

Looking Back at the 00s
The Decade of Shock & Awe
January 16/17, 2010

Good morning everyone.

I'm curious ... how many of you recognized that song? Are you familiar with that song? I know a lot of people are but a lot of people don't know that *that* particular song ...

- was the top-selling digital download of 2006, becoming a hit when *American Idol* started using it as a theme for the "goodbye video" when contestants were being asked to leave.
- The guy who wrote that song – Daniel Powter – was named as the top one-hit wonder of the 00s by Billboard Magazine. He only had one song make it to the top and that was it.
- You also may not know that song, after it fell off the charts in 06, returned to the Billboard Hot 100 in January 2008 when it was remade by a certain group. Anybody know which group remade that? Alvin and The Chipmunks.

Just a little “00s trivia” for those who are interested in that kind of thing ...

And even though that song is a little goofy and maybe even a bit trite, it really does express a truth about the first decade of this millennium which is ... *there were a lot of really bad days*. And thanks to cable news networks and the Internet, you and I were able to experience those days in living color, up close and personal, 24/7, if you wanted to. It was almost as good – or as bad – as actually being there.

Of course, as we saw in the video, the 00s didn't *start out* that way. The day that was *supposed* to be a really bad day – the first day, Y2K day – turned out to not be bad at all.

“The nation rushed to the ATMs as the old century wound down,” writes Michael Schaffer, “withdrawing the maximum in case of calamity. And when Y2K didn't deliver chaos, most of us just spent that emergency cash, even more convinced that we were indestructible.”

But how quickly that perception changed.

The feeling of relief over Y2K soon became one of “shock and awe” as we saw the Twin Towers fall and panic fill the streets of New York City.

“Shock and awe,” as I'm sure many of you know, is a phrase used by the military to describe a tactical strategy in which overwhelming force leaves the enemy stunned, bewildered, anxious, fearful and willing/ready to surrender. And though that phrase didn't become popular until the first few weeks of the war in Iraq, turns out it was also a good way to describe the scene in Manhattan, D.C. and Pennsylvania that day.

But 9/11 was only the beginning of an *entire decade* filled with shock and awe. And again, through the magic of TV and the Internet we saw it, we heard it and we felt it and for many of us, those sights, sounds and feelings are forever impressed upon our memories.

In fact, to illustrate that I want to do a little experiment with you. I'm going to put a few pictures up on the screen; you tell me who or what they're about. Just call it out when you think you recognize who or what you're seeing.

Who's this guy?

Osama Bin Laden. Coming up on almost 10 years, he's still public enemy number one, still the symbol of fear that lives on from that September day.

Anybody know what this is and what is going on? It's over in Iraq.

Fallujah Bridge in Iraq where four American contractors working for the U.S. led coalition were decapitated and hanged after having been burned alive. It was one of the most horrific scenes ever shown on national TV.

OK, where is this at and what's going on?

It's in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. I'll never forget watching Geraldo Rivera from the Superdome, just screaming at the camera to "Send Help!" Maybe you remember that kind of stuff.

Who's this guy?

Kim Jong Il, right? He's the dictator of North Korea who over the last decade or so has almost weekly threatened to launch a missile at the west coast of the United States.

What's this a picture of?

The tsunami that hit Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004. How many of you had ever seen a video or pictures of a tsunami before that day? I hadn't. I had never seen anything like that.

What's this?

VA Tech massacre in April of 2007. A copy-cat murder and suicide along the lines of Columbine High School. Must have been horrible. You show up to class and just talking with your friends and bam, a guy comes in and starts going crazy.

What about this one? It's from the upper Midwest.

Bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Aug 1, 2007. Again, it's hard to comprehend what that would have been like? You're driving down the road, listening to your I-Pod or sports talk or maybe even listening to a message you downloaded from the church website and as you're driving the bridge falls out from under you.

OK, this one is a little less dramatic ...

Who is this guy and what does he represent?

Timothy Geitner and the massive failure and bailout of the banking industry in 2008. A lot of us got real cautious with money after that, and still are? It was – and still is – a very anxious time for a lot of us.

OK, one more ...

What's this? This is a good one with a happy ending.

Landing on the Hudson River in New York. Captain Sully, right? Everyone was safe, but again, it brought all of us up close and personal to an incredibly terrifying moment.

