

“Positioned in Prayer – Pt. 2”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, March 8, 2020

Why is society today so full of fear, anxiety, worry, and depressed?

1. Go back to the beginning of the human race and see the origin of fear that produces anxieties, worries, and depression.

Genesis 3:9-11 NKJV: ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” ¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

a. Now they find themselves with a tormenting fear of judgement, punishment, and death.

1 John 4:18 Amplified: ¹⁸ There is no fear in love [dread does not exist]. But perfect (complete, full-grown) love drives out fear, because fear involves [the expectation of divine] punishment, so the one who is afraid [of God’s judgment] is not perfected in love [has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God’s love].

b. The lie from the devil, “You don’t need God. You can be God. You can make your own way, do your own thing, create everything you want and need. You’ll not have a care in this world. You will be able to handle every situation, every problem. No worries!! Only weak people need God! You’ll be completely self-sufficient and a superman or superwoman!! Invulnerable!! You’ll eat problems like they’re chocolate candy!!”

* **Look at Jesus’ characterization of the devil.**

John 8:44 NLT: He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

(He lied to them about God, he lied to them about their new way of life, and he lied to them about who they really were created to be and brought confusion of mind and identity. **James**

3:15-16 NKJV: ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.)

c. Who told you that you were naked?? (**Genesis 3:10-11 NKJV**)

* **“Naked” means** ‘destitute, abandoned, cheap, despicable, good-for-nothing, inferior, insignificant, no-account, unimportant, useless, worthless, valueless, irrelevant, second rate, meaningless.’ The other side of this lie is pride, arrogance, and selfishness.

2. Man and woman, the whole human race, are now carrying the burden of being gods, working hard to provide, solving every problem, trying to remedy all our troubles, establishing our identity, trying to be perfect and at the same time, hiding in fear all our imperfections from everyone. We are still hiding and covering up ourselves, fearful of rejection, lying to each other and doing anything and everything to be loved. We have failed miserably, carrying our anxieties, worries, cares, shame, and seeking peace in drugs, alcohol, false religions and are still failing even with all our information, education, and technological advancements.

a. We were not created to carry all of the burdens and cares of life. We were not created to worry, be full of anxiety, to be miserable and to live depressed!! Then why does the whole world act this way?

Ephesians 2:12 NLT: ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

3. But God loved us so much and He changed everything for us.

Matthew 11:28-30 NLT: ²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Matthew 6:30-33 NLT: ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? ³¹ "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'" ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

4. We must change our believing and thinking to live in the peace of God and rest from our anxieties and worries.

Psalms 8:3-6 NLT:

³ When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—
the moon and the stars you set in place—

⁴ what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?

⁵ Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority—

a. He cares for you!!

Deuteronomy 1:31-33 NLT: ³¹ And you saw how the LORD your God cared for you all along the way as you traveled through the wilderness, just as a father cares for his child. Now he has brought you to this place. ³² "But even after all he did, you refused to trust the LORD your God, ³³ who goes before you looking for the best places to camp, guiding you with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day.

5. What am I to do with all of this anxiety and worry?

1 Peter 5:5-9 NKJV... “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.