

What About Tomorrow?

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Worry! We all do it. It seems like an integral part of our survival instinct in a world where danger and pain lurk around every corner, where shadows lie in constant anticipation of us letting down our guard so that they can crush us. Worry is the road to paranoia. It means that no matter how much we read, listen, or pray, we do not trust what lies ahead of us. Wouldn't it be great if we all knew exactly what was coming so that we could avoid the pitfalls and foresee the outcome for our lives? And many times, having family and friends exacerbates that worry. We find it impossible to keep our kids safe in a world filled with chaos. We fervently pray for their protection, and yet, somehow, little dark things creep into their lives that we are unaware of until they become obvious. And then we clamp down on their activities and friends because of the shadows lurking in the darkness, thinking this is the only way to keep them from harm.

I'm not being judgmental here. The world can be a scary place, and we all do the best we can to alleviate our fears. We search in vain for what is ahead knowing that we will never be able to cover every possible outcome and intention.

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."

14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

James 4:13-14 (NIV)

Trust James to be blunt about our worries. Worrying about tomorrow makes us lose perspective because it causes us to live inside of a dark cloud. Worry has been with us throughout the history of humankind and that isn't going to change. The Bible often talks about worry and how stepping into that dark cloud often hinders not only our vision but our purpose. Jesus tells us in Luke 12:25-26 (NIV):

25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?

26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

When we step into the grace of our Heavenly Father, we put our absolute trust in him; we become his child and our only purpose is to serve him, allow him to work through us to create a better world and bring others to his throne. When we worry, we loosen that trust that we have in him making us more susceptible to the shadows of the world around us.

The writer of Hebrews gives us this encouraging note in chapter 11:1:

1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

If we want to leave worry behind us, we have no choice but to step in faith and trust that God loves us and cares for us now and forever. There's joy to be found in those words. And that joy brings release from the bonds of this world that seeks only to confuse us and keep us in darkness.

Fully trusting in the nature of God's Fatherly presence in our lives, living the life the Jesus exemplified for us, and engaging moment by moment with the Holy Spirit is truly the only way we can avoid the pitfalls that worry brings into our lives.

God bless you all.

AMEN