



THE  
MENTORING  
PROJECT

# OVERCOMING ANXIETY FROM A BIBLICAL VIEW



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# Overcoming Anxiety From A Biblical View

## Introduction

Anxiety is a heavy burden that many of us carry in silence. It can creep in when we least expect it—during moments of uncertainty, in the quiet of the night, or even in the middle of a seemingly ordinary day. The weight of worry can make us feel isolated, exhausted, and overwhelmed. Some days, anxiety feels like an unstoppable force, dictating how we think, feel, and act.

But anxiety is not new. It is not unique to the modern world or to any earlier generation. Throughout history, even in the Bible, people have wrestled with worry, fear, and uncertainty. The difference, however, is in how we respond to it.

The world provides many options for dealing with things such as meditation, mindfulness, exercise therapy, and even social media. Some of these methods offer relief at the moment, but often they do not bring true, lasting peace. What the Bible offers, which is far more significant, is the ability to hand our horrifying fears over to God so we can bask in his presence and enjoy true peace.

He does acknowledge our feelings of anxiety, and he does not put our fears down by telling us to ‘get over it.’ No. He talks to our anxious hearts through us while we read, and his Word serves as a reminder that no one is truly alone in this world; there is always the presence of God watching over us, and we need not carry these burdens alone.

Through his wisdom and compassion, Jesus dealt with anxiety in the same way in his daily life. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus tells his followers not to worry about how they will eat, drink, or what they wear. Instead, he directs their attention to the flowers in the field and birds in the sky, illustrating how God takes care of his entire creation.

When we find ourselves in difficult situations, it is common for us to feel anxious and afraid. Many of us tend to feel anxiety rising when we can’t control our present or future circumstances in particular. Scripture teaches us, however, that true peace can be attained through trusting God with everything instead of trying to control every aspect of our lives.

This guide goes into great detail about the Bible’s teachings on anxiety and, more importantly, focuses on helping you find a mentor who can provide deeper, godly wisdom. You can consider these mentors as people who are relatively older than you and have personally faced life’s many challenges. You will engage in meaningful discussions and conversations designed to not only help you acknowledge anxiety for what it is but also replace fear with faith.

Providing practical tools, real-life conversations, and biblical truths – each session in this guide supports the last and teaches you how to walk in greater freedom. Above all, this guide aims to teach you how to truly apply God’s promises in your day-to-day life instead of simply reading about trusting Him.

Your fight against anxiety doesn’t need to be done in isolation. God has put people, such as mentors, friends, and other people of faith, who are ready to help guide you through these struggles. It is our intention that this journey will increase your knowledge of God’s love and the depth of your faith so that you can experience His peace.

## Anxiety - A Universal Struggle

Anxiety has various forms. It appears as racing thoughts for some people, while others see it as physical pain—chest pains, insomnia, or tiredness. An individual’s finances, health, relationships, work, or even future uncertainties can trigger anxiety. David, a renowned figure in the Bible, had a form of anxiety that ran deep. Like in many of his psalms, he needed to let out many of his desperate screams.

*"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy." — Psalm 94:19*

David didn’t ignore or try to escape his anxiety; instead, he focused on God. Having honest conversations with God aided David in alleviating his fears through prayers. His approach reminds us that having anxiety is perfectly fine, and it does not indicate that our faith is weak; instead, anxiety is another opportunity to grow closer to God.

Even deep distress was experienced by Jesus prior to his crucifixion. He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane so intensely that he began sweating blood (Luke 22:44). Even in these terrible moments, Jesus confidently surrendered to the Father’s will, showing us that trust in God is the remedy for our anxiety.

We notice this trend throughout the scripture:

- Having anxiety about our problems is okay, but we don’t need to let it control us.
- God understands our fears, and He wants us to submit them to Him.
- It is not a solution to overlook problems in life; rather, trusting God in those troublesome times is the solution.

## The Bible’s Answer to Anxiety

The world tells us that anxiety is something to manage, suppress, or escape from. But God offers something different—something better. Instead of telling us to work harder to overcome our fears, He calls us to rest in His presence.

### **Philippians 4:6-7: A Call to Pray, Not Worry**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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."*

Paul does not say, "Try to worry less." He says, "Do not be anxious about anything." This is not a harsh command—it is an invitation to trust God completely. When we replace worry with prayer, God promises to give us a peace that surpasses all understanding.

But notice the key part of this verse: *with thanksgiving*. Gratitude is a powerful tool against anxiety. Focusing on what our Creator has done for us strengthens our faith in what He will continue to do.

## **1 Peter 5:7: Casting Our Cares on Him**

*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

The Greek word used for 'cast' is the same one used in the description of how a donkey's cloak is thrown onto it before Jesus rides it. The action is not placing the cloak gently but rather throwing it. God does not need us to carry our burdens; He expects us to toss them at Him because He loves us.

## **Isaiah 41:10: God's Presence in Our Fear**

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

One of the most comforting truths in Scripture is that God is always with us. Anxiety often makes us feel alone, but God reminds us that we are never truly alone. His presence is our peace.

## **Why This Journey Matters**

This guide is not just about learning how to "feel better." It is about transformation. It is about stepping into the life God has called you to live—free from the chains of fear and worry.

Anxiety may not disappear overnight, but as you grow in your trust in God, you will begin to experience His peace in ways you never imagined. You will learn that peace is not the absence of problems but the presence of Christ.

Over the next few sessions, you will explore:

- What the Bible says about anxiety and how to apply its truths to your life.
- How to shift from fear to faith, learning to trust in God's sovereignty.
- Practical steps for renewing your mind through Scripture and prayer.
- How can we walk daily in God's peace and encourage others to do the same?

This journey is not meant to be taken alone. A mentor—someone who has walked through their own struggles—can provide wisdom, encouragement, and accountability. They can remind you of God’s truth when fear tries to take over.

God does not promise a life without difficulties, but He does promise to be with us through them. He offers His presence, His strength, and His peace.

As you begin this study, take a moment to pray. Ask God to open your heart to His truth. Invite Him into your struggles, and trust that He will guide you step by step.

You are not alone. You are deeply loved. And peace is possible—not because life is perfect, but because God is faithful.

# Session 1: Understanding Anxiety Through a Biblical Lens

## Key Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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."*

## Anxiety: A Struggle We All Face

Anxiety is something we all experience at some point in life. It can be a sudden wave of nervousness before a big decision, a restless night filled with worry, or a constant, nagging fear that never seems to go away. It can be triggered by uncertainty, past experiences, or even the pressure of trying to control things that are beyond our ability to manage.

Some people experience anxiety in small moments—before a test, a job interview, or a tough conversation. Others feel it in deeper ways, battling daily fears about the future, financial struggles, health issues, or relationships. Anxiety can feel overwhelming, like a weight pressing down on your chest or a storm raging in your mind that refuses to settle.

Even faithful believers, people who love God deeply, wrestle with anxiety. The Bible does not ignore this reality. It speaks directly to our fears and offers a different way to respond—one that invites us to trust God in the middle of uncertainty.

But what exactly is anxiety from a biblical perspective? Is it just a normal human emotion, or is there something deeper going on?

## Defining Anxiety: A Normal Human Experience vs. a Spiritual Struggle

Anxiety, in its simplest form, is a response to fear. It is what happens when we feel uncertain about what is ahead, when we do not feel safe, or when we doubt our ability to handle a situation. From a purely human standpoint, anxiety is a natural part of life. Our bodies and minds were created to recognize danger and react accordingly.

For example, if you were walking through the woods and suddenly saw a bear, your body would immediately respond—your heart would race, adrenaline would surge, and your brain would signal you to run. That kind of fear is useful because it helps protect us from harm.

But anxiety is different. Instead of being a reaction to real danger, anxiety is often a response to *what-if* scenarios.

- *What if I fail?*
- *What if something bad happens?*

- *What if I never find a way out of this situation?*

Anxiety convinces us that we are in danger, even when we are not. It tells us that we must be in control and that things will fall apart if we do not have all the answers.

The Bible recognizes this struggle, and while it acknowledges that anxiety is a part of life, it also calls us to respond to it differently.

## **What Does the Bible Say About Anxiety?**

God does not dismiss our fears or tell us to simply "stop worrying." Instead, He provides a way to experience real peace, even in the middle of anxious moments.

### **1. Anxiety is heavy, but God offers peace.**

*"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up."* — Proverbs 12:25

The analogy that comes to mind when I read this verse is of someone suffering from anxiety. It's as if a heavy weight rests on their back, curbing their ability to breathe. Anxiety can be devastating, weighing down on our hearts and rendering us fatigued and downcast. The second part of the verse states, 'A kind word cheers it up.' This brings forth the idea that we do not have to bear the burden of anxiety by ourselves. There are people in our lives whom God has given to uplift us, and He Himself provides words of truth that are deeply comforting.

### **2. God invites us to cast our worries on Him.**

*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* — 1 Peter 5:7

God does not just tell us to stop worrying—He tells us *what to do* with our worries. He invites us to give them to Him. This is not a one-time event but a daily practice. Every time anxiety arises, we have a choice: will we carry it alone, or will we hand it over to the One who cares for us?

### **3. Worry does not add to our lives.**

*"Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"* — Matthew 6:27

Jesus asks a powerful question here. Worrying does not fix our problems; it does not bring solutions. It often worsens the situation by depleting our energy and muddling our thoughts. These words of Jesus remind us that, instead of worrying, we should trust in God to supply our needs.

## **Understanding the Reaction of Anxiety and Self-Doubt**

Recognizing the anxious reactions is one step towards overcoming anxiety. Because anxiety is not always apparent, it sometimes reveals itself in the form of excessive thoughts, avoidance behaviors, and perfectionism.

The following are some common forms of anxiety:

Physical symptoms – experiencing a racing heart, tightness in the chest, headaches, and sleeplessness.

Mental patterns include overthinking, anticipating catastrophe, and getting dizzy from “what if” scenarios.

Spiritual struggles – doubting God’s goodness, the distance felt in prayer, or the trust in Him.

This recognition helps transform fear by bringing it to God, where it can be replaced with peace.

## **When Does Anxiety Become a Spiritual Battle?**

Not all anxiety is sinful in nature. It is perfectly human to feel anxious about an important occasion or to care about a family member. However, after a certain point, when anxiety takes over control and decision-making processes and causes a person to question God’s promises, it crosses a line and turns into a case of spiritual conflict.

Nothing would please the enemy more than instilling fear in us and diverting attention away from God’s boundless goodness. He fully comprehends that anxiety serves the purpose of keeping us from embracing the freedom that Christ has to offer.

Regardless of the plight, God has given humanity everything needed to fight back. We are surrounded by a community of believers to rely on in times of trouble. Additionally, his Spirit strengthens us, and His Word comes packed with promises of peace.

### **Discussion Questions for Mentor and Mentee**

1. In what manner does anxiety manifest itself in your life? Do you tend to be an over-thinker, feel physically tense, or grapple with self-doubt?
2. Do you often experience any repetitive thoughts that begin with “what if”? What are some examples?
3. Have you ever experienced anxiety interfering with your relationship with God? How so?
4. What verse from this session speaks to you the most? Why?

## **Encouragement for the Week: Bringing Anxiety to God**

As we move forward, take time this week to notice when anxiety arises. Instead of letting it take control, pause and turn to God. Meditate on **Philippians 4:6-7**, and when anxious thoughts come, remind yourself:

*"God is in control. I do not have to carry this alone."*

### **Action Step:**

- Write down one specific anxiety you are carrying today. Each morning, pray and surrender it to God. End each night by thanking Him for His peace, even if you don't feel it yet.

God is not asking you to overcome anxiety on your own—He is inviting you to trust Him step by step.

## Detecting Anxious Reactions and Self-Doubt in Our Lives

### Key Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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."*

### Recognizing Anxiety in Our Lives

Anxiety has a way of sneaking into our lives without us even realizing it. It can begin as a slight worry—something we brush off as just being “stressed” or “overwhelmed.” But over time, it grows. It starts shaping our thoughts, our actions, and even our faith.

Some people experience anxiety as a constant hum in the background of their minds, always present but never fully acknowledged. Others feel it like a sudden wave crashing over them—unexpected and overpowering. However, it shows up, one thing is certain: anxiety affects us deeply, and if left unchecked, it can distort the way we see ourselves, our circumstances, and even God.

