

Proverbs 12:25

A Word to the Anxious

Real life concerns ...

I. Weight of Anxiety

- A. Causes
- B. Effects
- C. Value

II. Words of Assurance

- A. Source
- B. Substance
 - 1. Salvation
 - 2. Sovereignty
 - 3. Security
- C. Serenity

... soothed by the voice of God.

Children, Listen ...

1. What kinds of things do you worry about?
2. Do you talk to God about those things?
3. Do you discuss your fears with your parents?
4. Jesus tells His people not to worry or be afraid. Why can we trust His words?

Substantial Words

There are many troublesome things in life that that can cause us to fret. We live in a messed-up world, with messed-up people ... and we do messed-up things. Because of the mess humanity has gotten itself in we may experience anxiety over a variety of issue. It might not surprise us when people without the Lord are given to fear and trepidation. After all, they have no solid foundation for this life or for the next – they stagger on the shifting sand of uncertainty. They may have coping mechanisms that keep them from becoming undone and falling flat on their faces from fear, but at the end of the day, they have no solid hope and in anticipation of their last day, they have no certain assurance. Christians live in the same troubled environment as everyone else. We dwell in the same broken world, face afflictions common to all, and we have no more knowledge as to what tomorrow will bring than anyone else. Yet, we have no need to be anxious. Jesus exhorts us numerous times that we are not to process things the way the worldly-minded do and that includes the way we handle the challenges of life. We are not to give ourselves over to fear and anxiety. When Jesus says to us “fear not,” “Let not your hearts be troubled,” “do not be anxious,” etc.; etc. He speaks to us as the sovereign Lord. We are to take Him at His word. His words have substance and authority. The world may have its catch phrases coined to ease agitated nerves, but they have no depth – there is nothing to back up their shallow promises. God’s Word is sure and certain, and we can rely on the fact that His promises to keep us and care for us are true and backed up by the very nature of His Person. Resting in His promises will help to calm our fears. But we should share God’s “good word” with our sometimes fearful and anxious brothers and sisters in Christ to lift them up and make them glad as they face of the fears and challenges of life in a fallen world.