"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of <u>Power, And Of Love,</u> <u>And Of A Sound Mind.</u>" 2 Timothy 1:7no3 KJV

The word "sound" is defined by Webster's Dictionary as; entire; unbroken; not split or defective. A sound mind does not fear or worry for much longer than it takes to remember God is beside us and His hand keeps our enemies at bay. Worry and fretting is naught more than unbelief! Unbelief blinds us to God's work in our lives and others. God does not put fear of man and circumstance into the hearts of His children. Fear and anxiety are the "fiery darts of the wicked" which get by the shield of faith when lowered by unbelief. Water quenches fire and God's Word will quench ALL Satan's darts of burning anxiety. "Christ also Loved the Church, and gave Himself



for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of WATER by the Word." God's Word will not return to Him void! He may not do things in the time frame we expect, and He may allow heartbreak, so our faith might shine and He is glorified thereby. Remember Lazarus? I'm sure his two sisters were heartbroken at his death, knowing Jesus could have healed him. But Jesus waited until Lazarus had been dead four days. Not because He wanted Mary and Martha to suffer, but because He had a greater purpose in mind. I'm sure their heartache was instantly cured upon seeing Lazarus resurrected, and I most certainly know their faith increased a hundredfold in an instant! Jesus could say He was the Resurrection and the Life until He was blue in the face and not be believed, but when Lazarus came forth, there was no doubt, dispute, nor detractor! God's purpose may not be evident in your heartache, but rest assured, you will understand and your faith will increase if you but trust and obey. "We KNOW that ALL THINGS work together FOR GOOD to them that love God, to them who are the called ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." If you trust and obey, you will glorify God and your Joy will know no bounds! "Therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be Gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have Mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of Judgment: Blessed are all they that wait for Him. Let Patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Never let doubt unhinge your faith. God will do as He has promised and you will see it done if you just watch and wait. Jesus wouldn't let the unbelievers watch when He raised the damsel from the dead; He put them out. (see Mark 5:35-43) Trust will never believe an evil report, no matter how oft repeated nor by whom. You either have faith or you do not! There is no such thing as partial trust. If you need verification, you do not trust. Do you weight test every chair before sitting? Trust is born of past fulfillment. You have to KNOW a promise to prove it and you have to prove a promise to trust it. The more you trust the more miracles you'll see and your faith in God will be habitual!

> I've not the slightest bit of fear, Because I truly know my God is near, He whispers sweet, His Voice I know, A Joy that comforts here below. –CGP

Anxiety and worry are darts straight from the pit of Hell! Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in Me...Be care-full for nothing." He said, "LET not," which means; doubt is a conscious choice. Many excuse their worry saying something like, "I believe God, BUT...!" Faith doesn't say, "BUT!" It CHOOSES to wait, trust, and obey! Doubt covers the eyes and ears of our faith. "The god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." If you doubt, you've elevated your own reason above God's Word!

"But THEY THAT WAIT upon the LORD SHALL renew their strength; they SHALL mount up with wings as eagles; they SHALL run, and not be weary; and they SHALL walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 KJV