

All quotes are from Michelle Myers unless otherwise noted.

“When Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could “be like gods” – could set up on their own as if they had created themselves – be their own masters – invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside of God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history – money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”
– C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” – John 14:27

“These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33

Peace and happiness are in God, not apart from Him.

We pursue Jesus and peace is given.

If we want God’s best, we have to go to Him.

When our heart is divided, that’s when peace is disrupted.

“For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.” – 1 John 2:16-17

Worldliness begins in the heart, not our actions.

Worldliness is a heart issue.

PEACE is anchored in:

- GOD’S PROMISES

 PRESSURE confuses promises and blessings.

- CHRIST’S PRESENCE

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PRESSURE is anchored in:

- My performance
- Others' perception of my performance

Pressure is rooted in FEAR; Peace is rooted in FAITH.

Not worrying doesn't mean you don't care.

Worry = paralyzes, motivated by fear

Care = action, motivated by trust.

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." – Matthew 6:24

Serve is an action.

When it comes to God and money, we cannot hang in the balance.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'" – Hebrews 13:5-6

When we pursue MONEY, it's saying to God, "You can't take care of me in the way that I want."

If you are running two races and serving two masters, the Kingdom suffers and so will you.

- Serving God and serving money is REALLY "I serve God AND I serve me."
- Serve God + serve others is the peaceful Kingdom way.
- Serving God + serving me is the worldly way, cleverly disguised by adding Jesus.

We have one race to run, and it's God's.

Pressure Reveals Misplaced Trust

Romans 8:28 – "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

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Even when we pray, we are not meant to handle our problems with our own resources, because He's working to fulfill His purpose, not our happiness.

Pressure Exposes Dissatisfaction in Christ

We still struggle with the same sins as adults, we just rename them and try to glamorize them.

Results are not our job.

Obedience is what we do, results are what God does.

What are you drawn to when you feel empty inside?
What are you drawn to when you feel full inside?

The answer to both of those should be Jesus.

God loves us too much to let us be satisfied by anything other than Him.

Whether we feel empty or full, the answer should be Jesus.

Pressure Creates Kingdom Competition

Pressure skips the "we".

HE + me - skips the "WE"

How we handle this issue of Kingdom competition either:

- Glorifies God
- Nullifies Him in the minds of others

Pursue peace:

1) Run one race.

- "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7
- There is only one finish line that matters.
- Let faith win.

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- 2) Practice “JESUS HAS” vs. “I CAN” language
 - When we say I can, it takes attention away from Jesus has.
 - Focus on the “Jesus has” and trust Him with the “I can”.
- 3) Treasure the promise, not the blessing.
 - Think about what you’re treasuring and white knuckle His promises.
 - Ask yourself “Is this a blessing or a promise?”
 - Find a promise to cling to.
- 4) Focus on your response to who Jesus is, not what you have.
 - Our responsibility is our response to who Jesus is.
 - We are not responsible for how others respond.
 - The responsibility that we need to own is our response to who Jesus is.
 - Don’t put the pressure on yourself to do God’s job.
- 5) HE > WE > me
 - I have a place, but I’m not the point.
 - Study your heart and your habits and look for evidence of the “we”.
 - Hebrews 10
 - There’s a difference in having a place and being the point.
 - Acts 2:44