

SETTING OUR MIND ON SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 1:4 says “By which we have been given to us exceedingly great and precious **promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”. Now before we move on, I want to quickly clarify the word lust here: it refers to the wrong **desires** that come out of the fallen nature of your flesh; desires which are out of the pattern that is set by the will of God.

Last month, we ended with a reference to this verse in **2nd Peter**. Over the last couple of months we have talked about how through the new nature, the divine nature we are partakers of God's promises. When we are born again and are growing in God, He helps us to navigate living in this fallen world.

The stress, anxiety and cares we experience are a product of our involvement in this world system and this is one of the major areas Satan will attack. If we set our minds on earthly things the result will be a heart filled with stress, anxiety and cares. This is the fruit of our mind fixed on the things of this world (**Philippians 3:19**).

Let's take a look at **5 major areas** stress comes through in our lives

- 1. The circumstances of life:** Problems come our way which are unavoidable and other times problems come our way based on circumstances we have created & choices we have made. Neglect of important things, focus on wrong things, bad timing and direct attacks from Satan are all things we will be dealing with here in this world. **Mark 4:15**, says, “Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts”.
- 2. Ourpast:** Memories, pain, hurt, debt, unforgiveness, you name it. If we are going to live our life out of the rearview mirror, it will produce a blindspot in our life and limit His ability to lead us into peace.
- 3. Self-Worth:** How we value ourselves. We can be high minded or have low self worth. Paul talked about this in **1 Corinthians 4:4** when he said, “he who judges me is the Lord.”
- 4. Our emotions:** If we fail to direct our emotions correctly, the voice which comes from our emotions can completely drown the voice of God.

5. The provisions of our natural life: Oftentimes when we focus on our natural provisions, which is not always about lack but also about gaining them or maintaining them, we can get our mindset & heart incorrectly established. **Mathew 6:19-34**

In order to deal with the cares, worry and stress we must set our minds on the word of God, taking control of our thoughts and meditating on the right things, **Philippians 4:8**.

Proverbs 13:12-13 in the Amplified Bible says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when desire is fulfilled, it is a tree of life. Whoever despises the word and counsel [of God] brings destruction upon himself, but he who [reverently] fears and respects the commandment [of God] is rewarded.”

The key for us is to let the counsel of God's word penetrate our **minds**, fill our **thoughts** & establish our **heart** through the word and our consistent fellowship with Him. Then God can bring us the right **desires** and His words become our central **focus**; it is then that the problems we face will not be so overwhelming. **Psalms 37:4**

John 16:33, Jesus said to His disciples, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”. Jesus was talking to His disciples but it applies to us as well. In fact this verse alone should give us hope, no matter what this world throws at us, we can overcome **in Him**.

I pray in these most difficult times, you will seek first the Kingdom of God, **Mathew 6:33**. Look how Paul encouraged the Philippians. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you, **Philippians 4:9**.

Love in Christ,
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