

## Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Eliminating Worry (Part 2)

REVIEW: Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Developing Roots

Luke 8:13 But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

Ephesians 4:11-16

- Recognize God's Equippers (cp 2 Tim 4:1-4)
- Recognize Your Need of Being Equipped
- Recognize Our Starting Point ("children tossed to and fro")
- Recognize God's Intention for You and Your Local Assembly

Colossians 2:6-8 <sup>6</sup>As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Learning the Truth (being taught well)
- Living the Truth (behaving what is taught)
- Discern Untruth (rejecting the world's "truth")

Core Understanding of Seed & Sower: **Life Exists, But Maturity Does Not**

*(The issues addressed by the stony and weedy ground are issues believers face and which must be overcome for believers to be fruitful and mature.)*

- Phil 4:4-7 <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.
- 2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

**PROBLEM: Cares (or Worry) Distract and Ruin Our Christian Walk**

- Matt 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. (cp. Mark 4:9)
- Luke 8:14 Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
- Luke 21:34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.
  - **Keep us from growing spiritually mature**
  - **Keep us from producing eternal fruit**

## 4 Areas in Which God Specifically Commands Us Not to Worry

1. **Do Not Worry About Provisions – Necessities (Matt 6:25-33)**
2. **Do Not Worry About Promotion – Recognition or Advancement (1 Peter 5:5-8)**
3. **Do Not Worry About Position – Situation or Circumstances (1 Cor 7:20-21)**
4. **Do Not Worry About Persecution (Luke 12:11-12)**

## God's Instruction on How to Handle Worry

1. **Put God's Work and Ways First**

**Matt 6:22-33** <sup>32</sup>"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2. **Prompt Yourself About God's Care for You**

**1 Pet 5:7** casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

3. **Pray Instead of Worry – Give Everything to God**

**Phil 4:4-8** <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. <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. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντί τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν θεόν.

4. **Point Your Care Toward Others**

**1 Cor 12:24-25** <sup>24</sup>but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, <sup>25</sup>that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.

ἵνα μὴ ᾖ σχίσμα ἐν τῷ σώματι ἀλλὰ τὸ αὐτὸ ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων μεριμνῶσιν τὰ μέλη.

5. **Prioritize Worship Before Work**

**Luke 10:38-42** <sup>38</sup>Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup>And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." <sup>41</sup>And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup>"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ ὁ κύριος· Μάρθα Μάρθα, μεριμνᾷς καὶ θορυβάζῃ περὶ πολλά,