A Troubled Heart

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John 14 :1, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

Is worry a part of your life? Are you troubled by the things that are happening in our world? How about the events taking place in your own life such as sickness, problems in relationships, or some other area of life? At times we all worry, but the fact is that we shouldn't do such a thing. Be concerned, but do not worry, and, yes, there is a difference.

When we worry we do not accomplish anything positive. Some people make themselves sick if they let their worries take control of their lives. Remember Martha from **Luke 10:41**? She was working to prepare a meal and upset because Mary was not helping her. Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Martha was too concerned with eating and taking care of her guests, and passing up the opportunity to learn the teachings of Jesus.

Consider this also, when we worry are we not rebelling against God? When it goes from concern to worry doesn't the person basically show the Lord that he is not to be trusted to handle the problem? Does any person really think that they are competent to take care of something, but that the Lord can't take care of it? When there is complete trust in the Lord how can there be worry and fear? Trust, or faith, can't exist along beside, fear and worry in our life for the Lord.

It comes down to this – do you, we, really believe and trust the Lord? It is easy to say that we do, but the proof comes when we face troubles. If we are scared and worried sick about the situation then where is the peace that comes from faith and love? Peace says, "The Lord's will be done." The true believer knows that God will take care of the problem. It may not be like we thought that it would be done, but he will take care of it. When we really turn it over to the Lord there will be no place for worry. However he handles the situation we will accept it and praise the Lord.

A troubled heart is unsettled and filled with questions such as, "Why is this happening to me?" The thought is often about how could such troubles come to me when I am trying to do what is right. Even the friends of Job thought that if he were righteous he would not have such bad things happen to him. With this in mind they tried to get him to confess his transgressions. Job grieved for his troubles, but his heart was steadfast in his relationship with God. From scripture we can see those who faced persecution without giving way to doubt and fear. There was no thoughts of God having forsaking them, just a calm acceptance of his will. Joseph was one who faced disappointment after disappointment, yet never turned from his faith. There is no mention of his questioning the Lord about his slavery, or the false accusations made against him. He believed that in spite of all the things that happened to him, God had a plan for him and he was willing to be used in that plan.

Then there is Daniel and his three friends who faced death seemingly without fear. They faced a terrible death by either fire or lions, but trusted in God. Daniel knew of the law being passed forbidding prayer to his God but went to pray as usual. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are wonderful examples of those who trusted God completely. When ordered to bow and to worship the idol they gave this answer to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (**Daniel 3:16-18.**) No troubled heart could have given such an answer in the face of death, these were the words of faith.

