

MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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DON'T WORRY

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 6: 25-34
"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

"Don't worry. Be happy!"

This common encouragement is often found in motivational resources, and promoted in popular music. For example, in 1977, international Reggae artist Bob Marley sang: "Don't worry about a thing, cause every little thing is gonna be alright." In 1998 Bobby McFerrin released, Don't Worry. Be Happy, and Pharrell Williams released his popular Happy in 2013. The trouble with these catchy, bubbly invitations is that they give no solid grounds for their request. The truth is that the world is full of truly dangerous and worri-

some realities. In fact, the more we understand the challenges of our broken world, the more convinced we become that being nervous wrecks is justified. So how does the Bible's call to abstain from worry in Matthew 6:34 manage to lift itself above the trite (even if well-meaning) cries of our society? The Bible's call is superior to our popular society because it is anchored on rock-solid truths. We are given two powerful reasons for trusting God instead of worrying.

First, according to Matthew 6:27, worry is useless because most of the things we worry about are outside of our control. Worrying does not improve our circumstances, mitigate danger, or shield us from disaster. If anything, worry only weighs us down by borrowing tomorrow's troubles as if today's aren't enough. So, worrying is a futile exercise because it has no practical, positive impact on the issues we face.

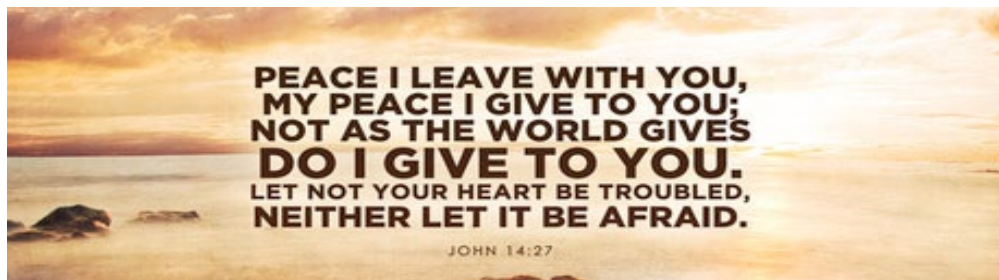
Secondly, worry is unnecessary because all of the things we worry about are within God's control. And God has demonstrated through na-

ture that He cares by feeding the birds that do not farm, and marvelously clothing the flowers that do not weave. This gracious God who cares for nature values us more than creatures (Matthew 6:26), knows all our needs (Matthew 6:32), and promises to care for those who put Him first in their lives (Matthew 6:33).

So instead of worrying about the things that we cannot control, let us strive to put God first in our lives. Then we will be able to rest in every circumstance confident that we are in His benevolent care!

God bless you,
 Pastor James

IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART!



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>March 16 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p>March 21 Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>March 21 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM</p> <p>March 18 (in-person) & March 19 (online) Sign up at the information center or online to join. email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log on details.</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p>March 19 Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p>March 21 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Next Ladies Meeting is Saturday March 27th @ 10:30 pm via Zoom.**
- Our first **Quarterly Prayer Session** will be on Sunday March 28th at 6 pm.
- Get involved in our **Random Acts of Kindness Outreach** this month. Find details on our website.
- **Explore Mountain Stream classes** for folks interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream continue this Sunday at 10 am on the lower level.
- **Growth Groups** continue. Please sign up at the Information Center or online to attend. Meetings are in-person Thursdays 7 pm at church and Fridays online at 7 pm.
- The **2021 Church Directory** will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website, click the **ABOUT** button at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Through the generosity of your brothers and sisters, we are able to provide a **no contact mini pantry** in the trailer at the rear of the church building. Please help yourself to whatever you need at whatever time is convenient to you.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!