



I Will Not Worry

The Word of God in Philippians 4:6 says, “Don’t worry about anything.”¹ The King James Version declares, “Be careful for nothing.” We don’t use the word “careful” in this way, but we might understand it if we say don’t be “full of care.” In other words, don’t worry. The Knox Translation, which is no longer in print, says, “Nothing must make you anxious”, and I like that.

“Nothing” covers a lot of territory; doesn’t it? It means you are not going to worry about your money, your house, your car, your health, your children, or even your dog. We had a very old dog who was sixteen before she started barking. Until then she had been our best dog. She was a wonderful, wonderful old girl, totally obedient. Suddenly, she didn’t always do as she should and she barked. But it wasn’t really a bark. It was a howl. Have you ever heard a Pekingese howl? It’s just horrendous. When she needed to go outside, we had to carry her into the yard. Then she would howl to get back into the house because she could not get up the steps.

One day Ashley, our granddaughter, was doing her homework when the dog began howling

and howling. I wasn’t paying attention and didn’t look to see why she was howling. Eventually I asked Ashley, “Why’s the dog howling, and howling and howling?” We found out that she was stuck. She was half in and half out of the doggy door and couldn’t get inside. We jokingly said that her back legs didn’t work anymore, but it wasn’t really funny. We started worrying about her. There is always something to trouble your mind, even the dog.

The other day Ashley wanted a fried egg. We’re all worried because we can’t find the Teflon pan. “What happened to the Teflon pan? I don’t know what happened to the Teflon pan. Where is that thing?” I have a new stove. You know the kind that won’t accept a cast iron skillet. Do you have one of those? Ashley gets out the cast iron and I said, “Oh, wait a minute!” Now I’m worried about scratching my new stove. I said, “We’ve got to find the Teflon.” We just go from one worry to the next worry.

A friend, who has gone home to be with the Lord, had an old, old car. She came to me a number of times to pray about the condition of her old car, which we did. After a while, she decided to get a new car. So we prayed with her about another car and she was able to purchase one. She

used to worry about the old car because it didn't always run. Now she worried about the new car because the payments were high. She never found peace. There was always some fear, some concern, some worry. She worried because the price of gas was high. She worried about the drive to visit her family who lived some distance away. She worried about her safety on the road. It didn't matter what you said to comfort her or to shore her up. There was always a reason for worry. She had many concerns.

My, wouldn't you like to lay worry aside? I would! Wouldn't you like God's perfect peace, peace beyond understanding? ² I would. Wouldn't you like to abide in God without being troubled, uptight or in despair? I would.

In Matthew 6:25 Jesus said, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; or yet for your body, what ye shall put on." Further, in verse 34 of this same chapter He said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." Jesus is telling us not to worry. He says, "Do not worry about food. Do not worry about clothing. Do not worry about tomorrow." Worry is not the answer.

The Apostle Paul gives us the answer in

Philippians 4:6 after he reiterates Jesus command. He says, "Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray." ³ In other translations, we read "Let your requests be made known unto God." ⁴ "With thanksgiving present your requests to God." ⁵ After we absorb these scriptures, we know what we will do. We will pray, trusting God to meet our need. We will resist worry and frustration and say, "Father, I trust you. Jesus, I trust you." God will meet our need. He will answer our prayer. Through faith, we will have the petitions we desired of Him. ⁶ There is no reason to worry.

The songwriter has ably penned: Why worry when you can pray? Trust Jesus, He'll be your stay. Don't be a "doubting Thomas," rest fully on His promise. Why worry, worry, worry, worry, when you can pray? ⁷ That's a great song. Yet it's more than music. It is more than a melody. It is a refrain from the living God. Singing it allows God to speak again and again. He says, "Don't worry, pray. Don't worry, pray."

¹ NLT

² Philippians 4:7

³ Message Bible

⁴ KJV

⁵ NIV

⁶ 1 John 5:15

⁷ John W. Peterson, © 1949
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God Answers Prayer

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Matthew 7:7

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 John 5:14-15

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalms 91:15