And the list could go on and on. In fact, so many shock and awe type events took place in the last decade ...

... that Time Magazine last November proclaimed it the “Decade from Hell.”

“Bookended by 9/11 at the start and a financial wipeout at the end,” the article said, “the first 10 years of this century will very likely go down as the most dispiriting and disillusioning decade Americans have lived through in the post-World War II era.”¹

A pretty grim assessment, but it’s hard to argue with it because the net effect of all of these events (and many others, including the one we’re watching now, 24/7 if you want, down in Haiti) is that any “illusion of indestructibility” we might have had no longer exists.

Instead, we now live with an ever-present awareness that the worst terrors could befall any of us in an instant.

We not only know what disaster looks like these days, we know what it feels like, we know what it sounds like; we know that you only have 72 hours for someone to reach you if you so happen to be trapped under the rubble of debris in an earthquake or a bridge collapse or building collapse. We know – and we think about – so many bad things today that we never even dreamed of 10 years ago.

For example, I don’t know about you but whenever I fly these days, I look around the cabin and I wonder “is that guy two seats in front of me a terrorist? Is he just a businessman?” Then I’ll look out the window and I’ll see a flock of birds and I wonder, “Are they going to fly into one of the engines of this airplane when we takeoff? If they do, does the guy or the gal flying this thing have enough skill and knowledge and guts to land the plane in the river? Is there even a river?” I mean, all this kind of stuff goes through my head.

It used to be fairly simple – just get on a plane and go see Grandma at Christmas – but now it’s a cause for anxiety, suspicion and, quite frankly, some serious prayer.

I’m sure there are things in your life and your world that are like that that had never crossed your mind ten years ago.

The New Normals

Now, this ever-present awareness of the possibility of really bad things impacting us on a personal level has produced a dramatic shift culturally. There are some new normals now that have come into existence as defense mechanism. I'll share a few of the ones I read about as I prepared for this series and you can see if they apply to you or not. The first new normal is,

1. We've adopted a bunker mentality as a culture. (We're worried about "who – and where – is our enemy?")

"Beginning with 9/11," one social commentator wrote, "the country felt threatened by outsiders" and so we all battened down the hatches together. There was unity against "the aliens" (so to speak).

I remember being at the Chiefs' game the following weekend after 9/11 when we played the NY Giants. 80,000 people shared this awe-inspiring moment of silence and we all sang *God Bless America* with tears in our eyes. It was an incredible moment. Very unifying.

But that unity didn't last very long, did it. Instead, domestic polarization returned with a newfound vengeance, turning many of our fellow citizens into threats as well.

"With online and cable options for every niche, every lifestyle, every ideology and every taste," the article continued, "we've spent this decade of anxiety not in a *single national bunker* but in a myriad of tiny ones. We're almost as wary of the Americans in the next bunker as we are of the folks across the ocean."

"Huddled in our cocoons, we watched with alarm at what *They* were up to ... [with *They* being] The liberals! The Republicans! The Muslims! The immigrants! The neocons! The gays! The Bible-thumpers! The climate scientists! Goldman Sachs!"² Walmart! All of them or at least some of them, people and organizations who might be out to get us!

A "bunker mentality" – defining who and knowing where our enemies are – is the new normal here.

2. Another new normal is that we're more pessimistic about the future. (With all that's happened, we constantly worry "what in the world could be next?")

For example, in late 1999 in spite of the Y2K hype, surveys revealed that ...

... almost 80% of Americans were "very or somewhat optimistic about the next 20 years."

But, in a USA Today/Gallup poll conducted just one month ago, only 63 percent of Americans would make that same statement.³ That's a significant decline.

And we've seen this pessimism reflected in the movies of our day. "Disaster movies" near the end of the 1990s had to do with silly or highly unlikely terrors such as asteroids hitting the planet. But by the end of the 00s, the scariest movies portrayed the much more realistic scenarios of man-made disaster: biological permutations gone awry, global warming, and villains who were evil just for the sake of being evil: think the Joker in *The Dark Knight*.

In fact, the significance of *The Dark Knight*, one critic wrote, isn't that the movie was "a gigantic cultural event among cinemagoers" (which it was).

