

to trust in my own strength, in my strategies. I don't want to control or manipulate. Please, God, teach me what it means to not only trust You but make You my total trust. I long to become that blessed woman whose roots are planted deep by Your river. As the heat of the trials increase, I long to trust instead of fear, to be content instead of anxious. Please keep my eyes focused on You so that my leaves will stay green and fresh and will be produced in the midst of the What Ifs." Did God answer the plea of my heart? Yes. Did my leaves stay green?

Yes. Do I still live in daily physical pain? Yes. But I know this one thing for sure, (2 Timothy 1:12.)

***For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.***

He has promised that He is able to take something old and make it new. In 2 Cor. 5:17, I'm promised,

***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

How can you be in Christ and be a new creature? Acts 16:31,

***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.***

Dear friends, it is our hearts desire to bring you to a place in your life where you realize that while life here on earth is a difficult, unjust, hard life to live, it can still be victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord who paid our sin debt, so we would not have to. Won't you come to Him today?

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## **An Old Disease With A New Name**

By M. Deborah Senese  
#63231

Did you know there are spiritual diseases? Two of the deadliest are the "if" diseases. "What If" and "If Only".

These illnesses are fraternal twins, alike but not alike. Both lack the eyes of faith. What If looks to the future and worries about what God might allow. If Only looks to the past and grumbles about what God has given you as far as your "cup" of life. The first leads to anxiety, the second to anger.

I'm sure each one of us have experienced at least one of these diseases, but for the sake of being perfectly clear, lets look at some examples of exactly what we're talking about.

One woman longed to have a child. After years of waiting, a blond, blue-eyed daughter was born. She was the perfect baby. She slept, nursed, and smiled. She was never sick, always agreeable. Angel Baby became her nickname.

As this little girl grew, her mother noticed that she seemed oblivious to others. It was as if Angel Baby lived in her own heavenly world.

So this tiny little girl underwent some long and agonizing testing that revealed she was deaf. This mother and father went through a grieving



process of understanding, accepting, then finally being able to thank God. Then they sought programs for deaf children.

Three years after this little girl's birth, a brown-eyed boy joined the family. He was a real charmer, but was he normal? Questions stormed through their parent's heart. As the mother sat thinking to herself and praying she quietly asked the Lord, "Is it so wrong to want to have a normal child?"

Their son was evaluated and the therapist said, "Yes, its very possible that your son is not normal, but we will have to wait and see."

How can one live with this kind of uncertainty, with this kind of pain? "Oh God, What If he is not normal- can I bear it? How do I wait months, not knowing? How do I trust You in the midst of this dark tunnel?" These were the cries of a mother's heart.

Waiting for the "What Ifs" of life, for what might happen, causes the sturdiest of hearts to be anxious. How did these parents live with her huge "What If" about their daughter...and then their son? How do you and I live with the "What Ifs" God allows in our lives? This couple chose to look at their situation through the eyes of faith. They also worked through a practical project to help them face their worst "What If. "

God was teaching this couple new and deeper lessons about trusting Him. He is also teaching me. During my time of struggling with anxieties, pain,

tests, awaiting results, possible serious diagnosis's, the Lord used Jeremiah 17:5-8 to encourage my heart.

***Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.***

These verses present us with a contrast between a man who trusts in himself and another who not only trusts in the Lord but also makes the Lord his total trust.

First, lets look at the person who makes flesh their strength. Surely, this is not a

picture of me or you! We trust God! Or do we? When we turn to control, strategies, intelligence, and manipulation, we are trusting in ourselves. Instead of giving our anxious hearts to God, we handle the uncertainty of the "What Ifs" of life by employing one of the control tactics mentioned above and we "help God out." Waiting is too hard, too painful, and God just works way too slow. What's the result? Disaster. We become like the Tamarix bush, spiritually dwarfed and with a dull, dry, lifeless appearance. Our hearts become a desert, and we do not enjoy the prosperity of the heart in communion with God. Our focus is on what we can do to get what we want rather than on how we can trust .

In contrast, let's consider another person who makes the Lord their trust. This person is vibrant and rich in peace. Their eyes are so focused on their Sovereign Lord that even a painful year of continual problems they stay green and continues to bear fruit. What a glorious picture! Green leaves throughout a year of drought? No anxiety? This is what we need!

I have to say that I am not "preaching" to anyone..except myself. This is a battle the Lord and I fight and struggle with every day. I can say, that there was a time in my life, when I would have rebelled completely against anyone who would tell me to just read Prov. 3:5-7 which tells me to

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path.***

I'm a "fixer" and a "sit and wait-er". But the Lord has taught me that trusting in Him completely to rule my life as He sees fit is much better. Trusting all that He sends my way, knowing that He already knows the outcome, is much simpler that fighting and struggling to do my own thing. There's not a day that goes by that I'm not inwardly pleading and praying, "Oh God, You know my tendency to try to control and help You out. I know that "helping You out" is what leads me to an anxious heart.

Forgive me. I don't want