That's why one of the first steps in overcoming anxiety is learning to detect it. If we don't recognize how anxiety is influencing us, we won't be able to take steps toward healing. And thankfully, the Bible gives us a clear path forward.

### The Connection Between Anxiety and Self-Doubt

Anxiety and self-doubt are closely connected. When we worry, it often leads to questioning ourselves:

- *Am I good enough?*
- *What if I fail?*
- *What if I make the wrong decision?*
- *What if people see that I'm not as strong as they think I am?*

This pattern of thinking can be dangerous. Self-doubt makes us second-guess our worth, our abilities, and even our faith. It can paralyze us, keeping us from stepping into the things God has called us to do.

But here's the good news: God has already spoken truth over us. He has already declared our worth, our identity, and our purpose. We don't have to live in a cycle of doubt and fear.

Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us that we are called to bring our anxieties to God in prayer. When we do, He replaces our worry with peace—peace that doesn't always make sense but is real and unshakable.

## **How Anxiety Manifests in Our Lives**

Anxiety is not always easy to detect. It doesn't always show up as obvious worry or fear. Sometimes, it hides in our habits, our thoughts, and even our relationships. Here are a few common ways anxiety may be showing up in your life:

### **1. Physical Symptoms**

Anxiety isn't just something we experience in our minds—it can affect our bodies as well. Many people don't realize that their headaches, muscle tension, or trouble sleeping may, in fact, be tied to stress and worry.

Common physical symptoms of anxiety include:

- Rapid heartbeat or shortness of breath
- Trouble sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Stomach issues or loss of appetite
- Fatigue or feeling constantly drained

When anxiety begins to affect our bodies, it is a sign that we are carrying more than we were meant to. God did not create us to live under constant stress. He invites us to bring our burdens to Him and trust that He will sustain us (Psalm 55:22).

### **2. Overthinking and Mental Spirals**

Do you ever find yourself replaying conversations in your head, wondering if you said the wrong thing? Or lying awake at night thinking about everything that could go wrong?

This is what anxiety does—it keeps our minds stuck in a loop of “what if” thinking. We try to prepare for every possible outcome, but instead of bringing peace, it only creates more stress.

Jesus spoke directly to this in Matthew 6:34: *"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

This is a powerful reminder that we are not called to carry the weight of the future. God is already there. He already knows what will happen, and He is more than capable of leading us through it.

Instead of obsessing over the unknown, we are invited to trust God for today and let tomorrow rest in His hands.

### **3. Avoidance and Procrastination**

Sometimes, anxiety doesn't look like worry—it looks like avoidance.

When we feel overwhelmed, we might push things off, telling ourselves, *"I'll deal with that later."* But deep down, we're not delaying because we're busy—we're delaying because we're afraid.

- Afraid of failing
- Afraid of making the wrong choice
- Afraid of facing something difficult

This can apply to work, relationships, and even our faith. Maybe you've felt God nudging you toward something—serving in a ministry, having a hard conversation, or stepping into a new opportunity—but fear keeps holding you back.

God never intended for fear to keep us from living the life He has called us to. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us: *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."*

When we recognize that avoidance is actually fear in disguise, we can begin to face those fears with faith instead of running from them.

#### **4. Seeking Control**

Many times, anxiety makes us feel like we have to control everything.

- We over-plan and overthink because we're afraid of something going wrong.
- We struggle to trust others because we feel like we have to do everything ourselves.
- We hold onto our worries instead of surrendering them to God.

But control is an illusion. The truth is, we were never meant to have control over everything. That is God's job, not ours.

Isaiah 41:10 reminds us: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

God is not asking us to hold everything together—He is asking us to trust that He is already holding it all together.

### **Discussion Questions for Mentor and Mentee**

1. When anxiety shows up in your life, how do you typically respond?
2. Do you see any of these patterns—physical symptoms, overthinking, avoidance, or control—in your own life?
3. How does self-doubt affect your relationship with God?
4. What is one step you can take this week to recognize and surrender anxiety to God?

## Encouragement for the Week: Replacing Anxiety with Truth

Anxiety is persistent. But so is God's peace.