It's that "it contained haunting reverberations of the outside world, from the presence of an unstoppable, impossible-to-understand destructive force committing acts of terrorism (i.e. the Joker) to Batman going all Patriot Act on everybody in the third act. *The Dark Knight*, the author said, represented the pessimism of the decade's end ... in direct opposition to the protective optimism that *Spider-Man* represented at its beginning."⁴

So, we've got this bunker mentality now ... we're more pessimistic about the future ... and finally, at least the things I've discovered ...

3. We're turning inward as a culture. (More and more of us are looking at the world out there beyond our borders, and thinking "why bother?")

"What difference will it make, anyway? It's already too far gone, too bad. I've got enough of my own problems, just forget about everybody else."

A prime example of this is a recent survey conducted by the Pew Research Center. The report reads "in the midst of two wars abroad and a sour economy at home, there has been a sharp rise in *isolationist sentiment* among the public."

Specifically, in December 2002, just 30% of Americans agreed with the statement "The United States should 'mind its own business internationally' ...

... and let other countries get along the best they can on their own." But by the end of 2009, 49% agreed. That's the highest it's ever been in more than 40 years of polling.

The survey also found a sharp rise in the percentage of Americans who say that because the United States "is the most powerful nation in the world, we should go our own way in international matters, not worrying about whether other countries agree with us or not."

In 2002, only 25% agreed with that statement.

But by the end of 2009, 44% agreed, almost double and by far the highest percentage in response to that question since it was first asked by Gallup in 1964.⁵

Now, those are just a few of the new normals that developed throughout the 00s. Do you see any of those thoughts and attitudes in your own life? I'll bet you do because people in this country now worry more than ever – and not just in broad and collective terms I've been speaking about.

Just sit down at a computer sometime and search for the phrase "Americans Worried." You'll be amazed at what comes up. And this is what came up the other day when I was looking at it.

Americans are worried about ...

- Losing health care coverage.
- Retirement - plan to work longer.
- Standard of living.
- Identity theft (who even knew what that was 10 years ago?)
- Radical Islamic terror in the U.S. as a result of the massacre at Fort Hood. (4 of 5 Americans said they were worried about that now and I'm sure it's even higher after the failed hijacking of that NW flight into Detroit during Christmas week).

The idea of “shock and awe” isn’t about what happens “out there” or “over there” anymore. It’s a lot more personal than ever before.

How about for you? What represents “shock and awe” for you today, right now? Maybe it’s some of the things we’ve talked about so far. Maybe it’s none of them – maybe “shock and awe” for you is just the prospect, as you look on the horizon, of a major change in your life and you’re not sure what that’s going to look like and it’s scary. Maybe it’s the fear of loss, a fear of growing older, a fear of being alone, worry over how your kids are going to turn out, worry over losing your job. Maybe it’s a health issue. I read a fascinating quote this week that said “everyone is afraid of something.” Everyone is afraid of something. What are you afraid of?

For me, (I’ll be a little vulnerable with you here) the thing that causes me the greatest anxiety in my life right now (other than the fact that I’m getting older and there’s stuff that is going to go along with that) is becoming “culturally irrelevant” because what that would mean to me in terms of my occupation. The word of God is always addressed to real people in the real world but the real world is changing fast. It’s hard to keep up with it. Sometimes I just feel really old – and I think “but the truth is, I have a lot of years left on this earth – what if I can’t do it? What if I can’t keep up with the world?”

How about you? What do you fear? What worries did you bring in here with you today?

What Would Jesus Say?

More importantly, how are you dealing with them. What’s the best way to deal with them? Is it to adopt a bunker mentality – look out for whoever or whatever is gonna try to bring you down? Is it to become negative and pessimistic about your future - Yeah, it’s all going to go down the toilet. Is it to become an isolationist – just take care of yourself and forget everyone else?

There are a lot of people who choose one or more of those options. But I think there might be a better one. It’s based on something that Jesus of Nazareth told his followers on several occasions many, many years ago.

Of course, you might wonder, “What in the world does someone who lived 2000 years ago (even if he was God) have to say to people like us who are living in a time increasingly characterized by shock and awe?” I mean, that’s a fair and reasonable question.

The answer is that the people who followed Jesus were *also* living in a time of shock and awe.

