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THE HERALD

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8 Arguments for Why You Should Be Anxious Today

(and How the Bible Responds)

May 17, 2016 | Justin Taylor

An important lesson of the Christian life is that the heart of the battle is a fight not between abstract commands (do this! don't do that!) but rather arguments. Unbelief does not just offer dictates; it offers reasons why we don't need to trust the Lord. And to counter that, gospel-flavored belief argues with our unbelief. In other words, it provides reasons for why trusting the Lord is always the good and wise things to do.

Here are some notes on how this might work with the temptation to fret and worry and be anxious and unsettled, rather than acting in joyful, confident, restful faith. I've included the argument of unbelief, a Scripture passage, and some observations on how the argument works.

1. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE GOD IS TOO FAR AWAY TO HEAR MY NEEDS.

Philippians 4:5-6: "The Lord is at hand; [therefore] do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

The truth: "The Lord is at hand"

What is prohibited as a result: "do not be anxious about anything"

The alternative that is prescribed as a result: "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God [i.e., the Lord who is near to hear and to help]."

2. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE GOD DOES NOT CARE FOR ME AND I NEED TO GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS HUMILIATING STAGE OF LIFE.

1 Peter 5:6-7: Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

The truth: God cares for me.

The command: I am to humble myself.

How? By casting all of my anxieties on him.

A corollary: Carrying rather than casting my anxieties is an expression of pride.

3. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE IF MY PROBLEMS AREN'T SOLVED I COULD DIE.

Matthew 6:25: "Do not be anxious 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?"

You still have eternal life even if you have no food.

You will still have a resurrection body even if you are physically deprived.

Even if your struggle ends in death you will not have lost the most important things; therefore, don't spend your time being anxious about lesser things.

4. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE I HAVE NO PRACTICAL EVIDENCE IN THE WORLD THAT GOD VALUES ME OR WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.

Matthew 6:26, 28-30: "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... ➔"

And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

God values the birds and the grass, which he richly provides for and adorns.

God values me much more than the birds and the grass.

Therefore, as an argument from the lesser to the greater, obviously he will be even more invested in providing for all of my needs.

5. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH IT HELPS MY LIFE.

Matthew 6:27: "Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" [Answer: no one.]

The truth: Anxiety can't add a single hour to my life.

Presupposition: I shouldn't spend my time on pointless activities that have no benefits.

Result: I shouldn't be anxious.

6. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE IS GOING TO LOOK OUT FOR MY NEEDS.

Matthew 6:31, 33: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For . . . your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

The truth: God knows I have needs for food, drink, clothing

The implication: When God knows a need and he loves the needy he is glad to be the supplier of the need.

The result: My focus can be on God's kingdom and God's righteousness, knowing that my needs will be taken care of.

7. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT; AFTER ALL, EVERYONE DOES IT AND IT SEEMS TO WORK FOR THEM. ⇒

Matthew 6:31-32: "Do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things. . . ."

The truth: Unbelievers are anxious about how their needs are going to be met.

Presupposition: Christians are not to act like unbelievers.

Result: We should not be anxious like the world is anxious.

8. ANXIETY IS WORTH IT BECAUSE SO MANY TROUBLES ARE COMING TO ME IN THE FUTURE IF I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM NOW.

Matthew 6:34: "Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Tomorrow is going to do just fine without your help, but thanks anyway.

Letter to Orrville GBC from Danny Swartzentruber

Note from Pastor Joshua:

Some of you may remember Danny Swartzentruber. He attended Orrville Grace Brethren a number of years ago. In the last 5 or 6 years he made some very poor decisions and ended up in jail. I have been in contact with him off and on during this time. From my interaction with him it has become clear that God has been working on his heart. God is using Danny to reach out to the other inmates in prison. He refers to OGBC as his home church. Awhile ago he asked me about writing a letter to the church. I thought it would be a good idea for him to share a little bit with you about how God has been working in his life. As you read the letter that follows picture Danny speaking this to you from the stage. He writes it as if he is preaching a mini sermon as he shares his testimony. Also, as you read I encourage you to pray for Danny. Pray that God would continue to work in his heart to shape and fashion him into the man of God that He wants him to be (Phil. 1:6). - Pastor Joshua

Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

God is Forever Good Amen?! It's been a while since I've communicated with some of you guys. I've sat here for about 2 weeks now contemplating on what to say in this letter. To be honest, I'm a little nervous. So, I apologize beforehand if this letter may seem a little jumbled.



I would like to start this letter off by thanking you guys for your continual prayers for me. I must admit, the phrase 'The Power of Prayer' is... well... Powerful. God's strength, blessings, mercy, grace, even His discipline have been felt and experienced. And for that, I am grateful to the core. Your prayers have had and are having a huge impact on my life and walk with Christ :) Praise God, Amen?!

I don't want to write too much and bore you guys, for Brother Joshua can testify that when I write.... I like to write... So, I'm hoping to be able to share things here and there with what God has done for me and is doing for me.

