

Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Eliminating Worry (Part 1)

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 ⁶As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware 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 ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and 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 ²⁵"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁸So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (cp. Luke 12:22-32)

Why:

Worry doesn't work
God takes care of less important things
It is what the unsaved world seeks.
God knows what you need.

What:

Seek first
the kingdom of God
God's righteousness
All these things will be added to you

2. Do Not Worry About Promotion – Recognition or Advancement

1 Pet 5:5-8 ⁵Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God *resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*" ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. *πᾶσαν τὴν μέριμναν ὑμῶν ἐπιτίσαντες ἐπ' αὐτόν, ὅτι αὐτῷ μέλει περὶ ὑμῶν.*

3. Do Not Worry About Position – Situation or Circumstances

1 Cor 7:20-21 ²⁰Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. ²¹Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use *it*. *δοῦλος ἐκλήθης, μὴ σοι μελέτω· ἀλλ' εἰ καὶ δύνασαι ἐλευθερὸς γενέσθαι, μᾶλλον χρῆσαι.*

4. Do Not Worry About Persecution

Luke 12:11-12 "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. ¹²"For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (cp Matt 10:17-20) *Ὅταν δὲ εἰσφέρωσιν ὑμᾶς ἐπὶ τὰς συναγωγὰς καὶ τὰς ἀρχὰς καὶ τὰς ἐξουσίας, μὴ μεριμνήσητε πῶς ἢ τί ἀπολογησῆσθε ἢ τί εἴπητε:*