This week, take time to notice when anxious thoughts arise. Instead of letting them take control, replace them with truth. Whenever you feel overwhelmed, pause and repeat Philippians 4:6-7, reminding yourself:

*"God is in control. I do not have to carry this alone."*

### Action Step:

- Each morning, write down one anxious thought that comes to mind.
- Next to it, write a Bible verse that speaks against that fear.
- Pray over it, asking God to help you replace worry with His peace.

Anxiety may not disappear overnight, but as we practice surrendering it to God, we will begin to experience the peace that He has promised.

## When Do Anxiety Levels Become Too Difficult to Handle in Your Experience?

### Key Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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."*

### Recognizing When Anxiety Becomes Too Much

Anxiety is the body's natural human response to stress, judgment, or fear. If precautions are not taken, anxiety becomes much worse and deeper. Turning it into something that affects our minds, hearts, and our faith.

You may have been there before or are there right now.

People often begin experiencing anxiety through little concerns that last for brief moments. As time passes, your initial worries expand and fill up a greater portion of your mind. Suddenly, your heart feels heavy. Every moment of your mind shifts into unending "what if" cycles. Your prayers feel empty. Exhaustion sets in, although you did minimal activity, shun human interaction, and cannot pay attention to anything.

The condition has intensified beyond periodic emotions. Anxiety develops into a burdensome force that takes away your happiness and your serenity, as well as your trust in God.

Do you know the signs that reveal anxiety has grown beyond manageable control? Is there a way to tell that we need support from God through His word and from others in our life? We will understand this concept throughout our session.

## **Knowing Your Anxiety Is Getting Out of Control**

The Word of God says that you should share your troubles and anxiety with Him, but this can get unbearable and difficult to handle. And if you feel like you are alone, don't worry because you are not. Many people, even firm believers, have been in that place.

Here are a few signs that anxiety may be becoming too challenging to handle on your own:

### **1. Anxiety Is Affecting Your Relationship with God**

Prayer becomes harder. Reading the Bible feels like a chore. You start questioning everything and even doubting if God has any control over this or if He can resolve some of your issues. Instead of putting your trust in Him, you become distant and start believing that no one is going to listen.

This is the first and most overwhelming effect anxiety has on us—it creates distance between us, God, and even our loved ones. When we are stuck in this cycle of fear and worry, it can be hard to hear His voice or feel His peace.

But the trust is that God has not moved away from you. You only feel this way because of your mind and the effects of anxiety. But He is still near.

Psalm 34:18 reminds us: *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

God will never get frustrated at you for feeling anxious. Nor will He be disappointed in your struggle. Instead, He will invite you to come to Him, even when you don't feel like it.

### **2. Anxiety Is Affecting Your Daily Life**

A major indicator your anxiety has grown out of control occurs when it disrupts your capacity to live normally.

The symptom of anxiety is social withdrawal. Does it get hard to stay focused on tasks like your work assignments, college projects, or managing your daily duties? Even if you have not done much, anxiety still manages to tire out both your body and mind. It makes you endlessly toss and turn in bed, unable to sleep because of constant thoughts and worries. Worrying too much puts you in a state where you cannot understand what's going on. Anxiety contributes to losing the path that God has made for us in life.

Jesus tells us in John 10:10, *"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."*

God does not want you to be uncomfortable and constantly stressed and afraid. He only wishes for peace, happiness, and freedom. But when anxiety gets out of control, it is a sign that something needs to change.

### **3. You Get Negative Thoughts**

When you are not doing anything about it, anxiety grows on stress and fear. It starts out small, which can be overlooked, but it grows very quickly and impacts a big part of your life once it's out of control.

- *"What if something bad happens?"*
- *"What if I'm not good enough?"*
- *"What if I never feel better?"*

These thoughts can form a prison in your mind and trap you in it forever. Blinding you from the truth of God's promises

But with the help of the Holy Bible, you can break this cycle. Romans 12:2 tells us: *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

We do not have to let our anxious thoughts rule over us. With God's help, you can refresh and renew your mind, filling it with positivity and, most importantly, the truth of God.

### **4. Anxiety Affects Your Physical Health**

Anxiety is not just an emotional thing; it also affects the physical aspects of you.

