

Worry, Worry Toil and Trouble

These words from Macbeth came to me when I thought about all the times, I had spent worrying about things that never happened. When my children were sick, I was a basket case. I never enjoyed Pediatrics. Oh sure, I liked playing with the babies and holding the babies, but I didn't like watching children who were very sick, some that died. That broke my heart, and I would have to go into a linen closet or the utility room and compose myself. I had to put on a brave face but sometimes my heart was breaking inside. I wanted a family, but I wondered how I would react if tragedy struck. When my children were growing up a fever would have me thinking encephalitis. I eventually calmed down but then they were a little older there were car accidents and my son trying to hold back a tractor and losing the battle. Then even as they grew still older there were back surgeries, babies, one baby lost and I felt their pain, and then older and bigger worries, are they happy, do they need anything and what aren't they telling me. Then along came grandchildren and watching my children as they worried about their own children. There always seemed to be something to worry about. But my worrying never brought a solution nor comfort, nor an easy path. My worry only brought me stress. Finally, I found my path. My prayer life improved. I learned to give it to God. This did not come easy. It took cancer, chemo, loss, caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. At last, I can give my worries to God, I can talk to him like an old friend. One that understands me and my shortcomings, one who brings me comfort.

Matthew 6:27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life. Matthew 6: 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 7:1-2 Do not judge, or you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Lord, may we feel you near us. May you be that still small voice that tells us you are with us, through the good and the bad. Lord, may we comfort those who are ill and those who grieve, and may we remember we do it in your name and that you are there. Be with our church, may we remember it is first your church and where we welcome others who seek you in our midst. Help us to find your path, guide us. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, guide him, give him strength for each day and bless him as he is a blessing. Bless his family and be with them. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them with purpose and joy in their mission. Our world is in turmoil Lord. Be with those who suffer the ravages of war in Ukraine. Be with those in our country who seek to divide us, may they find your peace. Give us strength and a heart to forgive. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson