

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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*"Male Northern Cardinal"
Suzanne Williams Photography*

I Will Not Worry, Part 2

One of the most interesting passages of scripture on the subject of worry was spoken by our Lord Jesus and penned by the Apostle Matthew. In Matthew 6:26 Jesus said, "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Look at the words "they sow not." What a profound image these words paint in our heart! The birds are eating every single day, but they are not sowing. They don't have farms. They don't plant. They don't plow. They don't harvest. They don't gather into barns. God feeds them. Our great and mighty God takes care of them even though they do not sow. But it is different for us. God commands us to work. When He speaks to His family of faith, He says, "Whatever you sow, that shall you also reap."¹ The Apostle Paul enlarges our vision of this godly principle when he says, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."² He confirms God's promise of harvest to those who

sow. Now wouldn't it be utterly, completely ridiculous for God to feed the birds who do not sow and refuse to help His children who sow in obedience to His Word? Would He tell us to "sow" and then ignore us when we hear and obey?

"Behold the fowls of the air:
for they sow not,
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Are ye not much better than they?"

Matthew 6:26

If we're sowing, can we expect God to bring our harvest every single time?

In verses 28 and 29 of this same chapter, Matthew records "And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin."²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." We should underline the phrase "they toil not." Some years



"Mockingbird Chick"

ago Wayne sent me a beautiful bouquet of flowers when it wasn't my birthday or our anniversary simply to say, "I love you." Those flowers did no work to perfect their beauty. But the Scripture says to God's children "if any would not work, neither should they eat."³ God told us to work. If we work and labor in God to do the thing God has placed in our heart, God takes care of us. We can expect to reap the reward of our labor.

Many other verses of scripture express this same thought. Let's note Isaiah 1:19, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." This verse declares that if we hear from God and we obey God, we can expect the bounty of His provision. When we expect to reap from His bountiful hand, we know our needs will be met. We have no reason to worry. That's the essence of what Jesus said. He said, "I'm taking care of the birds who are not sowing. I'm making the flowers beautiful and they are not weaving. They are not planting cotton. They are not

making cloth. They are not raising silk worms, yet they are gorgeous. I am taking care of them. If you seek first my kingdom, 'Your labor is not in vain.'⁴ I will take care of you too."

We can expect God to come through for us. We have nothing to worry about unless we are lazy, unless we are not doing the job God has asked us to do. We need not worry about our household. We need not worry about our children, our finances, our vehicle, or even our dog. When we work, we sow, and when we sow, we reap. We have no reason to worry. That's amazing, isn't it?

Worry is frustration. It's irritation. It's aggravation. It's fear. And worry is a sin. The same Bible that says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt steal,"⁵ says, "Don't worry about anything."⁶ Now listen! This is hard. If the rumor was out and you thought it might be true, that I'd committed adultery. You'd shake your head and be horrified because adultery is a sin. If you found out somebody stole money from a convenience store, and it was probably me, you'd be shocked because I should know better. But if I said, "I'm worried sick," you might not give it much thought even though we have the scriptural command, "Do not worry." My, my, my! We need to stand against worry and resist frustration. We need to say, "Father, I trust You. Jesus, I trust You. I trust You and I obey. I know You keep Your promises. I know the righteous are never forsaken, his seed out begging bread."⁷ I am certain you supply my need out of Your riches in glory.⁸ I am confident You teach my children because You said, 'And all your [spiritual] children shall be disciples [taught by the Lord and obedient to His will], and great shall be the peace and undisturbed composure of your children.'⁹ I rejoice in these promises. I refuse to worry. You are my God. You are Jehovah Jireh. You are more than enough. I rest in your peace. I leave this place of prayer care free. Amen"

¹ Galatians 6:7

² 2 Corinthians 9:6

³ 2 Thessalonians 3:10

⁴ Philippians 2:16

⁵ Exodus 20:14-15

⁶ Philippians 4:6 NLT

⁷ Psalms 37:25

⁸ Philippians 4:19

⁹ Isaiah 54:13 Amplified