These are the physical symptoms of severe anxiety:

- Headaches or tension in your muscles
- Trouble sleeping or nightmares
- Stomach issues or loss of appetite
- Rapid heartbeat or shortness of breath
- Feeling restless or unable to relax

Our body and mind are one, and because of that, we also experience physical signs.

This is why God's peace is not just emotional—it's physical. He promises to bring rest to our entire being. Matthew 11:28 says: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

God does not only heal you spiritually but brings real, deep peace to our minds and bodies as well.

## **What to Do When You Experience Overwhelming Anxiety**

If you recognize any of these signs in you, do not give up because God will not leave you alone. He will be with you at all times to help you.

Do three of these things when your anxiety gets unbearable:

### **1. Be Honest with God**

Tell Him what you're feeling. Don't hold back. God already knows your heart, and He wants you to bring your worries to Him. Psalm 62:8 says: *"Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."*

God isn't expecting you to have it all figured out—He just wants you to come to Him.

### **2. Seek Wise Counsel**

Sometimes, we need help from others to walk through our anxiety. Talking to a mentor, a pastor, or a Christian counselor can make a huge difference.

Proverbs 11:14 reminds us: *"For lack of guidance, a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers."*

There is no shame in seeking help. In fact, it's a sign of wisdom.

### **3. Meditate on God's Promises**

When anxiety feels overwhelming, one of the most powerful things you can do is fill your mind with God's truth.

Here are a few verses to hold onto:

- Isaiah 41:10 – *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*
- 2 Timothy 1:7 – *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."*
- John 14:27 – *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid."*

Your overwhelming feelings of anxiety do not define your character because God is bigger than your fears, and His peace exceeds your anxiety. God surpasses all your apprehensions, and His serenity overrides your distress. Take a single step to give your worries to God during the upcoming week. Trust that God stays with you throughout this daily experience through any of these spiritual practices: prayer, mentor dialogue, or meditation on His promises.

You are not alone. God protects you as your refuge because He will guide you through all challenges.

## Session 2: God's Sovereignty Over Our Fears

### Key Scripture: Matthew 6:25-27

*"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you, by worrying, add a single hour to your life?"*

### Who Is in Control?

Anxiety is unpredictable and makes us feel like we are not in control of ourselves. Bills, relationships, sicknesses, and even plans do not go as expected, causing everything to fall apart. This uncertainty of life can take a toll on you, and the weight of this responsibility can wear you down rapidly.

But the truth is that you do not have to be in control at all times because God does that for you.

According to the Bible, God has complete authority over everything because He is sovereign. Everything that takes place in the world is known to Him, and His power extends beyond all limitations. God possesses complete knowledge of everything that will occur despite our apprehension about future events. By trusting in His authority, we can release the concerns that were never meant to burden us.

Although we intellectually understand God's supreme power, we find it difficult to have faith in Him when anxiety grips us. Experiencing true peace under God's sovereign rule requires bridging the gap between intellectual understanding and practical trust..

The upcoming discussion will explore this matter.

### Fear vs. Trust: A Spiritual Tug-of-War

Anxiety revolves around What-ifs. And you will find yourself asking these questions.

- *What if I fail?*
- *What if I make the wrong decision?*
- *What if I lose what matters most to me?*

Fear thrives in uncertainty. It keeps us focused on the things that don't matter instead of focusing on the things that matter.

In contrast, trusting God shifts our thinking from "What if?" to "Even if."

- *Even if I fail, God's plan for my life is still good.*
- *Even if I don't know the future, God does, and He is guiding me.*
- *Even if I face trials, God will strengthen me and never leave me.*

The development of genuine trust takes time. Your belief in God's sovereign power means you will trust God both through simple periods of life and times of uncertainty.

## **The Story of Peter Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)**

One of the best examples of fear vs. trust is found in Matthew 14.

Peter and the other disciples were in a boat when they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. At first, they were terrified, thinking He was a ghost. But Jesus reassured them, saying, *"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* (Matthew 14:27).

At that moment, Peter did something remarkable. He called out to Jesus and said, *"Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."* (Matthew 14:28). Jesus told him to come, and Peter stepped out of the boat, walking toward Him.

