

WARRIOR VS WORRIER

While I was preparing for our study, we did last night I had a discussion with a member of this congregation about “worry” and as our pastor has been teaching the “Reckoning” he keeps mentioning “fear”. When I discussed “worry” with him he said, “Worry is just a watered-down version of fear”. So, I thought let’s tackle “worry” and see where it leads and here, we are. So, let’s get started.

When challenged by external exigencies in your life, will you stand fast as a WARRIOR or will you capitulate, giving into worry, anxiety and fear and be a WORRIER?

Have you ever considered how close these words are to one another and how the concepts are almost diametrically opposed to one another?

Some say to WORRY is “human” and yet God’s Word is replete with His call to believers to STOP worrying, to STOP being anxious about anything, and to STOP being afraid.

Let’s look at 1 Samuel 17 where we see a great WARRIOR – David!!

Verses 1-3: We see the Philistines gathered on one side of the valley and the Armies of Saul gathered on the other side of the valley.

Verses 4-7: Out walked the Giant (Goliath). He was 9 foot 6 inches tall.

Verses 8-9: Then Goliath issued a challenge. He wanted a man to come out and fight him. Not a man was found. Nobody would go.

Verses 10-11: Again, the Philistine asked for a man and in verse 11 we see that Saul and his army was dismayed. This is the Hebrew word (חַתַּח – “*chathath*”) which means “afraid” or “irrational fear”. They were freaked out.

Verses 22-25: David arrives at the camp and while he was there Goliath comes out and issues the same challenge, he has issued for 40 days and 40 nights. Send me a man that I may fight him.

Verse 26: This is a key passage because we see David has his priorities right. He knows these are not the armies of Saul but the armies of God.

Verses 29-37: Saul hears that David is there and that he’s willing to fight Goliath.

Verses 38-54: David did not worry, and he had no fear. He picked up the stones and killed Goliath.

1. David was not afraid of Goliath although Goliath possessed all the human-even superhuman-qualities one would assume gave him the advantage.

2. When you have outside adversity causing you internal stress, then do as David did: rely on the power of the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 20:3: “Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not have a habitual lack of moral courage in the face of danger. Do not have habitual fear, do not be habitually alarmed, or do not be habitually terrified,

Vs.4: for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to deliver you from danger.”

3. David knew the battle was the Lord’s. He didn’t worry and he had no fear.

1 Samuel 17:36: “Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.”

Vs.37: “And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine.”

4. David's summary statement to Goliath says it all. 1 Samuel 17:47b: "The Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's..."

5. Look at these other great verses which should encourage us to never worry or to ever be afraid.

Psalm 27:1-2: "The Lord is my light and the one who saves me. So why should I fear anyone?"

Verse 2: The Lord protects my life. So why should I be afraid?"

Psalm 56:3-4: "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

Vs.4: In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

6. We can see that David put his trust in the Lord (Psalm 56:3-4). If you're going to be a Christian Warrior, you must be able to trust the Lord.

7. David did trust the Lord. In Psalm 31:1-2 here is what David wrote. "I will put my trust in you O Lord, don't ever let me be ashamed. Deliver me, be my rock and lead me and guide me." Then in verse 15 he says, "My destiny (my times) are in Your hands, I will put my trust in You."

8. Paul put it this way when he said, "I have trust in the Lord" in Philippians 2:24.

9. This is the faith rest drill, problem-solving device #3 in the protocol plan of God. You have to learn to execute the faith rest drill and you have to deploy the promises of God in your soul if you're going to be a Christian WARRIOR and keep the outside pressure of adversity from becoming the inside pressure of stress or worry.

PRINCIPLE: You've heard this before. Adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. You will have adversity, but you never have a reason to worry or have, fear in your life! Adversity is what circumstances do to you, but stress is what you do to yourself.

