

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries

A Ministry of the Watchman on the Walls, preparing God's People for the End Times

P. O. Box 117, Clemmons, NC 27012 USA

Teaching Letter, February 2019

jackmichael@att.net

www.jackmichaeloutreachministries.com

Word from the Watchman – God Cares For You

*"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you (that he may lift you out of difficult circumstances) in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for **HE CARES FOR YOU.**" (1 Peter 5:6-7 NKJV).*

How does someone: **Humble Themselves under the Mighty Hand of God?** The above Scriptures tell you exactly how: **By Casting ALL your Care** (or, all your anxiety) **upon Him!**

No matter how diligently we try to live by faith, God periodically has to bring to our remembrance: Promises, or spiritual principles from his Word, which we have temporarily forgotten, or neglected. Recently, this happened to me; **AGAIN.**

I was struggling with symptoms of sickness (which I will not describe). I was declaring God's promises for healing, but wasn't getting any better. In fact, I was getting worse! I began to get **ANXIOUS.** Why was my faith not working?

Certainly, **ALL** of God's promises are truth, and valid now, and valid for as long as we shall live. However, there are certain, specific promises, which the Holy Spirit wants to impart to us at certain times, to apply to certain, specific circumstances.

So, I inquired of the Lord: **"What do you want me to do?"** The Holy Spirit quickly imparted the specific Word from the Lord for my specific circumstances. I was instructed to: **Cast ALL my Care** (or, my anxiety) **upon the Lord, because HE CARES FOR ME.**

I already knew God cared for me. Yet, during this time of spiritual warfare – specifically for healing – I once again needed to be **REMIND**ED that **GOD CARES FOR ME.**

I am thankful to say: **I AM HEALED,** and on the way to complete recovery; for which I give God all the glory. The Lord is faithful to watch over his Word, and to fulfill his promises in our lives!

Continued on the reverse ➤

Now, due to the fact that the Lord directed me to teach on this subject this month, almost certainly means that some of you, who are right now reading this Teaching Letter, need to be reminded to: **Cast ALL your Care upon the Lord, because HE CARES FOR YOU.**

I needed to be reminded to: **Cast ALL my Care upon the Lord for healing.** Yet, God does not want you to be anxious about anything. He has placed promises in his Word to deliver you from whatever difficulties you are facing:

“BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV).

The Psalmist David once wrote:

“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.” (Psalm 42:5 NKJV).

David asked: *“...Why are you (my soul) **DISQUIETED** within me...”* In more modern words, he asked: *Why is my soul (my mind, emotions, and will) in great commotion and tumult, rather than quiet?*

God does not want your soul **CAST DOWN**. Instead, he wants you to **CAST ALL YOUR CARES** (your anxieties) **UPON HIM**. Why? Because, **HE CARES FOR YOU.**

You may not feel like **Casting ALL your Cares upon the Lord**. Your emotions may be all stirred up, and your body may be in pain! And, things may not change overnight. But, do it **BY FAITH**. Make a decision to **Cast ALL your Cares upon the Lord**, and trust him to deliver you out of your difficulties. Stand your ground, and refuse to abandon your faith, and always remember that **GOD CARES FOR YOU.**

In time, God will fulfill his Word in your life. Like David, your hope in God will be restored, and like David, you will be saying: *“...for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.”* God’s countenance will shine upon you, and you will be healed, delivered, protected, provided for, lifted out of your difficulties, and restored to peace, or whatever else you might need from our Heavenly Father!

Answering a Question from the Bible

Did Jesus command his followers to pick up snakes ?

The following Scriptures have been a puzzle to many Christians. Some Bible scholars point out that these Scriptures are not in some New Testament Manuscripts, and suggest that they should never have been included in the Bible. However, because these verses are in some New Testament manuscripts, we will deal with them.

The problematic area is one statement, identified below in **bold, CAPITALIZED** letters:

*"And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name (in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ) they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **THEY WILL TAKE UP SERPENTS**; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."* (Mark 16:17-18 NKJV).

Was Jesus talking about actual snakes that crawl upon the ground, or was he perhaps speaking symbolically?

Jesus often used symbolism in his teachings. For example, he once said: *"I am the door..."* (see John 10:9). A closer look reveals that Jesus was not comparing himself to a slab of wood, onto which had been attached hinges, and a brass doorknob. Rather, he was symbolically pointing out that he was the **ENTRANCE** into a relationship with God.

Likewise, we need to discover if Jesus referred to serpents anywhere else in his teachings. In order to **RIGHTLY DIVIDE** (or, accurately handle) the Word of God, one must compare Scripture-with-Scripture, rather than taking one Scripture (or, portion of Scripture), and building a doctrine based entirely on that one verse. Listen to this spiritual principle, which applies to Bible interpretation, as well as other matters:

"...By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established." (from 2 Corinthians 13:1 NKJV).

When using this cardinal rule for Bible interpretation, we find other Scriptures in which Jesus also referred to serpents. For an example, turn the page over ➡ and listen to the teachings of Jesus from Luke 10:1, and Luke 10:17-19:

*"After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go ... Then the seventy returned with joy, saying: Lord, even the **DEMONS** are subject to us in Your name. And He said to them: I saw **SATAN** fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on **SERPENTS** and **SCORPIONS**, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* (NKJV).

From the teachings of Jesus himself, we learn that taking up serpents refers to exercising our Spiritual Authority – in his Name – and eliminating Satan's influences in our lives! The phrase: *"...they will take up serpents..."* has nothing whatsoever to do with picking up poisonous snakes from the ground, and holding them in your hands! (also see Revelation 12:7-9).

Teacher's Notes:

To this day, there exists an unbiblical, religious sect, which has distorted the Scriptures that say: *"...they will take up serpents..."* This religious sect actually brings poisonous snakes into their church services, and those who have enough faith – supposedly – pick up the snakes, and carry them around in their hands.

These misguided folks are not rightly dividing (or, not accurately interpreting) the Word of truth (see 2 Timothy 2:15). Remember, in order to rightly divide God's Word, one must compare Scripture-with-Scripture, so that every word can be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. There is no other place in the Bible where people picked up poisonous snakes to prove their faith.

Jesus was talking about Satan and demons, not reptiles that crawl upon the ground. To take up serpents actually means to exercise Spiritual Authority over Satan and his demons.

So, what about the time in Acts 28, verses 1-6, when the Apostle Paul was bitten by a snake, and no harm came to him? In this case, Paul did not pick up the snake; the snake attacked him! Yet, no harm came to Paul, because his faith was in the authority of God's Word, which also promises divine protection.

Interestingly, the founder of this religious sect actually died from a snake bite. You would think the rest of the congregation would be smart enough to take a closer look at the Scriptures. Instead, they said he did not have enough faith, and continued with their unbiblical practices.

So, in conclusion, whenever you are attacked by Satan, exercise your Spiritual Authority over the devil and his demons (see 1 Peter 5:8-9). And, as you continue in your Christian life, if you should encounter an actual snake crawling on the ground, just avoid it (or, kill it). Do not pick it up the snake, and bring it with you to church!