

February 26, 2023

Worry

by Rickie Jenkins

“Be anxious for nothing, but everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God” (Phil. 4:6).

Worry eats our lunch! During the day we worry that we are not doing enough. During the night we are sleepless because we worry that everything will fall apart. We replay conversations about the foolish things said or done. We worry... worry... worry. Never at peace. When we do achieve a moment of peace, we worry that we are too peaceful and any moment it will vanish. We can wallow in a cesspool of endless and fruitless thinking.

Paul says, “Be anxious for nothing!” We read that and say, “Yeah, right, Paul. If you had my life, you would not be saying that. You just do not understand what I am going through.” Well.... actually, Paul does. He had plenty to worry about. Beaten. Shipwreck. Betrayed by false brethren. Concern for the churches daily. All those things that were ever present in his life. But in all that he faced, Paul said he learned to be content. He learned to fix his mind on the goodness and greatness of God. He learned to change his way of thinking. Instead of thinking and focusing on all the negative things, he started thinking about things that are good, lovely, just, noble, and pure. He filled his mind with virtuous things (Phil. 4:8). He also practiced the habit of prayer. Prayer cannot coexist for long in the same mental space with worry; one will crowd the other out.

When we forget to pray, we miss out

on an important source of hope, joy, and peace because we miss out on God. We find a peace that surpasses understanding when we pray about everything and thank God for His wisdom. We find peace when we trust that His will is done and that His providential care will provide. Prayer works because God works!

Worry or God? Seems like a no-brainer. So why do we worry? We need to cast our cares on Him and let Him carry our burdens. He is greater than our burdens. Yes, it is easier said than done. Faith allows no other option for us!

The Greatest Coach

by Rickie Jenkins

The coach yelled, “Get off my field. You are a cancer!” How do you think that young high school football player felt? He has just been called a cancer. He has just been yelled and embarrassed in front of his teammates. He has just been told you are worthless to me. If you were his parents, how would you respond?

Now, I know football coaches and football players are supposed to be tough. Coaches talk to their players in a rough, coarse manner. They think yelling, screaming, and using vulgar language is motivating. They think telling a kid “he is a cancer,” will motivate him to try harder. Such has been handed from generation to generation. It is excused as, “That is the way it is. It makes them tough.” I would suggest, “No it is not

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Gospel Meeting with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, March 3-5

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

and no it doesn't!"

Coaches who are successful, are teachers. They teach their players the plays, but more importantly they teach them about life. Sports is a little microcosm of life. There is competition, adversity, opponents, scrapes, bruises, successes and failures. That's life. But the good coaches don't yell, scream, and berate their players. A coach who is invested in his players would never call a player a cancer. He would pull him aside and teach him what he did wrong. He would make corrections so the player would understand. Yelling accomplishes nothing except shows the bravado of an adult over a child. Yes, sometimes teaching involves persuasion, but it is not belittling. It is not demeaning. Yes, sometimes teaching involves straight talk. Showing the wrongs and instructing the rights. But it is never off putting.

The greatest coaches like Tom Landry, John Wooden, Tony Dungy and legendary Texas football coach Gordon Wood, were coaches who invested themselves in their players. There was no doubt that they cared for their players. They weren't coaching football, they were making men.

While we may not think of Him in this way, Jesus Christ was the greatest coach and teacher. Did He rebuke? Yes. Did He correct? Yes. Did He challenge? Yes. When Peter disappointed him, did Jesus ever call him a cancer? When Phillip was too busy counting beans to see the people, did Jesus call him dumb? When He called on Saul of Tarsus, did Jesus ever tell him He hated him? You may say, "Well, that was not football." Wait, football is nothing compared to making disciples of Jesus. Jesus was not making men to be tough. He was making me to be like Him. Those who followed Him walked like He walked, lived like He lived. Loved like He loved. Stood up for was right and stood like He stood. Jesus was the master coach.

So, we must ask ourselves as we interact with others (especially those who are younger) are we trying to make them tougher in life or make them more like the Master? Which will make them more

successful in life and in eternity?

"More like You, Jesus more like You! Fill my heart with Your desire. Jesus, make me more like you!"

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet and was hospitalized for infection.

Doug Adair is preparing to have surgery on his back

Mike McMurray is under treatment for prostate cancer.

Dinah Williams is having cataracts removed in April.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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