

# HOPE For The Future

March 19, 2023

Pastor Jerry Harris

Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come? (Eccl. 8:7) NIV

Four Biblical responses to the future:

## First Response: Stop worrying!

Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? (Matthew 6:27) NLT

Jesus frequently pointed out the futility of worry. He talked about it a lot. He said all it does is make you miserable, it doesn't work, it doesn't help, it doesn't change anything.

- Worry cannot change your past.
- Worry cannot control the future.
- Worry cannot solve your problems right now.
- Worry has never solved a problem.
- Worry has never caused something to not happen or to happen (except to the one worrying).

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else,

and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matt. 6:28 – 34) NLT

So do not be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time. (Matthew 6:34) LB

The wise way to face the future: Trust God!

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding... (Proverbs 3:5) NKJV

## Second response: Stop making arrogant presumptions!

Do not brag about tomorrow, since you don't know what the day will bring. (Proverbs 27:1) NLT

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phill. 4:6 – 8) NLT

The Bible tells us there are two reasons why you should never presume to know the future.

- Life is unpredictable.

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. As it is, you boast and brag and all such boasting is evil. (James 4:14, 16) NIV

- Life is brief.

You are a mist that appears for a little while...

The wise way to face the future: Be prepared!

A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences." (Pr. 22:3) LB

## Third Response: Do not use faulty planning!

Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” (James 4:13) NLT

How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. (James 4:14 – 16) NLT

The Bible says that the wise way to prepare for the future is to pray as you plan. To include God in your goal setting. What you should do is pray,

“Lord,

- What do You want me to do?
- What do You want?
- What is Your will for my life?

**Fourth response: Stop procrastinating!**

Remember, it is sin to *know what you ought to do* and then *not do it*. (James 4:17) NLT

“Procrastination is my sin, it only brings me sorrow I know I ought to change my ways In fact, I will – tomorrow.”

We know that we have come to know him *if we obey his commands*. The man who says, "I know him," but *does not do* what he commands is a *liar*, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:3, 4) NIV

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**HOPE:**  
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March 26, 2023  
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