

Fresh Start

By Jerry Bader

Pray & Trust

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It's probably a fair assessment to say that Americans are more obsessed with political drama than they ever have been. Many people have become emotionally invested in it, often to an unhealthy degree. I met someone recently through a mutual friend who frets about current events often. Her faith in Christ is strong and I chided her with—"gee, why pray when you can worry?"

She informed me that she brings her concerns about our leaders to the Lord in prayer often. She told me she then continues to worry about circumstances, people's behavior and events beyond her control. I told her that prayer minus trust equals wishful thinking. And I've started sending her devotional readings and verses to help her trust that God hears her prayers and will answer them.

But the truth is we are all likely guilty from time to time of asking God for something or about something and then mentally crossing our fingers by continuing to worry about that which we claimed to give over to Him. And we often do this with things far more trivial than the course of human events.

It goes something like this—"God I trust you to help me through this financial crisis," and then instead of falling asleep we lie awake for hours worrying about the money problem we just claimed to give over to Him. Or the job interview, or the child with disciplinary problems, or the feud with the neighbor. Sincere prayer, about things big and small, must include faith in God to listen and act, or you really are talking to an imaginary friend as non-believers often argue. *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* Jeremiah 33:3

There have been things to worry about in this world since Adam and Eve took a bite from the apple. And there have been moments in my life that, at the time, seemed like the worst moment in history: November 22, 1963 or all of 1968. I write this on September 10, the eve of the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Briefly, America did come together in prayer after that dreadful day. And then as a nation, we returned to worrying more than we prayed.

We are blessed when we remember that as Christ-followers, the worries and concerns of this world should no longer burden our minds or hearts—"pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people." Ephesians 1:18

And I would humbly suggest you try something I do—work to use more and more spare time to simply sit and give thanks to God for all he does and all he provides. It'll put you in a positive mindset, regardless of world events, and you'll have less time to worry.