



John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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Free Article : "There Are NO Minor Servants of the Lord"

<https://johntpolkll.com/files/documents/54c02693-6c60-4758-88f2-00ceb803cea0.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ "Social Media" creates the most unsociable attitudes.
- ~ "If you always give, you will always have." — Chinese Proverb
- ~ The kind of ancestors we have is not as important as the kind of descendants our ancestors have.
- ~ Better than counting your years is making all your years count.

CURE FOR A "BLUE CHRISTMAS" by John T. Polk II

Proverbs 12:25: "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad."

Family gatherings during Christmas-time often revert to unresolved childhood problems and relationships, and become depressing to individuals when they find out life has not progressed as they might have expected. **The preventative of "depression" is to not be anxious, and to listen to "a good word."** Jesus made this clear when He said, "do not worry" (be anxious) about life's necessities (**Matthew 6:24-33**), or about the future (**Matthew 6:34**). Losing a job, a game, a loved one, failing a test, or any other tribulation that comes our way can make us react with "anxiety," and is a challenge to our faith. The father of a demon-possessed boy heard Jesus say, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (**Mark 9:23-24**) Faith overcomes anxiety. Being "anxious" burdens down a heart ("heaviness," KJV), and is also described as "bitterness," "sorrow of the heart," "afflicted," "broken spirit," "heavy heart." **These terms also occur in other proverbs:**

Proverbs 14:10: "The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy." No one but God knows

our heart's "bitterness" or "joy" like we do, especially not a "stranger." Family and friends may have a difficult enough time counseling us through our problems, so why should we expect "a stranger" to share our times of "joy" more than they? "The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy."

(**Proverbs 14:10**) **Internet "strangers" cannot understand us better than those living around us.**

Proverbs 14:13: "Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and the end of mirth *may be* grief."

Proverbs 15:13: "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." **"Laughter" is no remedy for a broken spirit,** even though it may make the face smile. Comedy is momentary relief, but not the solution to "sorrow of the heart."

Proverbs 15:15: "All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, but he who is of a merry heart *has* a continual feast." The truly "merry heart" has "a continual feast," that is, it has a hopeful attitude, an open spirit, and a lighthearted look at life.

Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." "A merry heart" isn't grinning always on the outside, but serene inside. Without the healing of a "merry heart," a person becomes of frail inner health, and brittle support.

Proverbs 18:14: "The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?" **Healing begins from within our own spirits,** and without that, "who can bear" sickness?

Proverbs 25:20: "Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, *and like* vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart." Taking away "a garment in cold weather" obviously makes one colder. "Vinegar on soda" creates an immediate reaction with no lasting effect. Singing songs to a "heavy heart" doesn't help relieve the heaviness (cold) and has too quick a reaction for lasting relief.

It is "a good word," however, that does more for "anxiety" than nearly anything else. **Words of encouragement, expressing sympathy, expressions of concern, are all**

showing "a good word" of being loved. The purpose is not to temporarily entertain with songs or comedy, but to support and strengthen the inner spirit of the patient. The best "good word" is about our soul, thus: "Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you'" (**Matthew 9:2**)

Physical sickness is sometimes tied in with spiritual sickness as in **James 5:14-15**: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

To all adrift on the sea of trouble, may we give them "a good word" "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**)
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What Do Overseers Oversee?

In Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:2, elders are references as "overseers." What areas of a local congregation fall under their oversight? We do not need to speculate – the Bible gives us the answers. Elders oversee the church's...

- ...Doctrinal purity (Titus 1:9)
- ...Spiritual direction (Acts 20:28)
- ...Physical needs (1 Timothy 3:5)
- ...Financial matters (Titus 1:7)
- ...Disciplinary actions (Titus 1:9)

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Three Questions for Determining Character

Will Rogers was known for his laughter, but he also knew how to weep. One day he was entertaining at the Milton H. Berry Institute in Los Angeles, a hospital that specialized in rehabilitating polio victims and people with broken backs and other extreme physical handicaps. Of course, Rogers had everybody laughing, even patients in really bad condition; but then he suddenly left the platform and went to the rest room. Milton Berry followed him to give him a towel; and when he opened the door, he saw Will Rogers leaning against the wall, sobbing like a child. He closed the door, and in a few minutes, Rogers appeared back on the platform, as jovial as before.

If you want to learn what a person is really like, ask three questions: (1) **What makes him laugh?** (2) **What makes him angry?** (3) **What makes him weep?** These are fairly good tests of character that are especially appropriate for Christian leaders. I hear people saying, "We need angry leaders today!" or "The time has come to practice militant Christianity!" Perhaps, but "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:20).

What we need today is not anger but anguish, the kind of anguish that Moses displayed when he broke the two tablets of the law and then climbed the mountain to intercede for his people, or that Jesus displayed when He cleansed the temple and then wept over the city. The difference between anger and anguish is a broken heart. It's easy to get angry, especially at somebody else's sins; but it's not easy to look at sin, our own included, and weep over it.

By Anonymous

What Led to Congregational Growth?

The applause of the crowd is not always the approval of the Lord.

The Institute of American Growth asked 10,000 people what led them to a congregation:

- 2% - Special Need
- 3% - Walk-in
- 6% - Minister's influence
- 1% - Home visit
- 5% - Sunday school
- 5% - Gospel meeting type effort
- 3% - Special program
- 79% - Influence of a friend or relative