

## FAITH REWARDS: "FUTURES"

**THESIS:** Trust The Lord

**TEXT:** Psalm 37:1-10

### **OPEN: Worry Percentages**

It's been said that a woman worried so much that she began to keep a record of them. She found that 40% of the things she worried about never happened; 30% were old decisions she could not alter; 12% were criticisms that other people made of her, mostly untrue; 10% were about her health—which worsened as she worried, and only 8% were what she called legitimate. One of her biggest discoveries was how much energy she was needlessly expending on her worries.

**Jeremiah 12:1-2** "You are always righteous, O Lord, when I bring a case before You. Yet I would speak with You about Your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts."

In **Psalm 37:1-10** let's discover how faith in the Lord instead of fretting produces a rewarding future.

### **1. TRUST THE LORD FOR YOUR FUTURE INSTEAD OF FRETTING ABOUT IT.**

- A. **Psalm 37:1-2, 7** "Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away...Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes."
  1. **Fret** (Hebrew: *charah*) means to become angry, distressed, or jealous.
    - a. *Don't fret or be envious of evil people because there's no future for them or their wrongdoing.*
      1. **Psalm 37:8-10** "Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found."
        - a. Trust in the Lord by putting your hope in Him instead of fretting or envying evil people.
          1. **Hope** (Hebrew: *qavah*) means to expect, look eagerly for, or wait upon.
            - a. **Isaiah 40:29-31** "God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
              1. Experience the reward of faith—hope in the Lord to renew your strength.
            - b. **Psalm 5:3** "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation."
              1. Experience the reward of faith—hope in God—pray your requests to Him.
            - c. **Psalm 42:5** "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God."
              1. Experience the reward of faith—hope in the Lord by praising Him—question yourself not God.
            - d. **Psalm 119:74** "May those who fear You rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in Your word."

1. Experience the reward of faith—hope in the Lord and His Word—you’ll help make people happier this way.
- e. **Lamentations 3:25-26** “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”
  1. Experience the reward of faith—hope in the Lord—He will be good to you.
- f. **Rom 15:4** “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
  1. Experience the reward of faith—hope in the Lord by hearing/reading and thinking about Scripture—He will give you encouragement and endurance.

**CONCLUSION:** Trust the Lord by hoping in Him so you may experience a rewarding future.

### **Illustration: The Hope Decision**

Writer Michael Hargrove tells about a life-changing experience he had in a Portland airport. “Straining to locate my friend among the passengers, I noticed a man coming toward me carrying two bags. He stopped right next to me to greet his family. First, he motioned to his youngest son (maybe 6-years old) as he laid down his bags. They gave each other a big hug. The father said, ‘It’s so good to see you, son. I missed you so much!’ The boy smiled and said, ‘Me, too, Dad!’

Then the man stood up, gazed in the eyes of his oldest son (about 9) and said, ‘You’re already quite the young man. I love you very much, Zach!’ They also hugged each other enthusiastically. While this was happening, a baby girl was squirming excitedly in her mother’s arms. The man said, ‘Hi, baby girl!’ He quickly kissed her face while rocking her from side to side—pure contentment for both.

The man then handed his baby daughter to his oldest son and declared, “I’ve saved the best for last!” and proceeded to give his wife a very loving kiss and said tenderly to her, ‘I love you so much!’ For an instant, they reminded me of newlyweds, but I knew by the age of their children they couldn’t possibly be. I was amazed to hear my own voice nervously ask, ‘Wow! How long have you two been married?’ The man replied, ‘We’ve been married 14-years.’ I asked, ‘How long have you been away?’ He replied with a joyous smile, ‘Two whole days!’

Two days?! I was stunned. By the intensity of the greeting, I figured he’d been gone for several weeks—if not months. I said, ‘I hope my marriage is still that passionate after 12-years!’ The man suddenly stopped smiling. He looked me straight in the eye—and with forcefulness that burned right into my soul—he said something that left me a different person ever since: “Don’t just hope, friend—*decide!*” Then he shook my hand and chirped, ‘God bless!’”

**Psalm 37:3-6** “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.”

**CLOSE:** Trust the Lord by putting your hope in Him and His word instead of fretting. Faith rewards future.