If you know anything about the historical context of 1st century Palestine, then you know that those who lived there (the people of Jesus' day and Jesus' locale) were living under the repressive and often brutal regime of Rome.

- Talk about shock and awe ... one of the Roman Army's favorite tactics was to go into a conquered city, round up the rabble rousers and nail them to a cross at the city gates as a stark warning to any who would think to defy them.
- Talk about terrorism ... If you were a person living in Israel in the time of Jesus, at any moment of any day you could be commandeered at will by a Roman soldier insisting that you carry his gear for a mile, under penalty of death for saying "no."
- Talk about economic hardship and uncertainty ... Most of the people to whom Jesus spoke lived at a level of poverty that very few of us will ever experience in our lives. Most of them survived day-to-day, hand-to-mouth. Something very few of us will ever know.

Now, I'm not trying to say "compared to them we're so lucky, we're so fortunate, we have no reason to worry so just quit your whining" because we *do* have reason to worry. This is a scary world. Instead, my point is that if Jesus had something pertinent to say to people who lived in a world that was at least as difficult and uncertain as ours, then maybe what He had to say to them will also apply to us.

I know you're thinking, now, what *did* He say? Tell us what He said! Let me read it to you. It's from the Gospel of Luke. And as I read this, I want to ask you, the fears and anxieties (the stuff you walked in here worried about today. The stuff you worried about tomorrow) just bring that to your mind, whether it's a personal thing or maybe it's these global, big things we've been talking about. I want you to have that in the front of your mind as I read this passage slowly and I want you to listen to these words as if Jesus himself was speaking to you right now. This is what he said,

My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. (But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear [God].)

But don't dwell on that (fear). Remember ...

*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. [So] don't be afraid; you are worth more [to him] than many sparrows! Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
Luke 12:4-7 (NIV)*

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his/her life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

Do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:22-32 (NIV)

So, what is Jesus saying here? In a nutshell, I think it's pretty clear, "do not be afraid and do not worry. Do not retreat to the bunker for protection; do not become a pessimist about your future; do not turn inward."

This isn't just mindless encouragement. Jesus says there are four reasons why he says this:

1. God is greater than any enemy you have (even death).

When you consider the power of anything or anyone that has the ability to kill you, remember that once you're dead it has no more power over you. But God still does.

Now, Jesus is not saying that to cause us to be even more afraid of God than we are whatever shocks and awes us in this world. He's just showing the ridiculous contrast between the power of the things of this world and the power of God. It's ridiculous, the contrast in power.

And if Jesus stopped there that would be kind of scary, because God might just throw us into Hell, but that's not where he stops. He goes on to say ...

2. You matter to God more than you can ever imagine.

And he hammers this point over and over. "You're more important to him than the sparrows and the ravens and the grass which He takes care of. He even knows the number of hairs on your head at any given moment. And for some of you, it's a lot easier for Him to count these days.

The point is - You *matter* to God. He knows about you. He will not forget you. He will see to it that you are cared for. That's what Jesus is saying. That's why he says "don't worry."

The third reason Jesus tells us not to worry in that passage is that ...

3. Worry is wasted energy.

You can't change even an hour of your life. You can't add an hour by worrying. You can't change anything at all by spending all of that emotional energy. It's a waste, Jesus said.

By the way, not only is it wasted energy to worry, turns out it's harmful as well. One article I read said that psychologists have discovered that "Chronic worriers operate under the misperception that their over-thinking and their attempts at controlling every situation allows them to problem-solve and plan for the future. Instead the reality

is, their thought pattern [actually] *hinders* cognitive processing (in other words the rational thinking that we need to make the clear decisions) and also causes *overstimulation* of the emotion- and fear-based processing areas in the brain.”⁶ You mess yourself up when you worry.

Worrying, fretting, losing sleep over what we fear actually hurts us. It’s counter-productive. It’s a waste of energy. Jesus says, “don’t do that.”

One more reason Jesus tells us to not worry – and I think this is at the heart of his message on this subject – is that ...

4. Worry reveals a lack of faith.

Remember, He said ...

Do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink;

And I think the language here is very important, because their heart is just so passionate about “Oh, what am I going to eat, what am I going to drink!” Jesus says don’t be consumed. Don’t let the “what ifs” of this life consume you.

