

# “Do Not Fret Because of Evildoers”

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(11/8/20)

## Talk About the Election

A. Keep Your Eyes Upon God’s Sovereignty

B. Keep your Faith in God’s Plan and Embrace His Sovereign Will

### A. Keep Your Eyes Upon God’s Sovereignty

Sovereignty is a word that basically means—“*God is in control of every circumstance and can do whatever He pleases.*”

The first thing we always do in the face of any difficult or frightening circumstance is to remind ourselves that—God is in control of every situation and therefore what are we worried about?!

#### **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> 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.

This means that not only is God *aware* of everything that touches my life, He is in absolute *control* of everything that touches my life (He is sovereign)—nothing happens in my life except what God allows for His purposes (personally and nationally).

It doesn’t say “*we see all things working together for our good...*”, it says “*we know it by faith*” because of what God has told us in His word.

When I'm facing a terrible problem, I can go on being fearful, depressed, discouraged and defeated or I can say to myself, as the Psalmist did in Psalm 42:5—

*“What’s wrong with you? Why are you so depressed? God is still on the throne. He is with me in this circumstance. He will see me through this. I’m going to hope in Him and He will deliver me and put a new song of praise in my heart”.*

In my son Phil’s most recent blog, he talked about God’s sovereignty in light of what is going on in our country with regard to this presidential election—

*“Thousands of uncounted votes leave our nation’s fate hanging in the balance. What has caused the delays? Why are the total counted votes not adding up? These are questions which weigh on the minds of every American. In a day and age of absolute corruption there seems to be an aura of rage which has swept over our land. We hear of riots and protests in various cities around our country as the anger only seems to be getting more out of hand. It can be tempting for us as Christians to find ourselves swept up in all the negativity, but if we want to experience the peace of God then we must resist that temptation. As I reflect on the gross injustices and corruption which have overtaken our country, I find comfort in the thirty- seventh Psalm. Psalm thirty- seven is a song of David. In his heart felt words to the Lord, David finds himself in deep distress. There are those who seek the King’s harm, and it is only as he reflects on the goodness of God that he finds himself refreshed. This Psalm serves as a great remedy against anger and can set our minds at rest. Today, however, I want us to reflect on three words which are found in the first five verses. Those words are: **Trust, Delight, and Commit.**”*

**Psalm 37:1-3 (NKJV)**

**<sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. <sup>2</sup> For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.**

*“In verse three we are commanded to put our trust in the Lord. We are not to take matters into our own hands, but rather let God sort these things out. What good is it to riot in the streets or take to Facebook in a fit of anger? What profit is there to be made from having Twitter wars with those of opposing political viewpoints? There is much more value in giving the matter over to the Lord in prayer. Tell Him why you are angry and ask Him to take that anger. In doing so we are placing our conflicts in the hands of God Who is infinitely more capable of exacting justice. I think of David’s encounter with King Saul. He had been on the run from Saul because the king sought to take his life. Yet as God would have it David found his enemy on the ground fast asleep. Did David take matters into his own hands? Absolutely not! In faith he spared Saul’s life trusting that the Lord is far more just in dealing with his enemies. David’s encounter with Saul should serve as an important reminder for us in times of great distress. If we follow his godly example, then we will find ourselves on the path of true wisdom.”*

**Psalm 37:4 (NKJV)**

**<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

*“In verse four we are commanded to delight ourselves in the Lord. I believe that this is essential for us as believers because it keeps our eyes focused on Him. Over the past few days, I have found myself enraged as I reflect on this presidential election. It seems very obvious to me that there is rampant voter fraud taking place. Yet as I have stewed over the potential of a Biden/Harris administration—I am reminded not to fret but rather to delight myself in the Lord. Life may bring disappointments our way, but God’s promises will never fail. Therefore, wisdom teaches us that it is better to find our happiness in the Lord.”*

**Psalm 37:5 (NKJV)**

**<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.**

*“In verse five we are commanded to commit our way to the Lord. We do not need to carry the weight of the burden on our shoulders, but rather place it at the feet of the Lord Jesus. As believers we have a choice—we can either fret over a potentially fraudulent election or we can commit our ways to the Lord. This is done by trusting that all things, both good and evil, are appointed by Him. He has a purpose in everything, and we can trust that whatever He wills is...best.*

*I am reminded of the greatest injustice in the history of the world—the crucifixion. God allowed His only begotten Son to be falsely accused and delivered into lawless hands. He did that for the purpose of glorifying Himself in the salvation of sinners. What appeared to be Satan’s hour of triumph actually turned out to be his undoing. Even in the midst of the unthinkable God was working out the greatest good for mankind!*

*Dear friend do you find yourself enraged by a broken electoral system? Do you wonder if your vote is even making a difference anymore? If so then I would encourage you not to allow Satan to get a foothold, but rather rejoice in the fact that the battle has already won. We may not see justice in this life, but corrupt government officials will stand before the King of kings and give an account. On that final day we can be assured that justice will be served. In light of these things let us not fret at the dishonest deeds of politicians, but rather entrust our future into the hands of a faithful God.”*

**Psalm 37:7-11 (NKJV)**

**<sup>7</sup> Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. <sup>8</sup> Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm. <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. <sup>10</sup> For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. <sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. [Comment]**

## A. Keep Your Eyes Upon God's Sovereignty

## B. Keep your Faith in God's Plan and Embrace His Sovereign Will

The place our country is in today is very reminiscent of the place Israel was in Jeremiah the prophet's day. (Explain)

### **Jeremiah 38:1-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken to all the people, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD: 'He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes over to the Chaldeans shall live; his life shall be as a prize to him, and he shall live.' <sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: 'This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it.' " <sup>4</sup> Therefore the princes said to the king, "Please, let this man be put to death, for thus he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man does not seek the welfare of this people, but their harm." [Elaborate]

We don't know God's will for this election, or for the future of America for that matter—which leads to uncertainty for the future and brings with it anxiety and fear.

