO SIN. **Worry IS a sin**, because it means I am NOT TRUSTING You. Thank You, Lord, for Your LOVE, and CARE and PROTECTION that **You GIVE ME every day!**