



Prayer Worrier

“Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God.” (Phil 4:6, NET)

“I have enclosed the list of my prayer worriers.” I laughed out loud as I read the email from one of our mission-trip participants. Auto-correct strikes again. Later, though, I found myself thinking about that phrase. Too often, I resemble a prayer worrier more than a prayer warrior.

The day after his birth, our oldest child lay in the NICU as the doctors tried to stop his seizures. So many unanswered questions. Holding him close while he lay tethered to the incubator, I sang, “Yes, Jesus loves you.” As I nursed him, I realized that God loved him more than I ever could, would be a better parent than I would ever be. I pictured myself handing him over. A supernatural peace flooded my soul.

But my fickle memory forgot. Late from Wednesday-night youth group, he didn’t answer his phone. We heard sirens on our winding country road. Fear strangled my heart. In college, he called from a hospital emergency room. Again, fear took the breath from my lungs as I bowed my head to pray. Yet maybe, becoming a prayer warrior means battling through the fear and surrendering it to God, not that I will never experience fear at all. Regardless, I will continue to pray.

Lord,

I cannot conquer fear myself. Thank you for your abounding and steadfast love for me, especially when I am afraid. Help me to become a prayer warrior instead of a prayer worrier.

Amen.

Christine, Texas

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