

The Springfield Redeemer

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What If?

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Psalm 55:22 (KJV) “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

God’s Word is abundantly clear that we should take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there. God wants us to cast our cares on Him, to trust Him. He wants us to live a life that is not burdened by worry because we are confident that God will take care of us. In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus Himself teaches on worry. He tells us not to worry about food, drink, nor clothing. He points out that God takes care of the birds and the lilies of the field so how much more will He take care of us?

Nevertheless, many of us who are Believers find ourselves stuck in cycles of worry that begin with the question, “What if?” Our worries are not centered on what has happened, but rather on what might happen. We spend our time trying to plan for every possible scenario that could arise. Of course, the only scenarios we imagine are negatives ones. Here’s an example of how our internal dialogue may go:

Oh Lord, I’m worried about ____! What if ____ happens? What would I do? Well, maybe it wouldn’t be too bad. I could always do _____. But what if THAT doesn’t work? I only have one other option and that would be terrible! What if I end up with only that option! I’m sure that’s what’s going to happen! The thought makes me sick! What if I end up in the hospital because I’m so stressed? Lord, you just CAN’T allow this to happen to me! What if this completely ruins me? What if it makes people mad and they walk away from me? What if everything falls apart and I’m left all alone. This seems to be turning into an absolute disaster! Why me???

We go through so many emotions...fear, frustration, anxiety, all having begun with a single “What if?” Once we start down the path of “What ifs” they seem to multiply rapidly, each one adding to our anxiety, each one seeming to confirm that things are only going to go from bad to worse. But, nothing has even happened yet!

As believers we know that God has all power, that there’s nothing too hard for Him. So, when we feel ourselves heading into a negative case of the “What ifs”, let’s turn it around and instead say things like, “What if I trust God’s promises?”, “What if I cast my cares upon Him?”, “What if I choose to rejoice now, believing that God is going to come through for me?” Perhaps doing this will prompt us to let God be God. It may encourage us enough to lean not to our own understanding, but rather trust in the Lord with all our heart. It may help us to really cast every care upon Him.

In Memory of Mrs. Judith Lively

As most of you know, Scott Lively, the founding Pastor of the Redemption Gate Mission Society, began the Ministry in 2008, by purchasing a house on Sherman Avenue and then purchasing the 455 State Street building for the Coffee House, which is really a church (in disguise!) He is originally from Shelburne Falls in Massachusetts, where his mother continued to reside until April 9, 2024, when she passed. Pastor Scott continued to visit her regularly up to her death, and then had a lovely Funeral Service for her in Shelburne Falls.

Pastor C.S. Cooley, Scott's friend and ministry partner officiated at the Service, and gave a short message on "helping hands", because Mrs. Lively was a nurse. Then, Providentially, Scott opened an envelope left by his mother, "to be read at my funeral" it said, containing this poem:

*"When I die Give what's left of me away
To children And old men that wait to die.
And if you need to cry, Cry for your brother
Walking the streets beside you.
And when you need me, Put your arms
Around anyone and give them what you need
To give to me. I want to leave you something,
Something better than words or sounds.
Look for me In the people I've known or
loved.*

*And if you cannot give me away, at least let me
Live on in your eyes and not your mind.
You can love me most By letting
Hands touch hands, By letting bodies touch
bodies,
And by letting go of children That need to be
free.
Love doesn't die, people do.
So, when all that's left of me Is love,
Give me away."*

Report on the National Day of Prayer 2024



On May 2, 2024, Christians gathered in the usual four locations to pray for our nation plus a fifth location – the School Street Park in Agawam MA. The weather was beautiful that Thursday evening as, in addition to folks from several churches in Agawam, a group of about 14 from Faith Bible Church on Shoemaker Lane attended. It was an inspiring event – especially seeing young children and youth involved. Prayers were raised to God for our schools, our families, government leaders, and several other areas. There is nothing we can do that is more important than pray! And seek God's will!

If Federal laws continue to be passed, like the 1965 law that took prayer out of school and turned the country more and more against God, it will be America's downfall! But there's hope! In 1988, President Reagan set aside an annual day for America to pray, with the hope that the church would come together and pray. No other country ever did that! Please don't waste this opportunity while we can still proclaim the Lord's Name!

Report on Pastor Cooley's Famous Fish Fry , April 25, 2024. This event was very successful, raising over \$500 for the Holy Grounds winter expenses! Next Fish Dinners will be May 25 and June 14th! Come and pick up your dinner, ready to eat!

Regular Events: Morning Bible Study is open to all to learn more about the Bible –

Monday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday Services at 10 a.m. with Pastor Bobby Quinones.

Don't forget the Michael Youssef Celebration! Bring a friend to hear the gospel! Get tickets online.

