
CHOOSING THE HIGHER LIFE



*“I repeat it: Don’t let worry enter your life. Live above
the anxious cares about your personal needs.”*

—Luke 12:29, TPT—

What does it mean when God repeats Himself? Repetition indicates His message is important. In fact, in this instance in Luke 12, as Jesus was teaching us not to worry, He repeated Himself not because refusing to worry is the *most* important thing but because worry keeps us *from* the most important thing.

- ~Worry keeps us from intimacy with God and with others.
- ~Worry keeps us from generosity of heart.
- ~Worry keeps us from love.

Worry is a thieving tactic of the enemy because it robs us of the nourishment of love we need to *receive*, as well as the love we need to *give* to others.

“Don’t Let Worry into Your Life”

This is a command, plain and simple. This means we are *sinning* if we worry. (Just say ouch.) This also means we have permission *not* to worry. Jesus said, don’t let it in. Therefore, no matter how tempted you may be to try to “figure it all out” and “make everything all right,” worry is never your *assignment* from God.

Newsflash: Worry is also not a *work* of the Spirit (neither is suspicion). It does not nourish or bless anyone. You may think that this goes without saying, but I know I certainly need a reminder that God is God, and I am not.

God is not in Heaven counting on you and me to remind Him of what needs to be done. He never *speaks* through worry. Nor does He work out His divine plans in the earth through the vehicle of worry. Worry is not a tool that He uses; nor is it a weapon He uses. Worry is not from Heaven. It is from hell. Therefore, we must do what Jesus said: We keep it out of our lives.

In the Greek, a root of the word for worry is *zeteo*, and its meaning is linked to *worship*.¹ Listen, the enemy is after your worship, and when you worry, you are giving it to him. Worry is worshipping your problem instead of your Provider. It is worshipping your cares instead of your

King. Don't give worry the time of day. Don't give the devil *any* of your focus.

“Live Above the Anxious Cares”

What does it mean to “live above”? Doesn't that sound awesome? Jesus has provided a way for us to live a *higher life* in Him, above the earthly stresses of anxious cares.

Ephesians 1:3 tells us that we have dual citizenship. We are simultaneously seated in the heavenly realms in Christ while we are also advancing His Kingdom in the earth. That is powerful! Did you know this about yourself? But listen, worry will nullify that power and paralyze you if you let it.

The Greek word for “anxious” in this verse is *meteorizo*, and it means “suspended in mid-air; figuratively to shift from one conviction to another; vacillating, wavering, like a person living ‘suspended’ in anxiety.”²

This particular word, *meterorizo*, is found in only one place, this verse in Luke 12, and again, it literally means “suspended in mid-air.” This paints a picture of just what worry does to our soul. *Worry puts our faith in limbo.*

The enemy wants us double-minded³ and wavering so that our prayers are hindered. He wants us stuck, “suspended” between our places of power in Heaven and in earth. Worry will keep us from the intimacy of our position in the heavenly realm and, therefore, unable to be of any earthly good.

Anxious cares will certainly make us ineffective as we vacillate like mid-air meteors going around and around in our head about our problem situations, steadily burning out as we do. We have to halt that anxiety cycle, don't we? Jesus said to "live above," and the reality is we have to *choose* to do that. He won't do it for us.

We are called to the simplicity of trust—free from worry and above anxious cares. We don't have to forfeit our power to the enemy. Instead, we can choose the higher life of sweet communion with Jesus, and no one and nothing can take that away!

Let's Pray!

Father, thank You for calling me up higher. I choose the simplicity of trust. You are so trustworthy, Lord, so I lean upon You with my whole heart. Forgive me for the times that I have given my worship to my problems by worrying about them. Help me to worship You through every difficulty, trial, and pain. You are the worthy One! Amen.

War Declaration:

I choose the higher life in Christ!

60-Second Challenge

Is this the first time you have ever really recognized that worry is actually a sin? It has sort of become a “nice” sin in the world of churchianity, hasn’t it? Well, it’s time to start treating worry like real sin, sin that hurts your intimate connection with Jesus. Can you identify one way that repenting of worry will reconnect you with God’s heart?

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1. *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance: New American Standard Bible*. Updated ed. La Habra: Lockman Foundation, 1995. <http://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/strongs-exhaustive-concordance/>.
 2. *Ibid*
 3. See James 1:6-7.