

WORRY OR FAITH?

Psalm 37:3-7

2 Corinthians 5:7

Introduction: We experience both worry and faith during our lifetime. Worry is what we do when we are not in control of the situation or there is a predicted event which could bring undesirable consequences. We do lots of worrying. Faith, however, is looking beyond the present to divine intervention. Faith is placing our lives and situations into the hands of God. Faith and worry cannot work together, it is either one or the other. Whenever we allow the Lord to have absolute control, trusting Him with our total existence, not trying to correct or instruct or suggest what might be best, we will be free of worry and anxiety.

I. WHEN WE WORRY WE DON'T HAVE FAITH; WHEN WE HAVE FAITH WE DON'T WORRY

1. The way of faith is not doing things by seeing them.
 - Faith is not looking for signs or feelings.
 - Faith is not depending on something but someone.
 - Faith is believing God, simply because He is God.
 - Faith is feet - "...*come unto me...*" said Jesus.
 - Faith is hands - hands reaching out to the Lord Jesus.
 - Faith sees the invisible yet believes.
 - Faith hears the voice of the Lord and causes obedience.
 - Faith is the beat of the heart responding to the Holy Spirit.
2. The way of faith is not the way we usually do things - our own way.
 - Faith trusts God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - Faith is resting in the Lord and forgetting about trying to do it ourselves.
3. Faith is looking to God for EVERYTHING.
 - Faith believes God's Word, asks no questions or wants explanations.
 - Unbelief refuses to wait on God and rushes ahead in our own attempts.
 - Unbelief cannot please God nor can it receive anything from God.
 - Whenever we fret and worry, God is forced to wait until we give up and allow Him to step in.
4. Faith brings victory.
 - Faith does not let go until God takes care of things. *Mark 11:23; 9:23*
 - Faith is willing to wait, trusting God and refusing to let go.
5. Faith is the ONLY thing that gives God honor.
 - Faith is the only way we can do business with God...think about that.
 - God asks only that we TRUST Him. *Isaiah 12:2 Nahum 1:7*

II. WE CAN BRING MISERY UPON OURSELVES

1. David faced Goliath but he feared King Saul, yet God delivered him from the giant and from Saul.

2. The disciples were afraid that their ship was sinking, yet with Jesus aboard, it couldn't sink.
3. Elijah was worried and afraid of Jezebel and asked God to kill him, but God calmed his fears.
4. Abraham was worried about going into dangerous Egypt, yet God intervened and all was well.
5. How sinful it is for us to bring misery upon ourselves through worry, yet we do it all the time.

III. WORRY HARMS THE MIND, THE SOUL, THE SPIRIT AND CAN DESTROY THE BODY

1. We forget that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
 - To bring harm to the temple of the Holy Spirit is sin.
 - Worry will eventually eat away both the mind and the body.
 - Worry cannot correct ANY situation or solve any problem, only make things worse.
 - *Psalm 37:5 James 4:2-3 Matthew 7:11*
2. Jesus reminds us of how carefree nature is, especially the flowers. *Matthew 6:28-34; 10:29-31*
3. Don't you think God is capable of taking care of us who are created in His own image?
 - We dishonor God by refusing to allow God to supply our every need and deny God's all sufficiency, perfect wisdom and eternal love.
 - Who are we to say we cannot trust God to run our lives but can trust Him with our salvation?
4. If we won't trust God to take care of us here, can we really trust Him to have an eternal home prepared for us? Can we trust Him to provide all our eternal needs?

IV. A WORRYING CHRISTIAN IS NOT RIGHT WITH GOD

1. The ungodly seek food, raiment and earthly things over and above the things of God.
2. The worrying Christian demonstrates an attitude not in accord with the Kingdom of God.
3. The worrying Christian behaves as those outside God's Family. *1 Peter 5:6-7; Hebrews 13:5*

CONCLUSION:

1. Will the God who gave us His only begotten Son to die for us deny us our necessities to live here?
2. How can we be guilty of worrying, fretting, living in anxiety?
3. Will the God who has prepared a place for us in Heaven fail to provide for us down here?
4. Face it! If we have faith, we will not worry. If we worry, we do not have faith. So, which is it?