

**For Pete's Sake**  
**Not a Care in the World**

1 Peter 5:7-11  
August 6, 2017

Today we're going to deal with something that all of us wrestle with. Some of us can function normally with this in their lives and others need help getting through a day but, we all have it. Sometimes it's elevated to an extreme level and at other times its manageable. What is it...worry. We all have it. Some of us have a level of worry that requires medicine and some in the room self-medicate from time to time, let's just be honest. So, here's what I want you to do:

(Have everyone print on a piece of paper their number one worry or problem that they are currently facing. This is something they think about every day. No details/names/incidences that anyone could recognize this as your problem. Have them fold them in two and hold for now.)

So, let's take a look at this next part of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. We're in chapter 5 and we're in verses 7-11.

[Read Passage] <sup>7</sup> Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. <sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. <sup>10</sup> In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So, after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. <sup>11</sup> All power to him forever! Amen. 1 Peter 5:7-11 NLT

I want to do something. I'm going to have verse 7 put up on the screens and I want you to say it with me. ***Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*** Peter is pleading with the people in the early churches to give all their worries and concerns to God. He knows that they are in trouble. We've talked about how the early Christians that Peter is writing to were being arrested without cause, tortured, sent into the colosseums to be killed and many were being crucified. Friends, neighbors, and family members were being carted off, never to be seen again. These were horrible days for the early believers. It proves to me that the faith we have today was in the hands of God because if it had been left up to people back then...I think it would have been snuffed out.

These early believers lived with a level of worry many of us, thank God, will never experience. They lived everyday with the fear that they too would be arrested, taken away and have something horrific happen to them. They lived with the fear that, if they were put to the test, they might renounce their faith and belief in Jesus, just so they would survive. The level of worry for these people was catastrophic.

So, what about us? What are the things that make us worry? The things we wrote on those pieces of paper are significant. And they are worrying us right now. It might be something that's keeping you up at night. Something that you're thinking about every day – from first thing in the morning until you lay your head on the pillow at night. Maybe it's your health...will you survive what's going on with you right now, will you get cancer or dementia like your parent did. Maybe it's your future: will you have enough savings built up to retire, will you ever find that person you can live the rest of your life with, will you have children, or will you be stuck in this job forever. Or maybe there's talk of downsizing and you're worried that you're next. Or maybe it's your finances, or a family member whose life is off the rails right now. Whatever it might be, God wants you to give it to Him, today.

So, let me tell you how this works. In the Greek language that Peter is originally writing in – the term that is used here is "Cast" and it means to throw out, to cast your worries and cares. Now, I'm not talking about fishing. In fishing we have a reel and line attached to whatever it is we throw out because we plan on doing what? Right, reeling it back in. This word is closer to the idea of throwing out trash. (. We have no intention

of ever getting back what we throw out in the trash, don't we? When Peter, who remember he's a fisherman, says to cast our cares he means we're to throw them to God without a plan to take them back. Now, let's be honest for a moment. That's not the way we do it is it. We cast our cares on God with a line attached...one we think God can't see but, God does see the line. And then we wonder why things aren't getting better. We've prayed, we've asked God to care for this need or concern. But, God sees the line and to God it means we don't trust Him, that we aren't ready to give it up, or we're just going through the motions.

But, God wants "all your worries" and every part of the cares you're giving to him, not just the things you're willing to part with, or the things that you haven't been able to solve yourself. God wants

### **God wants all your worries**

***Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*** 1 Peter 5:7 NLT

Why does God want it all? Because God is the only one capable of handling us and the concerns we have right now. God is the only one who knows the solution to the problems that are giving us the worry we have today. Those things on the piece of paper...God already knew about them. God knows how they happened, what took place over the weeks or months or maybe years that developed into the problems they are today. So, God says give them to me...come on. How's it working out holding on to those things...come on...give them to me.