10. Why should I put my trust in the Lord? Here are some reasons why you ought to put your trust in the Lord, Psalm 31:5. Because He's redeemed you. (Psalm 31:5)

11. He redeemed you out of the slave market of sin. You were under the penalty of sin, you were under the power of sin, but when Jesus Christ went to the cross and assumed the debt for your sin, He freed you from the penalty of sin. He broke the power of sin in your life. You're no longer going to be held accountable for your sins since, **"He that knew no sin was made sin for you."** Your sin is not even an issue anymore. It's been paid for because on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the penalty and God the Father was propitiated. You are freed from the penalty of sin and the power of sin was broken.

12. God knows the adversity we face, Psalm 31:7. He hasn't abandoned you. He knows what you're going through. Some of us right now, we have things going on people don't even

know what. We don't tell people what we're facing. It's nobody's business. It's between God and us. But God knows (Psalm 31:7), what we're thinking in this adversity. He knows if we're afraid or if we're trusting Him. God knows, we glorify God by what we think, as well as what we do and so He knows if we're trusting Him in that adversity. He knows if we're panicking in the adversity. He knows if we're stressing out by worrying and being afraid and Psalm 31:8 says, **"He will not ever forsake me"**. So, can we have trust in the Lord? Yes. He redeemed me. He knows the adversity we face. He knows what we're thinking in that adversity we face, and he will not forsake us in that adversity.

13. Psalm 31:8 says this, **"He will give you secure footing in the adversity,"** or He will stabilize you. It means God will anchor you when the storm gets really bad so that you're not going to be blown away. You may think you're going to be blown away. But Psalm 31:22 says, that God has escrow blessings stored up for you. That's why you can trust Him. Psalm 31:22, says He has revealed to you His wonderful grace. That's why you can trust Him. You can trust Him because of all the seven reasons I just gave you right here.

14. Jehoshaphat was King of Judah when he received word that his land was being invaded. In 2 Chronicles 20:1-24, we read how the king prayed fervently to the Lord: **"O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people**

Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?” (2 Chronicles 20:6-8)

15. Jehoshaphat acknowledged God’s power and His help in previous circumstance, he was aware of his inability and lack of knowledge, and he proclaimed his trust in God!

16. God answered his cry for help in a miraculous way! 2 Chronicles 20:15 reports God’s message: “...Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

17. Early in the morning, Jehoshaphat gathered his army and urged them to have faith in God. When they arrived at the battlefield, they found that the Lord had already won the victory (2 Chronicles 20:20-30)

18. The Christian Warrior must not worry about his security. If security is important to you, you’re never going to be the kind of Christian Warrior that Christ is looking for because if you’re going to follow Jesus Christ you cannot put a premium, on security.

19. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three men who refused to bow before anyone or anything but God! They were Christian WARRIORS and did not put a premium on their own safety.

20. When they refused King Nebuchadnezzar's order to bow down, they told the king, **"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O King. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."** (Daniel 3:17-18) Because of their disobedience, the king threw them into a blazing furnace.

21. The king immediately saw that they were not harmed. Daniel 3:26-27 says, **"So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the straps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair on their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them."**

Here is a promise from Isaiah 43:2: **"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor, will the flame burn you."**

22. In Philippians 2:29 Paul is in prison under house arrest and he writes back to the church at Philippi and thanks them for the tremendous gift they sent to him and they delivered this gift by means of one individual. His name was Epaphroditus. And Paul said he was a Christian Warrior.

Philippians 2:29-30: Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.”

23. Epaphroditus was what we call a “paraboleuomai” (παραβολεύομαι). This is a Greek compound word that comes from the word “para” which means “aside” and “ballo” which means “to cast or throw”. So, what we have is “to cast aside or to throw to the side, to disregard your fears, to throw your fears aside”.

24. Epaphroditus (“paraboleuomai”), he cast his fears aside, he put them aside. He did not put a premium on his safety, or on his life. He put a premium on his mission and his mission was to give the gift that the Philippian church sent to the apostle Paul.

25. Here’s a principle for you. If you can trust the Father with your life, can you trust Him with even the small things in your life?

26. Some of us get up every morning and say, “**This is a day the Lord has made, and I’ll rejoice and have a super abundance of happiness in it because of His unfailing love and mercy to me every day.**” You get up and you know every day that you take a breath, God gave you that day.

