

07 – PRAYERS FOR WALKING IN VICTORY

Prayer #6 – Casting Your Cares on Him

- ✓ **This kind of prayer is used alongside the Prayer of Faith.** (You pray the two together.) Casting your care deals with worry, so you can relax and trust God.
- ✓ Have you ever noticed how hard it is to pray in faith, when your heart is full of fear? (You get a bad report from the doctor – he says the “C” word – he’s sending you for some tests, and inside you’re “freaking out”. It’s hard, at that point, to pray with *any* kind of confidence.) In this “Casting Care” prayer, you’re letting go of worry, so you can pray and trust God.

Philippians 4:6-8 – “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything ...” (Amp.)

- ✓ Boy, that’s a tall order! “Don’t fret about anything? Don’t you understand? The doctor said I might have cancer! How do you expect me not to worry?” You cast your care on Him!

The Word “Cast”

- ✓ **The word “cast”**, in this verse, is interesting. **It means to “fling with a sudden motion, a quick toss.”** Did you ever play the game “Hot Potato”, when you were a kid? Everyone would sit in a circle, and a ball would be thrown around the circle. The object of the game was to get rid of the ball as quickly as possible, when it came to you. As soon as it touched your hands, you’d toss it away.
- ✓ That’s the picture here! When a fearful thought comes to your mind, and you’re tempted to worry, throw it off immediately. **(The longer you let a thought stay, the harder it is to get rid of.)**
- ✓ Now, maybe you’d say . “Pastor Ron, it’s too late! I’ve been worrying for a long time! What do I do now?”

Psalm 55:22 – “**Cast your burden on the Lord** and He will sustain you ...”

- ✓ This verse sounds a lot like the last one. Except, he uses a different word for “cast”. This word, in Hebrew, is a wrestling term. It describes someone who’s been wrestling with an opponent for a long time. He’s starting to feel drained and he’s tired of the fight. So, with one last burst of energy, he picks up his opponent and slams him down on the mat! What’s he saying in this verse? If you’ve been worried for a long time, “body slam” it all down on Jesus!
- ✓ Then, *from now on*, toss thoughts away as quickly as they come. (Let’s look at another verse ...)

Casting Down Imaginations

2 Cor. 10:4-5 – “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; **Casting down imaginations** ...” (There’s the word “casting” again!)

- ✓ Notice the word “imaginations”. The devil is a *master* at using your imagination against you. If you get a bad report from the doctor, the devil will start playing little “movies” *in* your mind!
- ✓ You might *imagine* an extended hospital stay ... some chemo ... and maybe a few surgeries. If you let those imaginations stay, then sooner or later, you’ll start to *imagine* your funeral. You’ll *imagine* your family trying to get along without you. Those imaginations will rob you of your faith if you let them stay.
- ✓ So, what do you do with them? The same thing you did with thoughts. Cast them on Jesus! **Consistently casting your care keeps you in an atmosphere of peace**, so you can pray in faith. That brings us to the second half of the verse we opened with.

Philippians 4:6-8 – “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything ... (we dealt with that!) ...but in every circumstance, **present your needs to God, asking with thanksgiving.**” (Amp., NCB)

- ✓ What kind of prayer **asks**, believes it takes, and then **gives thanks**? The Prayer of Faith! So, that's the point of this verse. Cast your cares on the Lord, BEFORE you pray in faith. Then, AFTER you pray, watch your thoughts (v. 8).

Prayer #7 – Consecration & Dedication

- ✓ Consecration means “**surrender to God**”. Jesus prayed this kind of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, “**Not my will, but Your will be done**”. (That's the prayer, in a nutshell.) In this prayer, you're laying down *your* will and submitting to *God's* will.

This Prayer Is Used in Two Situations

- When **you *don't know* the will of God**.
 - ✓ Maybe I'm young, and I'm trying to decide on a career path. I've prayed, but I still don't know what God has planned for me. So, what do I do? I pray and make myself available for *whatever* He might want me to do. (“Lord, **if it's Your will**, I'll be a missionary in Africa. And, **if it's Your will**, I'll work at Walmart. Whatever You want is fine with me.”)
- When **you *DO* know the will of God, but you don't want to do it**.
 - ✓ Don't look at me in that holy tone of voice! 😊 We *all* find ourselves in that position from time to time. Even Jesus did! He *knew* it was God's will for Him to go to the Cross, but He was struggling with the idea. He said, “God, is there any other way?”
 - ✓ His flesh recoiled from what He was about to go through. But still, He made Himself available to do God's will. (“Not my will, but Your will be done.”) That was the prayer of consecration and dedication.
 - ✓ We'll probably need to pray that *several times* through our lifetime. It's important that we do! **You're more dependent on God's plan than you think**.

A Verse You're Not Going to Like

Jeremiah 10:23 – “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: **it is not within man's power to map his life and plan his course.**” (KJV, TLB)

“It is not within [the limited ability of] man [even one at his best] to choose and direct his steps in life.” (Amplified)

- ✓ You might not want to admit this to yourself, but it's true. **When God created you, He left out the ability to chart your own course.** It's not that it needs developing, or you need to grow in it. *It's not there!* He left it out of the operating system! (404: File not found.)
- ✓ You're not ABLE to chart your own course. That's why the Bible says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take**” (Prov. 3:5-6).

Prayer #8 – The Prayer of Fellowship

- ✓ There aren't any “rules” in the prayer of fellowship. In this type of prayer, you're not coming to ask for anything. You're not exercising faith or using your authority. You're just coming to spend time with the Father.
- ✓ This is the kind of prayer where Paul told us to “Pray without ceasing”. When he said that, he didn't mean that we need to be communicating with God every moment of the day. (That's impossible! You spend 8 hours of your day sleeping!)
- ✓ Praying without ceasing means that we **live in God's presence, and commune with Him on and off throughout the day.**

Fellowship Principles

- 1.) God Can Be Known – He's not a FORCE, He's a Person.

2.) God Is Known by Degrees – You can know Him *from a distance*, like the multitudes. Or you can *press in a little closer*, like the 70. (They came close enough to help Him with the ministry.) Even closer were the 12. Within the 12, there were the 3. And finally, within the 3, there was the “one” – John.

✓ Have you ever asked yourself why John got to be so close to Jesus? (Are you ready for this?) He *chose* to be that close. **Right now, you’re as close to God as you’ve chosen to be.**

3.) Knowing God is a Process – Phil. 3:10 – “[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may **PROGRESSIVELY** become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him ...” You don’t develop intimacy with the Lord overnight. (But you can *start* tonight!)

4.) Like any Other Relationship, Knowing God takes INVESTMENT!

✓ He said, “My **DETERMINED** purpose is that I may know Him.” In other words, it’s not going to “just happen”. You’ve got to get to know God *on purpose*. And that’s going to take sacrifice and effort.

Prayer #9 – The Prayer of Worship

✓ Just like the last kind of prayer, in worship, you’re not trying to change anything. You’re not believing you receive. You’re not exercising your authority. You’re in God’s presence for a completely different reason. This kind of prayer is all about Him! You’re there to minister to Him!

Acts 13:2 – “As they **ministered to the Lord**, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said ...”

John 4:23 – (MSG) – “... **Your worship must engage your spirit ... That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves** before him in their worship. God is a Spirit. Those who worship him must **do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.**”