Now, God is asking us to cast our worries on Him for a really good reason. Look at the rest of the verses we highlighted for today. It says that there is an enemy on the prowl, there is another who knows what's going on in the world you live in. Look at verses 8-9, it says: ***<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.*** Peter reminds these early believers that Satan's been at this "ruining people lives" thing for a long time. That Satan is roaming around looking for someone he can eat for lunch. There is no way we can stand against this kind of enemy if we are consumed by all the other stuff that God wants us to give to Him. And if we try to care for the troubles in life by ourselves we will fall prey to this lion. We will be so focused on our worries and cares that we'll miss the lion. But, if we allow God to work in us as our rock and our fortress then we will come out as winners. But, it means we need to first surrender our worries to God so that we can face life. Some of us are at a point of worry or have been in a place of worry that we just wanted to pull the covers over our heads and stay in bed, right. This is a daily fight and the only way to gain the victory is to cast our cares on God.

### **We walk in victory when we cast our cares on God.**

***<sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.***

1 Peter 5:9 NLT

Casting all our cares upon God will leave us asking the question about what we should do when struggle and sufferings come our way. We all know that suffering is going to happen. In verse 9 he reminds them that others are going through troubles and in verse 10 Peter reminds people that they are going to have suffering in this life. If we are going to cast our cares on God and leave worry behind it means that we will need to be stand firm and stay strong when difficulties come our way. There is a reward for those who unload their worries on God and who stand firm and stay strong.

Verse 10 says this: ***<sup>10</sup> In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So, after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.*** God is using the present thing that is bothering you to make you into something better than you've ever been. To refine you into a stronger, more faithful believer who can stand up to the lion who is on the prowl.

None of us gets to a place where we can fight off the enemy on our own. We need God to mold us and shape us into the something that can defeat the lion that would love to have you with ketchup. But look, it's not going to be easy, it's going to take some suffering and struggle to get there. And when we hear that, most of us bail out. The thought of going through more trouble is just too much. But, God says that we can be restored, supported and strengthened if we're willing to go through the struggle, the molding, the shaping, the refining.

Look, the only way you are going to be able to fight off the enemy if is you allow the situations you go through to form you into the lion killer God wants you to become.

**God wants to use the situations you go through to form you into a lion killer.**

***<sup>10</sup> In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So, after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.***  
1 Peter 5:10 NLT

Look at this, it's a simple, crude piece of iron. In its current form is in good for poking the fire but, the potential for this piece is up to the master craftsman. If we are willing to give our lives over, to cast all our cares on God...His promise is that He will take the crude and simple lives we live and make them into something stronger and more powerful, able to resist Satan. This metal can be transformed into something valuable. This rod can be made into something functional if we're willing to trust God with "all our cares" and believe that Go can use the struggles and trials like a blacksmith uses the heat of the fire and the anvil and hammer to make this rod into something beautiful and useful.

How do you kill a lion...you allow God to make you into a refined weapon that is capable of fighting off the enemy. It is going to take effort and energy, struggle and sacrifice. This piece of iron was heated in the fire until it was red hot, then it was brought out and pounded on – while it was still hot – so that it could be shaped into something useful. If you cast your worries and cares on God and allow God to mold and shape you, you too will be turned into a lion killer. The trials and troubles of life will come but, they will not be able to defeat you. The pressures of life and the uncertainties will come at you but, you will be able to withstand. The fears and the doubts will sneak up on you but, you will be armed and ready.

The only normal thing about worries is that they're gonna come to all of us. It's what you do with them when they come. Are you going to put your faith into action or are you going to let worry consume you? God wants you to cast your worries and cares on Him...go ahead, God can handle it.

**God can handle your worries and cares.**

***<sup>10</sup> In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus.***  
1 Peter 5:10 NLT

So, here's what I want you to do, as we come forward for communion this morning I going to ask you to do something. I want you to bring that folded piece of paper with you and I want you to drop it in this basket up here. I want you to let them go into the hands of God. Dropping them into this basket is a way to represent to God that you want to cast your worries and cares on Him.

And I want to tell you what I'm going to do...I'm going to pray over each one of these requests this week. And when I get through all of them from all three services I'm going to start over again until the week is over and we're back here again. I'm going to pray for you and for the situation and for those involved and affected. And as I pray I'm going to trust that God is going to answer our prayers, heal our hearts and get us ready to fight the good fight God has set in front of each of us.