

Carefree not Careless

1 Peter 5:7 (The Message)

⁷Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

- “He is most careful with you.” - *At the heart of living a carefree life is the absolute confidence that God is totally faithful to us even in the smallest details of our lives.*

Luke 8:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

- *The Greek word for “cares” is μέριμνα merimna and it means, “anxiety, worries, a feeling of apprehension or distress in view of possible danger or misfortune.”*
- *We can see by the very definition of what worry is that it is the opposite of faith.*
- *“bring no fruit to maturity” - In Luke 8 worry is listed first in those things that hinders spiritual maturity, ahead of the love of riches (covetousness) and the love of pleasures (hedonism).*
- *It should come as no surprise that worry is linked to the other sins such as covetousness and hedonism because worry leads to careless living.*
- *Worry undermines our faith and confidence in God, resulting in us turning to other things to either provide us temporary comfort or a distraction from the things that are causing us worry.*
- *Worry is a work of the flesh.*
- *At the heart of worry are doubts regarding the goodness of God and the fear that He will allow us to make the wrong decisions, fall into some kind of calamity or that He does not care about our situation.*

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

¹¹You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- *“You will show me the path of life” - The truth is, if are truly seeking to know God’s will and to obey His commandments we will never have to worry that He will allow us to go astray.*

- *While carefree living in Christ is the result of unshakeable confidence in God, careless living is a result of trying to escape from worries or a life that is filled with dissatisfactions.*
- *The reality is that as Christians we will either live a carefree life in Christ or we will live a careless life in the flesh.*

Matthew 14:24–33 (NKJV)

²⁴But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

²⁵Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

²⁶And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

²⁹So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

³⁰But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

³¹And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

- *In this story in Matthew 14 we can see an example of both carefree living and careless living.*

²⁴But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

- *The setting of this event is a storm tossed sea and winds that opposed the disciples, keeping them stuck in the middle of the storm.*
- *Living a truly carefree life in Christ is not dictated by the presence of outward storms but whether there is an inward storm.*

²⁶And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

- *In the midst of the storm, Jesus comes walking on the water toward them, but instead of experiencing a calming reassurance, they were filled with even a greater sense of fear.*

- *The disciples totally failed to recognize Jesus and instead became superstitious, fearing that a ghost was after them.*
- *Sometimes when Christians are going through a difficult and maybe even a fearful time they will complain, “Why isn’t God helping me? Why isn’t God with me through this time?”*
- *However, the reality is that Jesus is with us but when we allow doubts, fears and worries to take hold of our hearts we are not able to recognize His presence.*

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

- *In the midst of our dark times of fear and doubt, Jesus does not abandon us to our doubts and unbelief, but speaks to us to help us turn our focus back to Him.*
- *Jesus says to us, “Be of good courage, don’t be afraid for I am with you even in this storm.”*

²⁸And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

- *Peter took his eyes off the storm and put his eyes on Jesus. This is the first step in learning how to live a carefree life in Christ.*
- *“Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” – Here is an important difference between living a carefree life in Christ versus being presumptuous.*

²⁹So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

- *This is a clear picture of living a carefree life in Christ.*
- *Jesus says, “Come” and Peter steps out into the raging sea with his eyes fixed on Jesus and not on the storm.*

³⁰But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

- *This is a clear picture of living a careless life.*
- *Peter takes his eyes off of Jesus just for a moment and immediately is overwhelmed by all the circumstances surrounding him and he is filled with fear and begins to sink.*

- *Once Peter takes his eyes off of Jesus, even for a moment, he is so overwhelmed and fixated on the storm; he is unable to fix his gaze back upon Jesus.*
- *As Peter began to walk on the water, he became careless and began to look around with disastrous results.*
- *No matter how many times we have done something with Jesus we can never do it without Him.*
- *This illustration about Peter, one minute walking on the water with a calm confidence and the next sinking into the stormy seas complete terrorized, gives us an insight how a believer can do great things for God but then end up crashing and burning spiritually.*
- *They went from focusing on Jesus and living a carefree life in Christ to becoming careless and allowing their attention to be drawn to things that begin to sap their faith and confidence in Christ.*

³¹And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

- *The wonderful thing about Jesus is that even when we fail He is still there to stretch out His hand and catch us if we call out to Him.*
- *“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” – This is the difference between living a carefree life in Christ and living a careless life.*
- *Is our faith in Jesus Christ, Who never changes, or is our faith in our circumstances that are always changing?*
- *If our focus is on the circumstances then soon the words of Jesus will no longer fill us with unwavering confidence.*
- *For a Christian to live a carefree life before God is one of the best ways of expressing our absolute trust and confidence in God.*
- *For a Christian to live a carefree life before God brings a reality to our testimony of our faith in Christ to this world.*
- *For a Christian to live a carefree life before God brings great glory and honour to Jesus Christ.*

Mark 13:11 (NKJV)

¹¹But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

- *The problem with most believers is that in times of trouble we don't believe.*
- *For a Christian to live a carefree life is one of the greatest examples of spiritual maturity.*

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- *“to be spiritually minded is life and peace” - Living a carefree life is an expression of living a spirit led life.*
- *“to be carnally minded is death” - Living a careless life is an expression of living a carnal life.*
- *To live a carefree life requires living a very spiritually disciplined life.*
- *While this statement may seem contrary to what we may define as being carefree in fact it is at the very heart of being carefree.*

