



CROSSIN' THE GULF MINISTRIES CHURCH

September 5, 2022

Dear Partner,

Hello Partners and Friends, grace and peace to you. After all the blazing days this summer, it seems that Fall is quietly coming upon us. I always enjoy the change of seasons and the expectation of something new. Each new season is a time to sit back and reflect on the goodness of God. One thing that can cause us to miss the good things happening around us is worry.

Many times, we don't even realize we are worrying. It can come on us as subtly as the changing of the seasons. What we need to watch for is how it can steal our peace without us noticing. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines worry as "to tease; to trouble; to harass with importunity, or with care and anxiety. To fatigue." Many of us realize when there is a heavy sense of worry or anxiety. What I want to expose is worry's ability "to fatigue".

Have you ever had a time when all you want to do is sleep? Yet, even after hours of sleeping, you still feel fatigued? While there may be medical reasons for this fatigue, there can also be a spiritual reason. In Mark, Jesus taught his disciples about four types of ground – wayside, stony, thorny, and good. Each ground represented a condition of man's heart. Whether the Word sown produced any harvest or not, it was dependent on the condition of the heart.

Let's take a look at Mark 10:14-18, *The sower sows the word. ... These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns, they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

We all face difficulties in life. How we come out in the end depends upon how we handle the pressure that comes with the difficulty. In the book of Peter, he writes to Jewish Believers who were suffering persecution about submission and humbling themselves. He goes on to write in I Peter 5:6-7 (NKJV), *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.*

Why would they need to cast their care? Because it was choking out their hope, hope in the promises The Word of God had given them. It's hard to stay strong and positive when we are focused on the pressure. When we re-focus on the hope God has for us in His Word, then we can see breakthrough and fruit in our lives. The latter is what Satan wants. John 10:10 tells us the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but we weren't designed to fight alone nor by natural means.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men, The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing (because it will cause you to be unfruitful), but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving (thank Him ahead of time for the breakthrough), let your requests be made known to God: and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (this may all seem crazy, but God's ways work), will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Bold emphasis added by me)*

Summary:

- Worry can cause fatigue and cause us to be unproductive (unfruitful)
- God tells us to cast the care over on him and let Him do the caring (cast it by telling Him you're giving it to Him ... and keep casting until you can truly let go)
- Thank Him and keep thanking Him for the answer and breakthrough
- Watch His peace overtake you and the answers to what you need start to flow

Ministry / Personal Updates –

- We held two in-person partner meetings in August. We enjoyed having family, friends, and current partners join us as Bishop Rene' shared the vision of the ministry, I shared what partnership means, and Pastor Jordan shared opportunities to partner or become a Friend of the ministry.
- Jordan and I changed our move date to the end of October. This allows us more time get things organized in Houston and better prepare for our big adventure.

If you haven't had a chance, take a look at our new website www.crossinthegulf.org. You can send us your prayer requests directly through our Real Help → Prayer Requests page and testimonies through Contact → Testimonies. Remember, we are praying for you and your Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus!

Be BLESSED!

With His Love,

Pastors Jordan & Melissa Mack

Psalms 23, **Psalm 91**, Isaiah 54:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Exodus 3:21, Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 1:15-21

Has this letter BLESSED you? Pass this letter on to a family member or friend and be a BLESSING to them.