

# THE CARES OF LIFE

## Foundation Scripture

*“Don’t set the affections of your heart on this world or in loving the things of the world. The love of the Father and the love of the world are incompatible. For all that the world can offer us—the gratification of our flesh, the allurements of the things of the world, and the obsession with status and importance—none of these things come from the Father but from the world. This world and its desires are in the process of passing away, but those who love to do the will of God live forever!” (1 John 2:15-17)*

NOTES: “There are three areas of temptation that the serpent used with Adam and Eve in the garden to pull them away from the Father and what the devil used to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. He is an expert at using these cravings to dilute our love for the Father and cause us to turn our affections to the things of this life. (See Gen. 3:6; Matt. 4:1-11) **But the values of the Kingdom of God are setting our affections on things above, living in the fruit of the Spirit (self-control), and humility, which always waits for God’s timing for promotion.**

### *What are the “Cares” of life?*

Definition #1 ~ the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something.

Definition #2 ~ serious attention or consideration applied to doing something correctly or to avoid damage or risk.

Definition #3 ~ feel concern or interest; attach importance to something.

Definition #4 ~ look after and provide for the needs of.

Definition #5 ~ an object of concern or attention.

Definition #6 ~ a feeling of or occasion for anxiety.

### **Synonyms ~**

Caution, carefulness, wariness, awareness, heedfulness, heed, attention, attentiveness, alertness, watchfulness, vigilance, circumspection, prudence, guardedness, observance

worry, anxiety, trouble, disquiet, disquietude, bother, unease, upset, distress, concern; sorrow, anguish, grief, sadness, affliction, woe, hardship, tribulation, suffering, pain, torment, misery, angst; responsibility, stress, pressure, strain, perturbation, burdens

## The Great Temptation

From the moment Jesus enters our heart, Satan begins a relentless campaign to pull us away from the Father's heart.

### Satan's Strategy

1. He watches our decisions. He listens to our words. He knows the power of our words because he knows our created value to God and the level of authority and power God has given us through our words.
  - a. *I Peter 5:8-9 says "Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour. Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith."*
2. Nuggets:
  - a. Satan is the thief. He comes only to steal, to kill and to destroy. Jesus said it. He wants to steal our relationship with the Father, he wants to kill our faith in God and he wants to destroy our destiny, even our eternal life.
  - b. **How does a lion hunt? (explain this to them)**
  - c. Balance is key. Our lives have to have the right balance and that can only be attained through the wisdom of God. And that is only found in His presence—in time spent with Him on a consistent basis.
  - d. Decisive stand indicates a decision has to be made. A made-up mind has to happen. A choice to do it God's way, to abandon OUR way.

### God's Provision

*John 15:5-8 says "I AM the sprouting vine and you're My branches. As you live in union with Me as your Source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from Me you are powerless. If a person is separated from Me, he is discarded; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire to be burned. But if you live in life-union with Me and if My WORDS live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be*

*done. When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are My mature disciples who glorify My Father!”*

## TRUTHS

Jesus addresses two main truths in this passage: 1) life-union with Him and 2) His Words live powerfully in us. When these two truths are part of us, THEN we can ask WHATEVER we desire and it will be done. What is “Life-Union?” Life union is being 100% connected to Jesus. It’s being balanced and focused on living with Him daily.

### The First Commandment

The Old Covenant First Commandment ~ Exodus 20:3 says “*You shall have no other gods before or besides Me.*”

The New Covenant First Commandment ~ Matthew 22:37-40 “*Jesus answered him, “Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you. This is the great and supreme commandment. And the second is like it in importance: You must love your friend in the same way you love yourself. Contained within these commandments to love you will find all the meaning of the Law and the prophets.”*

### The First Love

*“Revelation 2:2-7 says “I know all that you’ve done for Me—you have worked hard and persevered. I know that you don’t tolerate evil. You have tested those who claimed to be apostles and proved they are not, for they were imposters. I also know how you have bravely endured trials and persecutions because of My name, yet you have not become discouraged. BUT I have this against you: you have abandoned the passionate love you had for me at the beginning. Think about how far you have fallen! Repent and do the works of love you did at first. I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place of influence if you do not repent. Although, to your credit, you despise the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also despise. The one whose heart is open let him listen carefully to what the Spirit is now saying to all the churches.*

*To the one who overcomes I will give access to feast on the fruit of the Tree of Life that is found in the paradise of God.”*

## **Encouragements**

The message from the Spirit of God today to each one of us is this: Examine your heart. Shine the light of My Word in the hallways of your heart. Measure your life against My Word. Ask yourself this: Is my life in union with the Lord? Or am I distracted by the cares of life? Where is He on my “to do” list? First or somewhere lower?

Like the Ephesians, the real meat the Father is looking for in our lives is NOT what we do FOR Him, but how we live WITH Him. The same commandment in Exodus and Matthew exists. God is jealous of things that take us away from Him. He is the Supreme Head of the universe and He fully expects to be the Supreme Head in our hearts and lives.

The days we are living in are spiritually perilous. Life itself is a pressure cooker of trying to balance everything we have to do. Our balance is found in the Secret Place of the Most High. We need to LIVE Psalm 91. “He who DWELLS in the Secret Place of the Most High SHALL abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”

What can we do?

Repent for leaving our first love and turn back to the important things. It’s serious to the Lord. He insists on being FIRST in our lives. Make Him THE priority. Don’t bound out of bed and start your day without spending time talking to Him. Just this little bit of time makes all the difference in how your day will go. It’s the HEART that God looks at. He can see when we veer off track and let the cares of life distract us from our intimate relationship with Him. We CANNOT live apart from Him in these perilous times.

### **Call to Action**

Take some time today to examine your heart and life with the Lord. Get alone with Him and let Him show you areas that are entangled with the cares of life.

Make the decision to change course and get back into your first love. What you do in the Secret Place spills out into the rest of your life. IT balances you. It

empowers you to overcome the temptation to slack off. The Bible says, “don’t get weary in well-doing.” Let the Lord strengthen you in your heart and mind.