I'm going to begin with what God has done for me. As many of you know, I am currently incarcerated. It's not exactly somewhere I've dreamed of being at. But then again, God didn't dream of me rebelling against Him. Amen... Before I was incarcerated, my choices in life were compared to the Israelites who because of their rebellion, had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years... My choices were ugly and dark. And my knowledge of the Truth was minimal. See, I had an idea of who God was. Just like the Israelites. Just like God's Chosen. I knew right from wrong, but just like the Israelites, I Did Not Trust in God. I Did Not Truly Know Who God Is. I prayed, and when I didn't get what I wanted, I became childish and tried to run my life, and because of that, God had me sentenced to travel in the Wilderness for 10 years (the time of my sentencing) Now, I could continue to be like the Israelites and rebel and complain and grieve God. But, there was a point when God was like 'Hey you, Danny, I'm over here'. Because of prayers and support, my heart was opened to the Truth.

That day, when God became real to me; when God was no longer an idea, was the day Pastor Ike came to visit me in [the] county [jail]... He sat down with me and explained once more that God has a plan for me, all I have to do is accept it. He shared that... Prison was the devil's playground, but God Ruled... I could play with the devil, or listen and obey the Ruler. He handed me a book that I got to take back with me to my cell, and that book shared something I never understood before. The main point of it was... God disciplines those He loves... It was then, through Prayer, Support, God's Word and this book, that I was able to see how much God loved me. At first I thought it was- torture, unfair, painful, stupid, dumb, and hard, that I was going through this. Crazy part was, it was those things, just not to me, but to God. I never knew it grieved God that much when I sinned against Him.... It's like I got a dose of my own medicine. Amen... Even though I was slowly understanding the depth of God's love, I was still suffering from depression... [It was in the midst of] that when I found out that not only was God real, but He was serious about His love and His plan for me...

I'm not trying to preach to anyone, but I share this to let you know what God has done, but also to plead with any Brothers or Sisters in Christ who are struggling. If you have never made a decision, make one today. Surrender completely, to God. Let God be in control of your life today before He sends you in the 'Wilderness.' Stop rebelling and start obeying. It's never too late. I'm a living testimony to that.

Thank you guys for listening to me ramble. Thank you again for your Prayers and Support. I look forward to communicating more with you guys!

As Paul says "The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen."

I start with God is Forever Good, I end with... Forever Good is Our God :)

For Now, Until Next Time

-In Christ

--Your Brother in Training

--- Danny L.H. Swartzentruber

Written on May 7th, 2016

FUNNIES

Joe is from Cleveland and loves to poke fun at his wife, for what he perceives to be the less cultured ways of her home area, Holmes county. One day while driving along the road near Berlin, they stopped to give their dog some exercise. "That's a really nice dog," said one young woman.

"What's his name?"

"Mozart," replied Joe.

"How unusual," she said. "I've never heard that name before."

Joe made a weak attempt at controlling his indignation as he explained the dog was named after Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the great composer from Austria. The woman looked at him. "Oh, well," she said, "I wouldn't know about that, I'm from Cleveland."

...

A minister that had grown up in New York City barely knew a cow from an ear of corn. Until, that is, he married a small-town Ohio girl. While he was in seminary school, he had a temporary assignment at a church in rural community. On the day of his first sermon, he was trying hard to fit in. Maybe too hard. With his wife sitting in the first pew, he began his message: "I never saw a cow until I met my wife."

...

Susie: "That's a lovely coat you're wearing."

Sally: "Oh, thank you. My husband gave it to me for my fortieth birthday."

Susie: "Really? It certainly has worn well."

...

My girlfriend is a vegetarian. She said that I'm not a real animal lover, because I eat meat, and that if I really loved animals, I would only eat lettuce, vegetables and grains. I said, "If you really loved animals, you'd stop eating all their food."

...

As my brother and a nurse filled out paperwork following the birth of his daughter, he was asked for her name.

"Kelsey Noelle," he answered. The nurse was confused:

"How do you spell Kelsey with no L?"

Humorous Wisdom

The time to teach obedience to authority is in the playpen instead of the state pen.

If I spent as much time doing the things I worry about getting done as I do worrying about doing them, I wouldn't have anything to worry about. - Beryl Pfizer

Never make a permanent decision based on a temporary storm. No matter how raging the billows are today, remind yourself: "This too shall pass!"

Be sure your brain is in gear before engaging your mouth.

He who angers you, controls you.

Strive always to be like a good watch - open face, busy hands, pure gold, well regulated, full of good works.

Christ was the one child who knew more than his parents - yet he obeyed them.

The longer we carry a grudge, the heavier it becomes.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.

When arguing with a stupid person, make sure he isn't doing the same thing.

Don't try to keep up with the Joneses until you know where they are going.

Your first words every morning should be, here I am, send me. - John Mason

There are times when fear is good. It must keep its watchful place at the heart's controls. There are advantages in the wisdom won from pain - Aeschylus

Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death. - Earl Wilson

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies. - Moshe Dayan

Swallowing pride will never give you indigestion.