21. You know God gave you this day. So, the question is if you can trust Him with your life, why can you not trust Him with the small details of your life? Why do you insist on handling those details by yourself?

22. So we see Epaphroditus was never worried. He didn't put a primum on security. He knew nothing was more important than the mission.

PRINCIPLE: You must be dedicated to the mission. Nothing comes before the mission. Priority number one is the mission, so studying the Word of God is your number one priority. Nothing is more important than Bible Doctrine and the study of the Word of God.

23. Paul is a great example of the mission first. Let's look at Acts 26:27-30.

Verse 27: "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do."

Verse 28: "Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian?"

Verse 29: "And Paul said, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

24. So Paul is on trial and he has just appealed to the Jewish king himself and Paul questions him directly about his faith. He has no worries or concerns about whether the king will find him guilty, he just starts witnessing to him.

25. But in it all, God is working out his will that Paul will testify before Caesar in Rome, as the Lord has already revealed to Paul (Acts 23:11). This might not be the way Paul would have chosen but it is God's way. **“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is not being done, the saving of many lives.”**

26. Paul himself teaches us, **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”** (Romans 8:28)

PRINCIPLE: No matter what situation you find yourself in, God knows, and God is able to work out His wonderful plan for your life.

Philippians 4:6:

1. The verse begins with the present active imperative of the verb: (*μεριμνάω* – “merimnáō”) – anxiety; fear; worry; to be distracted by circumstances.

Active: The believer is commanded not to produce the action of this verb.

Imperative: Prohibition to avoid this sin.

2. The negative aspect of the mandate is found in the word: (μηδείς – mēdeís) – nothing.

3. Literal translation: “Be anxious about nothing” or “Stop worrying habitually about anything.”

Philippians 4:6: “Stop worrying habitually about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Ext.)

PRINCIPLE: Divine viewpoint (the Word of God in your soul) has greater value than any other people or protection to be found in life.

1. We’ve looked at some great examples of WARRORS in the Bible. Before we close let’s take a look at WORRY.

2. In Philippians 4:6 we find a prohibition against anxiety and worry.

3. Many times worry centers on circumstances or issues about which you have incomplete facts which cause you to anticipate negative ramifications about which you have no immediate solution.

4. However, problems you have identified and realize you cannot solve must be turned over to the Lord under faith-rest (PSD #3). This is the only way to maintain fellowship and

peace in your soul while continuing to fight the good fight in the angelic conflict.

5. Fear is an emotional monster that lurks in the souls of men and without access to divine problem-solving devices it will linkup with worry to produce anxiety, tension, stress, dread, and trepidation.

6. Worry and fear are mental attitude sins that ignore the promises contained in the Word of God.

1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

Psalm 56:11: “In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Proverbs 3:24: “When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.”

Psalm 118:6: “The is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?”

7. Worry is the source of fear. Worry is a major producer of fear in your life.

Deuteronomy 31:6-8: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or tremble at them, because the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you. The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you. He will be with

you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look around, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Definitely I will help you. Emphatically I will hold you up with the right of My righteousness.”

8. Sin causes worry. People worry about sin, which causes guilt, Psalm 38:18. Worry is a sin, Romans 14:23.

Psalm 38:18: “For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin.”

Romans 14:23: “...whatever is not from faith is sin.”

9. Worry does not solve problems, Matthew 6:25-34. Logistical grace offsets worry.

10. Worry distracts from doctrinal teaching. Matthew 13:22 and Luke 8:14

11. Blessings from God includes freedom from worry (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

Jeremiah 17:7: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord.”

12. Worry, anxiety, and guilt come from fear; they are the manifestation of fear. Fear is lack of thinking under pressure.

Fear is the believer's failure to apply the word of God and the Faith-Rest Drill to the problems of life, of suffering, of disaster, and of failure.

13. God gives us the information on His divine logistical provision as members of His Royal Family in Matthew 6:31-34:

Vs.31: “Do not worry, then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’

Vs.32: “For the Gentiles eagerly keep on seeking all these things (details of life); for your heavenly Father knows (in the divine decree) that you habitually need all of these things.

