

“Positioned in Prayer – Pt. 3”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, March 15, 2020

Today in our world, we’re seeing difficult and bad things happening and people are full of fear. A state of extreme nervousness, the morbidity of pestilence and disease, and a brooding anxiety are sweeping across the land like a tsunami. Even many Christians are getting caught up the undertow of fear and anxiety and spending more time reasoning, arguing, worrying, and chasing vain imaginations concerning the unknown and the speculations of the “What ifs.”

The Church of Jesus Christ, if in this state of heart and mind, becomes useless to be light and salt to a fearful and hopeless world.

#1. Jesus told us what would be happening in the day that we are living in before His return.

Matthew 24:6-8 Passion Translation: ⁶ “You will hear of wars nearby and revolutions on every side, with more rumors of wars to come. **DON’T PANIC OR GIVE IN TO YOUR FEARS**, for the breaking apart of the world’s systems is destined to happen. But it won’t yet be the end; it will still be unfolding. ⁷ “Nations will go to war against each other and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be terrible earthquakes—seismic events of epic proportion, horrible epidemics and famines in place after place. ⁸ This is how the first contractions and birth pains *of the new age will begin!*”

- a. Again, how does Jesus address His disciples? “**DON’T PANIC OR GIVE IN TO YOUR FEARS!!**”

John 14:1 Amplified: "Do not let your heart be troubled (afraid, cowardly). Believe [confidently] in God and trust in Him, [have faith, hold on to it, rely on it, keep going and] believe also in Me.

#2. God gives us the remedy for all anxiety, fear, worry and nervousness.

1 Peter 5:7 NKJV: ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- a. How is this done?

Philippians 4:6 Amplified: ⁶ Do not be anxious *or* worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.

- b. Prayer: this is not a just a frantic appeal to God without any real thought; it’s not a “stab in the dark”, a guess that is based on very little or no information or evidence.

This word “**prayer**” means ‘to Worship’ and “**to Worship**” means ‘to refocus!!’ If your central point of attention and attraction is only your problem(s) or circumstance(s), then your only expectation is defeat, and your activity will be only worry. But if you get your focus on the unconditional love, greatness, and power of God, then your expectation will go from defeat to victory, healing, or deliverance. Worship Him first, before you present your petitions and requests!!!

"I worship You, my Heavenly Father. You are my Mighty God. I proclaim Your greatness, Your mighty power, because I believe in You and You alone!! I worship You in Spirit and Truth because You are faithful to Your sons and daughters. You have never forsaken those who love and express faith in You. I declare Your glory and majesty in the face of my circumstances and loudly announce that there is nothing impossible with You!! I declare Your goodness, grace, mercy, and kindness toward me because of the blood of Jesus and the everlasting covenant that You have made with us.

"My eyes are upon You with great expectations because all Your promises are 'Yes' to me!! You are my help in the time trouble, hurt, pain and disappointment!! You will not let me down because I trust in You and You alone!! I declare, my help comes from my God Who made Heaven and earth and You will not allow me to slip and fall. You are my keeper, my fortress, my refuge, my provider, my healer, my protector. You guard my going out and my coming in!! I will not worry because of the evil that surrounds me or of evildoers. I totally and unashamedly trust in You, Your Word, and I will dwell in this land and I will feed securely on Your faithfulness. I delight myself in You and You will give me the desires and petitions of my heart in accordance to Your will, which is Your Words of Promise to me.

"I will not fret, whine, or agonize because of what is happening to me, what I see, and what I'm experiencing right now, but I humble myself under Your mighty hand and cast all this care upon You because You care deeply for me. You are leading, guiding, and directing my steps. I worship and thank You for Your abundance of wisdom and blessings. I declare that You are my Way maker, Miracle worker, Promise keeper, and my light in the darkness!!

"Don't rejoice over me, my enemy, when things are bad and tough for me because God, my God, is the God of my Breakthrough!! He is turning everything around for my good because He is my Turning Point!! I will arise and I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living and I will stand and testify of His great power and faithfulness to the congregation and every generation!!!!

"Hallelujah!!!"