This was what the disciples experienced in the upper room the night before Jesus' crucifixion. (John 14)—the remedy? —trust in the Lord with all your heart and—FEAR NOT!

Fear is a tool of the devil— *"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (2Timothy 1:7)

Fear is a very powerful weapon the enemy tries to use against the people of God.

Someone has said, *"Fear is the most crippling human emotion. It paralyzes soldiers in the mist of battle and keeps Christians from sharing the lifesaving message of the gospel with those who are lost"*.

In the Scriptures there are places that admonish us to fear some things and even extol fear as a virtue—

**Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom...

**Isaiah 66:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> ..."But on this *one* will I look: On *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word. [fears to disobey Me]

But in contrast there are over 300 places in the Bible where we are commanded by God, as His people, not to fear certain things.

We are not to fear man or crises or the uncertainty of the future.

Fear robs us of our peace and our joy—because it robs us of our faith!

What causes us to fear?

We become fearful when we lose the awareness of God's presence in our lives.

And therefore, the *antidote* for the poison of fear is to remember that God is with us (our Immanuel) as His people—

**Hebrews 13:5b (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> ...For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"

**Isaiah 41:10, 13 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'...

<sup>13</sup> For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'

And so, simply put, the cure for *fear* is faith—putting our trust in the Lord!

**Psalm 56:11 (NLT2)**

<sup>11</sup> I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

**Psalm 56:3 (NLT2)**

<sup>3</sup> But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.

Fear and faith are mutually exclusive—in other words, you can't walk in faith while at the same time live in fear.

And this goes for whatever circumstance we find ourselves in—

**Psalm 46:1-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; <sup>3</sup> *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled, *Though* the mountains shake with its swelling.

In the days ahead our faith might be tested in ways we wouldn't have thought possible a few weeks ago.

There's a possibility that our nation could descend into anarchy and civil war.

The devil might try to come at us "*like a flood*" to overwhelm us with fear and uncertainty about the future.

Jesus said that prior to His return, "*people's hearts would be failing them from fear of those things coming upon the earth.*" (Luke 21:26)

So, what do we do when we find ourselves in difficult and even frightening situations?

Well, let me give you 7 things:

### 1. Remember that God is still on the throne (sovereign)

God often allows the ‘worst’ to happen to bring about the ‘best’ that could happen—case in point, the crucifixion. (Elaborate)

### 2. Take some time to quiet your heart in God’s presence

The world takes refuge in pills and alcohol—but we in the Lord our God.

#### **Psalms 27:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

#### **Isaiah 30:15 (NKJV)**

“...In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”

When you’re facing terrible news don’t panic or rely on your own strength—spend some time in His presence and let Him calm and strengthen you.

### 3. Take refuge in His Word and cling to His promises.

#### **Joshua 1:8-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

#### **Psalms 34:17-19 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> *The righteous* cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.  
<sup>18</sup> The Lord *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.  
<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

#### 4. Spend some time worshipping the Lord.

Praise is a manifestation of faith, and without faith—it is impossible to please God! (Heb.11:6)

We don't praise God *for* the circumstance—we praise God *in* the circumstance.

We are commanded in Scripture—*"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1Thess.5:18)

Why? Because *"Everything is working together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."* (Rom.8:28)

And so, I believe that offering up praise to God in the midst of this terrible circumstance gets our eyes off the circumstance and onto God—which honors Him and allows His peace to fill our hearts.

*"But what if I don't feel like praising God when I'm in the midst of a terrible circumstance?"*—that's why the Bible calls it a "sacrifice of praise" (Heb. 13:15).

I have been encouraged and strengthened many times when facing difficult circumstances by taking time to get alone with God and putting on some worship music and praising Him.

Praising God for what He's going to do—even before He does anything is a manifestation of faith which is essential if God's power is going the flow into our lives and help us in our time of need!

## 5. Pray

### **Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

So often when adversity strikes, we spend most of our time worrying about what *we're* going to do to 'fix it'—instead of asking God what *He* wants us to do!

### **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

## 6. Obey God completely and with all your heart in all He tells you to do

And the very first thing He is telling you to do is—not to fear and don't panic!

## 7. Don't forsake the fellowship of the Body of Christ

Now more than ever we need each other's strength and encouragement.

This is not a time to isolate yourself from fellowshiping with other Christians—come to church, get into a home fellowship, and cultivate relationships with strong, Spirit-filled believers in Christ!

What peace there is from knowing that our future is secure as children of God and that we don't need to fear what's coming—and therefore, the psalmist ends Psalm 37 with this admonition:

### **Psalm 37:34-40 (NKJV)**

<sup>34</sup> **Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.** <sup>35</sup> **I have seen the wicked in great power, And**

spreading himself like a native green tree. <sup>36</sup> Yet he passed away, and behold, he *was no more*; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found. <sup>37</sup> Mark the blameless *man*, and observe the upright; For the future of *that man is* peace. <sup>38</sup> But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off. <sup>39</sup> But the salvation of the righteous *is* from the LORD; *He is* their strength in the time of trouble. <sup>40</sup> And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.