Vs.33: “But seek first the kingdom of God (through the study, retention, and application of His Word) and His righteousness (through the filling of the Holy Spirit), and all these things (logistical grace support) **will be supplied to you for your advantage.**

Vs.34: “So stop worrying about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself (principle of one day at a time). Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Ext.)

14. Remember fear is an emotional sin that shuts down the ability to grow in grace. It is void of doctrine and Biblical wisdom (Divine Viewpoint).

15. If you're going to be a Christian Warrior you must:

- a. Live by faith.
- b. You must be obedient to authority.
- c. It's imperative you have humility
- d. You can't be afraid to die.

16. Job was not afraid to die. He was placed under evidence testing during which he was required to utilize maximum recall of doctrine. He, too, was sustained by his confidence in the resurrection which he expresses in:

Job 19:23: "Oh that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!"

Vs.24: "That with an iron stylus and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!"

Vs.25: "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives (First advent), and at the last He will take His stand on earth (millennial kingdom)."

Vs.26: "Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God (resurrection of Old Testament saints and Tribulational martyrs)."

17. The disciples got into the boat with Jesus Christ (Mark 4:35-41). They received a great lesson from our Lord. (REMEMBER THE STORM) **"And behold, there arose a great tempest,"**.

18. First the disciples started worrying and then fear set in. Fear replaced their thinking.

PRINCIPLE: Fear sees the problem, but faith sees the solution.

PRINCIPLE: Divine solutions are the only solutions; human solution is no solution.

19. Fear gripped the disciples and they said, **“We are about to die”**. (Mark 4:38). They didn’t orient to the crisis by orienting to grace and the faith-rest drill. They panicked because they were afraid, they were going to die.

Hebrews 2:14-15: “For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood He, Jesus Christ, Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy the one that had the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver them who through the fear of death, were all of their life subject to bondage.”

20. These men were in bondage to the fear of dying. What is there to be afraid of?

1 Corinthians 15:55: “O death where is your sting and O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks to God who’s given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

21. So in Mark 4:38 they wake our Lord up and they said, **“Save us. We’re dying”**.

22. The disciples were worried. Remember storms don’t have to be weather related. There could be a storm raging in your soul tonight. Remember this God will never put on you more than you can handle and that was true with the disciples in this situation.

23. **“We’re dying”!** I don’t think our Lord Jesus Christ, came to die on a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. He came to die on a cross for your sins and mine. The problem was not the storm, but the worry and fear and it clouded their thinking.

24. This test was designed to free them from the fear of death, and here’s something interesting. Prayer was not the solution. The solution was faith!

25. Christ rebuked them because they did not use the faith-rest drill.

Mark 4:40: “And He said to them, Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

26. Jesus Christ said, **“STOP”** (He rebuked the storm). That’s all He said.

27. He made the whole Sea of Galilee slick by just saying one word, **'STOP'**. Because the disciples didn't use the faith-rest drill our Lord had to intercede. The disciples were blown away. The men said, **"What kind of man is this?" "That even the winds and the sea obey Him."**

NOTE: Isn't it interesting that the wind will obey Him, that the sea will obey Him, and you won't?

28. Fear of dying is one of the stress-related sins you get in your life, and there is fear of a lot of things. But fear of dying? This is the greatest fear you may have to learn to conquer.

29. Do you remember Stephen? Acts 7:55:

"But being filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

30. This is the highest tribute. Jesus Christ is normally seated by the throne of God from which He controls history. But for Stephen, Jesus rises indicating that the martyr will be personally received into heaven by Him.

31. Stephen certainly was not worried about death. What about you?

A few closing points:

1. A true Christian warrior is one who has their priorities right and who keeps their eyes on the prize not themselves or their circumstances.

2. Remember you never have to worry; you never ever have to be afraid or worry.

3. John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you; not as the world gives to you. Do you not let your heart be troubled, not let it be afraid.”

A. this “peace” the Lord Jesus Christ offers is internal not external.

b. The offer does not infer that there will never be any turmoil or conflict in your life.

C. This “peace” is internal in that it leaves you free of worry and anxiety.