Do not worry about it.

Then he says, and listen to this very close ...

For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

What does Jesus mean by the “pagan world”? He means the people who don’t know God.

What he’s doing here is setting up a contrast for the people who are listening to him, people like you and me. He’s saying, “Look, friends: people who live in this world without knowing there’s a God who is bigger than their biggest enemy; people who live in this world without knowing that they matter to this God more than they will ever comprehend; people who live with out that kind of knowledge waste all kinds of energy.

- They run to the bunker in fear of the enemy.
- They’re pessimistic about their future; they’re always wringing their hands and worrying.
- They turn inward because the only person you can trust in a world without a God who’s bigger than all your enemies put together and to whom you matter more than you’ll ever know ... the only person you can trust in that kind of a world is you. It’s all up to you – and you better worry. You better be consumed with self-protection and self-provision.

BUT ... Jesus is saying ... “you who know that there is a God who is bigger than your biggest enemy; you who know that you matter more to this God more than you’ll ever comprehend ... you are not like those people.

So instead of freaking out that the world (and your life) is full of danger, seek God, seek His Kingdom. And don’t even

freak out about that because God gives both of those to you freely. You don't have to work to earn God's love. You don't have to work to earn God's Kingdom. You just have to repent and believe the Good News that it is near and it is now. You have to believe that God is not off somewhere, not paying attention, doesn't care about you but you've got to believe that His work in your life can happen right now.

Closing

Which I think kind of brings us to the application of this message. We're going to get personal. And it's a simple application.

Here it is: *The way we handle our fears is a sure indication of what we believe about God.*

The way we handle our fears is a sure indication of what we believe about God.

I think that is what Jesus is getting at here. If you believe in a small God, if you believe in a God who doesn't know you, doesn't care about you, then you worry, you fret and you live according to those worries. Let me illustrate how this truth recently played out in my own life (and you're probably going to think way less of me after you hear this story, but ...)

And for this to make sense I've got to also tell you that at the end of this deal where Jesus is talking about worry and fretting and all that stuff, and he says, "Don't worry, trust God," he tags on this thing about money (because Jesus always had a way of putting money in stuff). This is what he said (after he said "Don't worry, trust God"):

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:33-34 (NIV)

He is saying, one of the ways you demonstrate your faith when you're worried about money is you give money because you know that God will provide.

Well, in December, I'm sure all you remember we had these Christmas trees that we set up out here in the foyer. We were trying to raise money for some people in our congregation who were in deep need. So God kind of gave us a number and said I want you to put this amount toward this. Okay we can do that. And then, there was another person outside of NHCC that we had kind of taken under our wing. And there was a bigger need in that person's life and it was like God said I want you to give to that as well. And so I'm the one who takes care of the money in the house and I run all the finances and I'm looking at the thing and I'm going "okay, I think I can make this work." So I go to Jetta and say, "Honey, now, I think God is telling us to do this, are you in agreement?" She said yes. I said, "I need to know, are there any other outstanding bills, anything that's going to come in? - Because I've got this plan of how it's going to work." She said "Oh no, no, we're good, we're good." So I write the checks, put the check in there, help this person out, and I'm feeling really good, and then - the Mastercard bill comes in and the Visa bill comes in - \$600.00, \$800.00. This is where you're not going to think very much of me - when she came in the house I took the bills and slammed them down and said, "What is this? You told me we had no more bills coming in!" She told me my behavior was unacceptable at that point. I was mad. I was mad at her because I started thinking "I've got this plan and it's not going to work out now. I

tried to do what God told me to do and it's not going to work ..." So I was really stressed out over the money thing.

So, here's what happened - A couple of days later, we had church (as we always do) on Sunday morning and at the end of that service, a guy came up to me as I was talking to people up here, and he sticks something in my pocket - maybe he was giving me gum for bad breath? So, I walk out of here and I look in my pocket - there's a 100 dollar bill that this guy had put in my pocket - that was incredible. Later, I walked down to my office and I was going through my stuff and there was a Christmas card on my desk and in that card are two one hundred dollar bills. So I walk out of the building, get in my car and go home with three hundred dollar bills in my pocket. And my head is just pounding and God is saying, "Oh you of little faith. I have *always* provided for you. What are you thinking? You're living like an atheist."

