

CAREFREE LIVING.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9, 6.

1. The Apostle Paul said, “Be Careful for nothing...” (Phil 4:6) We must not allow ourselves to be weighed down with the cares of life.

This is a real temptation that the child of God must avoid.

2. The Power of God is released in our lives as we learn to deal with the cares of life.

Notice, in Verse 7, there is a reference to “...The Peace of God...”

In Verse 9, there is a reference to “...The God of Peace...”

3. Verse 7 says that “...The Peace of God... Shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Verse 9 says that “...the God of Peace shall be with you.”

4. When we have the Peace Of God in our Hearts and minds as well as the God Of Peace with us, there is no reason to worry or be anxious.

The Cares of Life can make us powerless. The constant focus on our problems will weaken our faith.

5. The Cares of Life will drain the Potential of the Mind.

There are many people today, even Christians, who can only think about their problems.

6. Their total focus is upon the Cares of Life. Remember, every one has problems or challenges in life.

In fact, with living comes the Cares of Life. These Cares are often caused by idolizing money and

pleasure.

7. In explaining the Parable of the Sower and why some of the soil was not productive, Jesus said in Luke 8:14,

“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with Cares and Riches and Pleasures of this life, and bring No Fruit to Perfection.” (KJV)

8. (NLT) “The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the Cares and Riches and Pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.”

Notice, their priorities involve the things of this world rather than the Things of God.

9. In fact, the Cares of Life can keep us from expecting the Return of Christ. (KJV)

Jesus said in Luke 21:34, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and Cares Of this Life, and so That Day come upon you unawares.”

10. (NLT) “Watch out! Don’t let Me find you living in Careless ease and drunkenness, and filled with the Worries of This Life. Don’t let That Day catch your unaware.”

In our Scripture reading, the Apostle Paul was writing to the Church at Philippi telling them to avoid being weighed down with the Cares Of Life.

11. He said, “Be Careful for nothing...”

How is that done? It is by:

A. Trusting and not Trembling.

B. Forgiving and not Fussing.

C. Releasing and not Retaining.

In fact, it is as we do these things that the Power of God becomes active in our lives. God begins to do His Work on earth through us.

A. Carefree Living Involves Trusting And Not Trembling.

1. Isa. 26:3-4 says, “Thou wilt keep him in Perfect Peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he Trusteth in Thee.”

“Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in The Lord JEHOVAH is Everlasting Strength.”

2. Anxiety will prevent achievements in the life of a person. When a person is overcome by fear, he can't think of anything else.

So he is of little value to God or to anyone else. Imagine the potential of a mind that is free from fear.

3. Think about the productivity of the person who has a Right Focus.

Remember, the opposite of Faith is Fear. Both can be a powerful force in the life of a person.

4. The Patriarch said in Job 3:25, “For the thing which I Greatly FEARED is come upon me, and that which I was Afraid of is come unto me.”

That is the Power of Fear.

5. Jesus said in Mark 11:24, “...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye Receive them, and ye shall have them.”

That is Power of Faith.

6. Faith in God brings Salvation, Security and Peace. A Peaceful Mind is a Powerful Mind.

This is true in every area of life.

Exercising Faith in God will drive away Fear and place everything that God has promised within our reach.

7. Jesus said in Mark 9:23, “...If thou canst Believe, all things are possible to him that Believeth.

When we Believe God and His Word, Miracle Power is released on our behalf.

8. Heb. 11:1 says, “Now Faith Is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Heb. 11:6 says, “But without Faith it is impossible to Please Him: for he that cometh to God must Believe that He Is, and that He Is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

9. Faith is Dead to Doubt. It is Dumb to Discouragement. It is Blind to Impossibilities.

It knows nothing but Success. In fact, even when there appears to be only Failure, God will turn it into a Success.

To live a Carefree Life, we must Trust God and His Word rather than Tremble in Fear.

B. Carefree Living Involves Forgiving And Not Fussing.

1. Eph. 4:31-32 says, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”

“And be ye Kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” (KJV)

2. (NLT) “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of

malicious behavior.”

“Instead, be Kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

3. The way to Put Away the things spoken of in Verse 31 is found in Verse 32.

The hindrances spoken of in Verse 31 must be Put Away.

This is not just an option, but it is a necessity.

4. Anger is a roadblock to accomplishment in every area of life. Therefore, it must be put away.

Consider what Anger did to Cain, the first person born into this world.

5. Gen. 4:3 says “...That Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an Offering unto the Lord.”

Gen. 4:4 says that “...Abel...brought of the firstlings of his flock...And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his Offering.”

6. Rather than Repent and bring the Offering God required, Cain became angry. Eventually, this led to the first murder.

It was one brother killing another brother.

Gen. 4:8 says, “...That Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.”

7. 1 John 3:12 speaks of “...Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.”

Anger robs us of the Power to Bless others. It will hinder Christian Fellowship and Service.

8. It was because of his anger that Cain killed his brother.

Abel had done nothing wrong. He had acted in obedience to what God required while Cain wanted to

do it his own way.

9. The challenge is always between God’s Way and our way.

This caused Cain to hate Abel and led to his killing him.

The Antidote to Anger is Forgiveness.

10. (Eph. 4:32) It involves:

A. Being “...Kind one to another...”

B. “...Forgiving one another...”

Forgiveness opens the channels of Power with God. In fact, many of these channels will never open without it.

11. Probably, there is nothing that will hinder one’s walk with God more than Unforgiveness.

To live a Carefree Life, we must Forgive the Offences of each other rather than Fuss about them.

C. Carefree Living Involves Releasing and Not Retaining.

1. 1 Peter 5:7 says, “Casting all your Care upon Him; for He careth for you.”

There are only two choices here. We can carry our cares ourselves or we can cast them on the Lord. However, we can’t do both.

2. It is only as we cast our cares on Christ that we are able to be free from them.

Holding on to them and trying to carry them by ourselves will only cause us to be weak and weary.

3. Releasing our Cares to Christ will bring Freedom into our lives.

It is the Provision of God which is available to every one of us. However, we must choose to avail ourselves of this wonderful Promise of God.

4. Remember, God loves us and Christ died for us. The Cross is living proof of this Caring Love for us.

Rom. 5:8 says that "...God commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

To live a Carefree Life, we must Release our Cares rather than Retain them.

5. As we do this, The Power of God can Flow In us and Through us out to others who need it.

However, this Power is Turned On in our Lives as we are Trusting, Forgiving and Releasing.

6. A. Trusting God for His Grace.
- B. Forgiving Others for their Offences.
- C. Releasing the Cares of Life by Turning them over to God.

7. We can live our lives Free of Cares as we choose to turn them over to God and Trust Him to handle them.

We must Choose to Forgive those who have Offended us and Release any Feelings we have against them.

Being Free of our Cares allows the Power of God to work mightily in us.

Let's Live our Lives Free of Cares.

Let's Cast them on Jesus.

(Phil. 4:6)