

COMEBACK STORIES

GETTING PAST THE PRESSURE AND FINDING PEACE

1) EXPECTATIONS CAN CAUSE PRESSURE

...“Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were my ancestors!”...

Acts 23:6 (NLT)

Then Paul said, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today...”

Acts 22:3 (NLT)

2) PRESSURE CAN CAUSE US TO GO OVERBOARD

“...I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison.” **Acts 22:3-4 (NLT)**

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. **Acts 8:1, 3-4 (NLT)**

You know what I was like... —how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellows... in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

Galatians 1:13-14 (NLT)

3) PRESSURE CAN LEAD TO WORRY, BUT ONE ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

*For we who worship by the Spirit of God... rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. **Philippians 3:3-9 (NLT)***

*And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:19 (NLT)***

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON WORRY

WORRY IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4-5 (NIV)

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY

- **WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE KNOW WHO'S IN CHARGE**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)***

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true... noble... right... pure... lovely... admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. **Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)***

- **WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE WHEN WE KNOW WHO PROVIDES**

*I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through (Christ) who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:10-13 (NIV)***

*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. **Psalms 37:4 (NIV)***

*In the Lord I take refuge... **Psalms 11:1 (NIV)***

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. **Psalms 118:8 (NIV)***

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)***

*..."Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." **Acts 16:31 (NIV)***