

In what seems like a morbid way to start a sermon, the fact is we are all dying. It does not matter how healthy you are, once you are born you begin to die. Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* We are living in an uncertain time, this side of heaven that is, life here is fragile, unknown what is around the bend and not guaranteed one-second beyond what we have now. James 4:14 *"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."* Proverbs 27:1 *"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."*

Life under the sun (as Solomon refers) is fragile and uncertain. Vanity of vanity all is vanity Solomon cries. Governments are uncertain. Men are uncertain. Kingdoms are uncertain. But God is not. Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* Life is uncertain here, but we have been redeemed by a certain, steadfast and sure God. He doesn't change based upon a crisis or trial. Be sure of this brethren, He is certain.

We don't look to the world's experts on how to live during a time of crisis. It's not unbiblical to heed to wise council. It's not unbiblical to plan. But the world panics because of what it can see and hold on to, we as Christians don't place our trust or hope in what is temporal. What we as Christians do when trials come, a crisis hits or times of great uncertainty, we look to the Word of God.

In Proverbs 3:5-6 we see a command to trust God. The word trust is defined as *"to be convinced of something, to believe in someone."* The essence of trust is a recognition of who God is and who we are. Psalms 28:7 *"The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped..."* Psalms 31:6 *"I hate those who regard vain idols, But I trust in the Lord."* Psalms 32:10 *"Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him."* This is the hope we should cling to Psalms 33:21 *"For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name."* Psalms 37:3 *"Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness."* Even in times of crisis or trials we commit our ways to the Lord, Psalms 37:5 *"Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it."* It seems that we should adhere to Psalms 62:8 *"Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."* Psalms 118 :8-9 *"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes."* Finally from Psalms 146:3 *"Do not trust in princes, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation."*

The Psalmist knew the uncertainty of man and this world. Therefore, many of these Psalms express a deep trust in God for all of the uncertain times they endured. We have some element of trust in our government officials to do the right things, but we don't place our trust in them to deliver us, or care for us, we place our trust in God for that.

Let's walk through three passages of Scripture as we look to what the Word of God has to say about uncertainty in this world, but how certain and sure God is. First let's look again at Proverbs 3:5-6.

- We are clearly instructed as to who to trust in, the Lord. Not man nor princes nor governments nor money nor possessions.
- Do not lean to your own understanding. Trying to manage a crisis on your own, your own will, wisdom and knowledge is taxing. You can't rely on human wisdom to navigate a trial or crisis.
- In all your ways acknowledge Him. For many of us we want to manage some areas of our life on our own. We want God to bless our efforts, but we want to take care and manage it. In all areas and ways of your life, acknowledge God is in control, sovereign and ruler.
- And He will make your paths straight. No where in the text does it say it will be easy. But under the guide and direction of God it will be straight.

Matthew 6:25-34 is likely the most common passage for dealing with worry and anxiety. In context, during ancient times food and clothing were something of a concern. There were no grocery stores. Therefore, these basic items were the source of a lot of anxiety and worry. Vs. 26 tells of how birds don't sew or reap or store in barns, yet God feeds them. They don't just sit around either, they look and search and God provides.

What can you do by worrying? Can you add one minute to your life? Matthew Henry says, *"We did not arrive at the stature we are of by our own care and thought, but by the providence of God. An infant of a span long has grown up to be a man of six feet, and how was one cubit after another added to his stature? Not by his own forecast or contrivance; he grew he knew not how, by the power and goodness of God."* He made us and cared for us and why would he not continue to do so? Worrying and anxiety create a lack of trust in our creator God.

And let's remind ourselves again of vs. 33 *"seek first the kingdom of God..."* this instruction does not cease to exist in times of uncertainty. Every Christian should be seeking God everyday. In times of crisis we should seek ways to glorify God. It may be very actions you take in these times that an unredeemed man may see and believe.

Finally in Philippians 4:4-7 *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* The anxious spirit that is expressed here leads to distrust, and that is sin. When any thing burdens our spirits, we must ease our minds by prayer; when our affairs are perplexed or distressed, we must seek direction and support.

Let your requests be made know to God. Offer what is driving your anxiety to the Lord. In the current crisis, globally, locally or just in your personal life under the sun, seek God!

In conclusion, the result of following this biblical method for a time of crisis is the peace of God will pass all comprehension or understanding. The human mind cannot comprehend this things of God. It has limits. Unredeemed people cannot grasp how a believer has peace in the midst of a crisis. But the peace of God, when you see the chaos in the world, provides the believer with understanding and hope beyond the frail human limits.