As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he was walking on water. But as soon as he looked at the wind and the waves, fear took over. He began to sink, crying out, *"Lord, save me!"*

Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught him, saying, *"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (Matthew 14:31).

This demonstrates that by keeping our vision on Jesus, we gain the ability to conquer our fears. When we direct our attention towards the storm, we fall into anxiety.

We will experience occasions in our lives when our fear becomes overwhelming, similar to Peter. But Jesus' arms are open to us at all times. Jesus does not criticize our fear but leads us onto a better path to trust in Him.

## **Practical Steps to Trusting God's Sovereignty**

If we are going to trust God amid anxiety, we need to take intentional steps to shift our focus from fear to faith. Here are three practical ways to do that:

### **1. Replace Worry with Prayer**

When anxiety creeps in, our natural response is often to overthink and try to solve everything in our minds. But Philippians 4:6-7 gives us a different strategy:

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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."*

We are required to talk about our troubles with God through prayer instead of surrendering ourselves to worry. God already knows about your troubles; thus, praying serves as our chance to recognize our fears and allow Him to bring peace to our hearts.

**Application:**

During this week, make it a habit to control your anxious thoughts by turning to prayer instead of dwelling on your worries.

Place your thoughts in a journal before offering them to God while asking Him to assume full authority.

**2. Focus on Today, Not Tomorrow**

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:34: *"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

The essence of anxiety stems from repetitive thoughts that have not even occurred. Thus, Christ wants believers to focus on the present life.

Jesus wants you to live one day at a time so that you can experience God's peace by living life in the present day and not constantly focusing on what's about to come. Do that and see how your life transforms through peace.

**Application:**

- When you find yourself worrying about the future, ask yourself what you should pray to God for.
- When thoughts about the future enter your mind, focus on Matthew 6:34.

**3. Remember God's Past Faithfulness**

One of the best ways to trust God for the future is to remember how He has been faithful in the past.

Psalm 77:11-12 says: *"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds."*

When we look back and see how God has provided, guided, and protected us before, it strengthens our faith to trust Him again.

**Application:**

- Make a record of all times when God displayed faithfulness toward you throughout your life. Store this list in a safe place and use it whenever anxiety attacks you again.
- You should relate your story about how God rescued you through previous challenges to someone.

## Discussion Questions for Mentor and Mentee

1. What causes you the most anxiety?
2. What steps do you take when your emotions are controlled by anxiety?
3. Has God's sovereign power ever become present in one of your life's moments?
4. From the three simple steps, which practice feels most demanding for you to put into use?

Letting God be your source of trust does not stop you from experiencing fear occasionally. It means you will place it in God's hand, and He will take care of it for you.

When anxiety levels become high this week, make a conscious pause and engage in prayer. *"Lord, I trust that You are in control. I don't have to figure everything out because You already have a plan. Help me to trust You more today."*

God's sovereignty is not just a theological idea—it is a truth that brings deep, lasting peace. Let's choose to rest in it.

## Session 3: Renewing the Mind Through Scripture and Prayer

### Key Scripture: Romans 12:2

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will."*

### The Battle of the Mind

Anxiety often starts in the mind. A single worry can spiral into overwhelming fear, and before we know it, we are stuck in a cycle of negative thinking. The mind is powerful—what we dwell on shapes how we feel, how we act, and even how we experience God.

That's why the Bible tells us not to conform to the world's way of thinking but to renew our minds with His truth. Romans 12:2 makes it clear: true transformation happens when we allow God to change our thoughts.

The world tells us:

- *"You have to figure everything out on your own."*
- *"You are not good enough."*
- *"You will never overcome your anxiety."*

But God's Word says something different:

- *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)*
- *"You are fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14)*
- *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)*

The more we meditate on God's truth, the less room anxiety has to control us. But renewing the mind is not a one-time event—it's a daily practice.

### Transforming Anxious Thoughts with God's Word

When anxiety creeps in, what do we do? Do we let it take over, or do we counter it with truth?

Jesus gave us the perfect example of how to fight back against negative thoughts. In Matthew 4, when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, Jesus didn't argue or panic—He responded with Scripture. Each time the enemy spoke lies, Jesus responded with, *"It is written."*

This is the key to transforming anxious thoughts: we replace them with what God has already spoken.