The way we handle our fears is a sure indication of what we believe about God. I went home and thought "how do I forget so easily?" And Jetta came in and I was in tears and I said, "Honey, I am so sorry for being mad at you because God just reminded me again that He always provides." He always provides. He always says, "do this," and then He gives us what we need to do it. Here's the funny part of the story - after the first of the year we get two checks that we weren't expecting that more than covered the amount of money which we put out before Christmas in this endeavor (kind of like the rich Uncle you didn't know you had who died and the money comes...). We were just laughing, because God always provides. And, the way you handle your fears is proof of whether or not you believe that. And, it's not just about money. It could be anything in your life. What do you believe about God? Do you believe that God is all powerful? That God sees you and knows you and that He will provide for you?

And I know some of you are saying right now, "wait a minute, wait a minute, I look at my life currently (or maybe in the past) and I see a lot of bad things, dark things in my life and I'm not sure I can say that God is providing through that." So, let me just bring it down to something we all need to remember. This is why you can know this God loves and you know that this God is trustworthy. This is what the Apostle Paul says of all the stuff that is going on in your life, you look at now, you look in the past, if you belong to Him, here is what you know:

We know that God causes everything (good, bad and ugly) to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

This is what Paul is saying here, if you have said yes to Christ this is what God has promised to do for you.

For God knew his people in advance, (Paul said He knew that you were going to come to him someday so he has this plan for you), and he chose them to become like his Son ...

In other words, God has already said, of all the crap that happens in your life, all the good stuff that happens in your life, it's all going in the same direction. It's all going to make you like his son. And having chosen you, them, us, God says come on get in the game with me. Then there's this really cool stuff he says...

... and having chosen them (us), he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself.

What Paul is saying is, "look, you have no basis for right standing in your life." I have no basis. We're sinners. I have no faith, you have no faith. We demonstrate that over and over. But God said you came to him and you repented of that. And because of what Christ did on the cross, he gave you right standing that you don't deserve and you cannot earn on your own. So you have right standing with God, but better than that Paul said...

And having given them (you, me, us) right standing, he gave them his glory.

And what Paul means by that is that there is a day coming in which the glory of God which is being built up in us now as we're being changed and transformed, that glory is going to be complete because Jesus is going to come back and he's going to renew, and restore and regenerate this whole planet, this whole creation, and you and me as well. Glory is the ultimate end of everything we're going through. Then Paul asks this great question (I love how he always does this) ...

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us (if God is taking everything in our life - good, bad, ugly - and moving it in this direction) who can ever be against us? Romans 8:28-31 (NLT)

What are we worried about? Why are we living in fear? Why are we going to the bunker and isolating ourselves. Why are pessimists? We have a great God who loves us. A great God who was given for us. A great God who walks with us through the trials, who knows the number of hairs on our heads. Why do we live that way? Maybe some of you are at that point today, you're going, "Man, I appreciate you reminding me of this, but I've been so worried about this thing in my life." So here's what we're going to do: I'm going to ask the band to come and we're going to do a song right now. And you take that worry and put that up with God and say, "God, I repent. I'm sorry for living like I don't think you care. Like I think you just don't have any power to do anything in this world. I repent of that. And I want to believe the good news that the Kingdom is near and now. It doesn't have to be somewhere way out there. You're actually going to do something good with that in my life right now, and one day you're going to complete that.

Stop worrying and start trusting.

So, that's what we're going to do. Let's stand and sing, and just lift these issues up to God.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

ENDNOTES

¹ <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1942834-1,00.html#ixzz0ZQdPG1Kx>

² See <http://www.obit-mag.com/articles/end-of-the-aughts-the-bunker-decade>

³ See www.politicsdaily.com/2010/01/04/americans-optimistic-about-the-future-but-less-content-with-the/

⁴ See Film School Rejects: Culture Warrior: The Culturally Significant Films of the Decade - Film School Rejects <http://www.filmschoolrejects.com/features/culture-warrior-the-culturally-significant-films-of-the-decade-lpalm.php/2#ixzz0cmvhmbUH>

⁵ See <http://people-press.org/report/569/americas-place-in-the-world>

⁶ <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=why-we-worry>