John 15:7–11 (NKJV)

⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

⁸By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

- *These verses in John 15 describe some aspects of what a carefree life in Christ looks like and we can contrast it with a careless life.*
- *“If you abide in Me” – Being carefree is learning to enjoy unbroken fellowship with Jesus Christ and always being aware of the reality of His presence and that He will never leave us nor forsake us.*
- *In Matthew 28:20 Jesus ends the great commission and this gospel with the words of comfort so that we can face anything and everything, “and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
- *A careless life is where we are filled with uncertainty and the reality of Jesus Christ waxes and wanes through out the day depending on what happens to fill our thoughts at any given moment.*

- **“My words abide in you” - *Being carefree is learning to have our minds filled with God’s Word so our minds are filled with thoughts that edify and encourage and protect us from negativity.***

Psalm 119:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

- ***What a wonderful picture of a carefree life where we can spending time meditating upon God’s precepts and contemplate His ways instead of the negativity that fills this world around us.***
- ***The following verses give us a glimpse of what a carefree thought life is like.***

Psalm 63:6 (NKJV)

⁶When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

Psalm 77:12 (NKJV)

¹²I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.

Psalm 145:5 (NKJV)

⁵I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.

- ***When we are careless with our thought life it produces turmoil, worry and we meditate upon negative experiences that cause disappointments and resentment to flourish in our hearts.***
- ***The difference between a carnal Christian and a spiritual Christian is that a carnal Christian just thinks but a spiritual Christian thinks about what he is thinking about and adjusts his thinking to align with God’s Word.***
- ***It requires effort and consistent discipline to direct our thoughts to be in line with God’s word but the results will be a carefree thought life that is filled with hope and freedom from worry.***
- ***“you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” - Being carefree is being confident that God is hearing our prayers and answering them.***
- ***Sometimes Christians stop praying because they think their prayers are ineffective.***
- ***Carnal Christians becomes careless in their prayer life because to them their prayers are just words that go nowhere.***

James 1:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- *Without a disciplined and consistent prayer life, a believer will never experience a carefree life in Christ because their lives will be filled with uncertainty.*
- *“that you bear much fruit” – Being carefree is knowing our lives are not in vain but that they are producing much fruit for the glory of God and that fruit will last forever.*
- *When we know that we are doing the things God would have us do, we are no longer struggling for purpose or satisfaction in life because our delight is to do His will.*

Luke 12:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

²¹“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

- *Those believers who live careless lives are always driven to find satisfaction in either covetousness or pursuing self-indulging fleshly excesses, however, the final result is a life that is empty and void of true and lasting purpose.*
- *“abide in My love” – Living a carefree life in Christ means not only being confident of God’s love but being able to abide in His love.*

Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

- *The melody in our hearts is to be a love song – rejoicing in God’s love for us and expressing our love for Him.*
- *Careless Christians are never really certain of God’s love and faithfulness and lack the ability to sit before the Lord and enjoy His love.*
- *If you keep My commandments” – Being carefree in Christ is living within the will of God where we are confident of His protection and purposes.*
- *A careless Christian lives outside of God’s protection and experiences many unnecessary trials and heartbreaks.*

- *Because a careless Christian lives outside of God's will for their lives they are constantly worried about what will happen next.*

¹¹“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

- *A carefree Christian is able to experience that supernatural joy that comes from God.*
- *This joy has at least two characteristics that can be seen in verse 11:*
- *Firstly, it is a joy that remains thus it is not fleeting but consistent and enduring independent of what difficulties we may face in this life.*
- *Secondly, it is joy that is “full”; therefore it is an overflowing joy and cannot be contained.*
- *A carefree life in Christ is more than just being free from worry. It implies being able to enjoy life.*
- *Therefore this carefree life is to be one that is filled with an overflow of joy and love.*

Psalm 139:23–24 (NKJV)

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- *“Search me. O God and know my heart” - To be carefree requires for us to be careful because we cannot be carefree if we allow things in our hearts and lives to remain that are contrary to God's will.*
- *To be carefree requires for us to totally surrender to God's will.*
- *One of the greatest prayers we can pray is, “Not my will be done but Your will be done.”*
- *Daily as we surrender to the will of God we will find a new level of carefreeness permeates us, as we trust God to lead us.*

2 Corinthians 5:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷For we walk by faith, not by sight.

⁸We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

⁹Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- *To live a carefree life requires maintaining a Heavenly perspective.*
- *Having a Heavenly perspective does not mean trying to escape the realities of this life nor ignoring the realities of the difficulties we face but it does mean cultivating the reality of Heaven so that we evaluate everything we do and experience from an eternal perspective.*
- *We need to strongly and continually declare the goodness of God to our souls so we can be carefree.*
- *Being truly carefree in Christ is always trusting God and not needing the circumstances of this life to confirm it.*
- *How far can God leads us without showing us how things will work out before we stop trusting Him?*

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- *Jesus is calling us to lay our heavy burdens at His feet and to take His yoke and learn to live a carefree life with God at the helm of our lives.*

Matthew 6:19–34 (The Message)

¹⁹“Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars.

²⁰Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars.

²¹It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

²²“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light.

²³If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

²⁴“You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.

²⁵“If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body.

²⁶Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

²⁷“Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch?

²⁸All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop,

²⁹but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

³⁰“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?

³¹What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving.

³²People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works.

³³Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

³⁴“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.