

Working or Toiling?

Why worry about what is going on in the world?

“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” (Matthew 24:6)

Worry cannot make or help you grow taller physically.

“Look 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? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now 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?” (Matthew 6:26-30)

1. Worry does not make you grow physically.
 - a. To make it onto a sports team, a child may eat more to gain weight or lift weights to build muscle.
 - b. But he cannot make himself taller.
 - c. Worry and frustration do not add anything, neither weight, strength, nor height.
2. What makes you think you can make your church grow by worrying?
 - a. Me and a pastor. 800 people left for their children & youth program. The pastor told me he lost people to our church too.
 - b. Another pastor at a prayer breakfast in Tulsa.
3. Jesus said consider how the lilies grow. He then told us what they do not do, toil (work in worry).
4. Children have no concern if breakfast will be there or if any of their others needs will be supplied.
5. Jesus rested and slept through the storm while the disciples worried their way.
6. Jesus adds to the church, not to our lack of doing something. But if we work by the Word and leading of the Spirit, the results are in His hands, not ours.
7. When sorrow or worry is added to work, it becomes toil.
8. The disciples toiled for fish on their boat all night long and caught nothing, yet they let down the net at His word. When we do not toil, but work in faith, the Lord and the word do the work.

- a. Jesus told them they had little faith. They tried to worry to increase their spiritual growth.
 - b. Worry hinders growth; it does not increase your stature.
9. Paul told us he worked in grace, without worry or toil. (1 Corinthians 15:10)
- a. Grace works by love, not by worrying.
 - b. Grace uses God's strength and wisdom, not ours.
10. Worrying helps nothing. (Philippians 4:6)
- a. Thanksgiving during prayer rejoices for an answer which has not come to pass yet.
 - b. Faith and rest see the answer as already provided.
11. Worrying sets aside the grace of God and substitutes works. (Galatians 2:20-21)
- a. Resting and trusting God is the manifestation of not worrying.
 - b. What are you demonstrating to your friends, family, fellow workers, and God? Faith and rest, or worry and works?
 - c. Matthew 6:34.