

Changing Our Thinking



Romans 12:1-3

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- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think** of himself more highly than he ought to think, **but to think** soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.



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Our
Past..



Our
Future..

How should we
approach life?

The Need for Optimism..

- Spiritual blessings..
 - Ephesians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ..
- God is on our side..
 - Romans 8:31-37 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?.. Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

The Need for Optimism..

- Deuteronomy 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil .. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live..



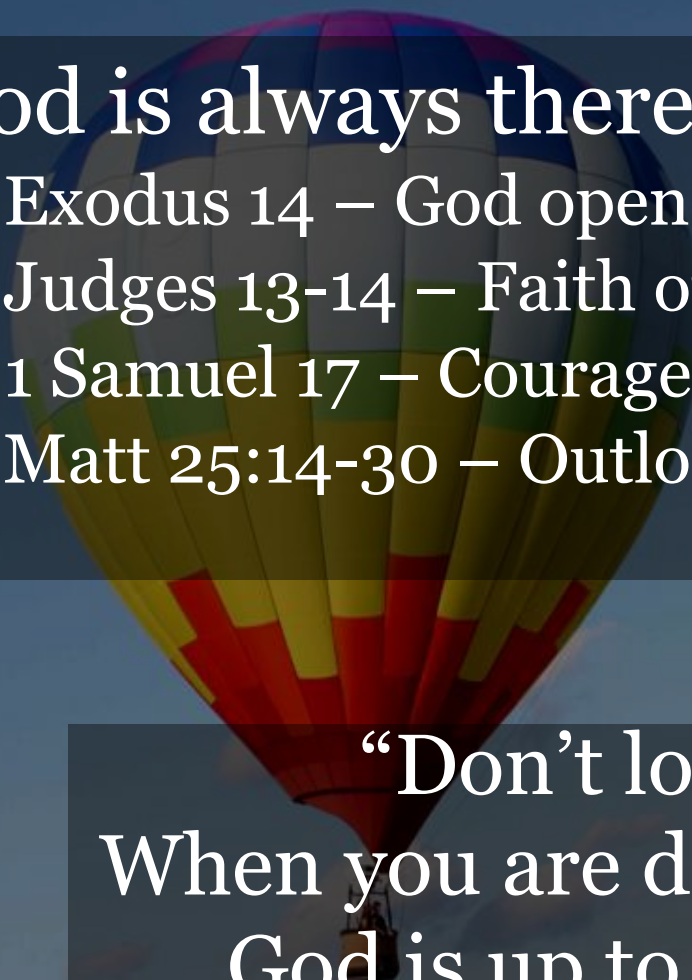
choose
OPTIMISM

The problem of pessimism..

- Associated with lack of faith..
 - Exodus 14:10-12 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.. “Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?.. For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”
 - Numbers 13-14 – twelve spies
 - 1 Samuel 17 – Israel facing Goliath
 - Matt 25:14-30 – parable of talents

The problem of pessimism..

- God is always there..
 - Exodus 14 – God opened the path through Red Sea
 - Judges 13-14 – Faith of Joshua and Caleb
 - 1 Samuel 17 – Courage of David led to great victory
 - Matt 25:14-30 – Outlook of two and five talents



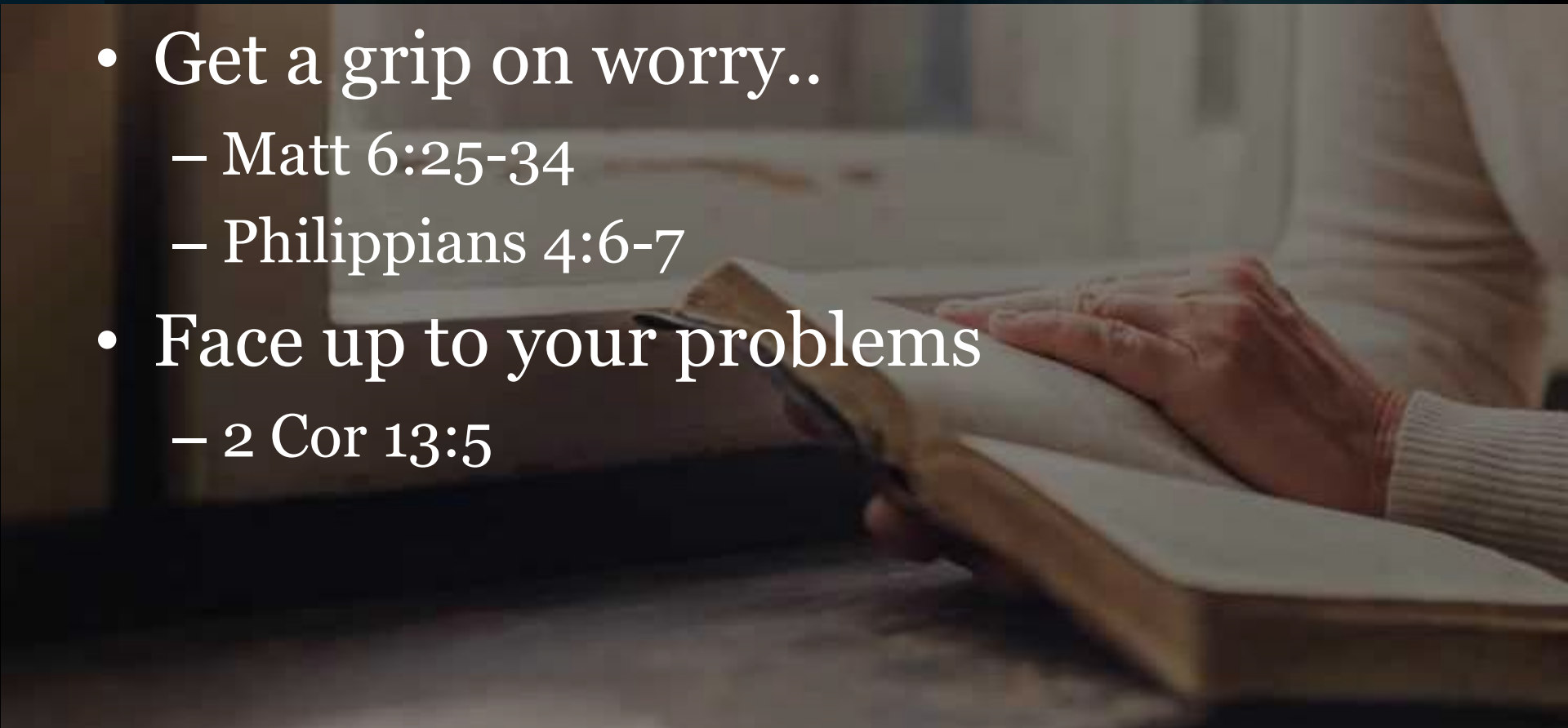
“Don’t lose hope..
When you are down to nothing,
God is up to something.”

Let go of your past..

- Past failures, bad things that happened before...
 - Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - Luke 9:57-62 let it go.. Follow me

Let go of your past..

- Get a grip on worry..
 - Matt 6:25-34
 - Philippians 4:6-7
- Face up to your problems
 - 2 Cor 13:5



Realize danger of improper thinking..

- Don't carry excess baggage..
 - 2 Corinthians 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...
 - 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ..

You have infinite potential in Christ..

- Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.



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