Here's how to do it:

**1. Identify the anxious thought.**

*"I feel like I'm completely alone in this."*

**2. Find a Bible verse that speaks the truth.**

*"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)*

**3. Speak that truth out loud.**

*"God is with me. I am not alone. His presence goes before me."*

**Application:**

- Start a "Truth Over Fear" list: Write down common anxious thoughts and find a Bible verse to counter each one.
- When anxiety arises, pause and ask, *"What does God's Word say about this?"*

Over time, this practice reprograms our thinking—instead of fear running the show, God's truth becomes our foundation.

## Practical Application: Journaling, Memorizing Verses, Gratitude Practice

Renewing the mind requires action. It's not enough to just hear the truth—we have to engage with it daily.

### 1. Journaling: Writing Through the Anxiety

Sometimes, our thoughts feel too tangled to process. That's where journaling comes in. Writing helps us bring our worries into the light and lay them before God.

**Try this:**

- Each morning, write down three things that are making you anxious.
- Next to each one, write a prayer of surrender.
- Look back at your past entries and see how God has been faithful.

### 2. Memorizing Scripture: Equipping Your Mind

When anxiety strikes, we don't always have time to look up Bible verses. That's why memorizing Scripture is so important—it allows us to carry God's truth with us at all times.

**Try this:**

- Choose one verse per week to memorize. Write it on a notecard and carry it with you.

- When anxiety arises, repeat the verse out loud until peace replaces fear.

### 3. Gratitude Practice: Shifting the Focus

Anxiety thrives on what's wrong. Gratitude shifts our focus to what's right.

**Try this:**

- Every night, write down three things you're grateful for.
- Thank God specifically for each one.

Gratitude doesn't ignore problems—it just reminds us that God is still at work in the midst of them.

### Discussion: How Has Scripture Helped in Moments of Anxiety?

1. Have you ever experienced a time when a Bible verse helped you overcome fear?
2. What anxious thoughts do you struggle with the most?
3. What is one practical way you can renew your mind this week?

**Final Encouragement:** Anxiety may not disappear overnight, but **as we renew our minds daily, we will see transformation.** Keep showing up. Keep replacing fear with truth. **God's peace is a process, and He is walking with you every step of the way.**

## Session 4: Living in Faith and Encouraging Others

### Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

*"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."*

### Walking Daily in God's Peace

Anxiety often makes us feel powerless. But **God has given us His Spirit—a Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline.**

Living in faith means choosing peace, even when circumstances don't change. It's about walking **in trust rather than in fear.**

This doesn't mean anxiety never comes back—it means we don't have to let it control us anymore.

### Sharing Testimonies and Supporting Others

One of the most powerful ways to strengthen our faith is to share our story.

**Revelation 12:11** says: *"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."*

When we testify to what God has done, we not only remind ourselves of His faithfulness—we encourage others who are struggling.

#### Try this:

- Think of one time God helped you through anxiety.
- Share that story with a friend or write it in a journal.

### Encouraging Others Who Struggle with Anxiety

God never intended for us to walk alone. When we see someone struggling with anxiety, we can be the voice of encouragement they need.

#### How to support others:

- **Pray with them.** Sometimes, the best thing we can do is stand in the gap for them.
- **Speak truth over them.** Remind them of God's promises when they forget.
- **Be present.** Sometimes, people don't need advice—they just need someone to sit with them in their struggle.

**Proverbs 12:25** says: *"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up."*

Your words have the power to bring life and encouragement to someone battling anxiety.

## Discussion: How Can You Help Others Overcome Anxiety Biblically?

1. Who in your life is struggling with anxiety right now?
2. What is one way you can encourage them this week?
3. How does sharing testimonies build faith in both the listener and the one sharing?

## Final Encouragement

Anxiety doesn't have to be the end of your story. God is greater than fear, and He has already given you victory through Christ.

This week, walk in faith. When fear tries to creep in, declare: *"God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind."*

And as you grow in peace, don't keep it to yourself—be an encouragement to someone else.

God has brought you this far and will continue to carry you forward. You are not alone, and you are deeply loved.