

## "Relax"

by Drue Warner

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I know everyone is bracing for the storm coming through this evening. There's already 48" of sand on the ground where I am. It's crazy! :) Seriously, I've been in Delray Beach, FL visiting my parents this past week. They still live in the house I grew up in. So, when I go home, it's still a blessing to truly go home. Check out this [1 minute beach video](#) that I shot this morning while walking the beach.

This past Thursday and Friday, I was in Orlando, FL attending the annual General Assembly of the [American Presbyterian Church](#) (APC), the ministry of which I transferred my ordination credentials after leaving the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) five years ago when we started Good News Church GA. It's always a blessing to be in Florida in January!

In addition to seeing my parents and my younger brother, Philip, and his family, one of the blessings I get every year is reconnecting with my youth pastor. Joel Lusz was my youth pastor when I was 13 years old (I'm currently 55 years old), and after 45 years, Joel is still in student ministry! Of all the people who have marked my life, Joel is definitely in the top three.

Joel and I shared a room and were catching up this past Friday morning. He's in the process of starting a church. Their first public worship service will be on Sunday, February 1st. It's funny how God used Joel to influence my life and ministry, and now God is using me to influence Joel's. He loves everything we're doing with Good News Church and is implementing much of our philosophy and ideas (including the coasters). As a side note, they almost chose Good News Church as their name but landed on Anchor Church (per [Hebrews 6:19](#)), which I absolutely love)!

Anyway, one thing that Joel said he's wrestling with is worry about provision. The church where he was on staff for 26 years made a decision one week before Christmas to let him go (in order to cut expenses). Like me, God had put a vision for church planting on Joel's heart a while ago but he just wasn't sure if and when he should do it. After his church let him go, he knew without a doubt that church planting was God's path. Unfortunately, Joel only received two months of severance pay. So, he's having to get things cranked up very quickly so that they can start providing ministry and people can start giving. Joel said that he's trusting God in all of this but can't help waking up at 4:30am overwhelmed with worry.

Your circumstances may be different from Joel's but I'll bet you've got stuff that wakes you up at 4:30am with worry, too. I do. The top ten culprits of worry are usually children, health, finances, purpose, career, marriage, death, grief, loss, and yes, even the weather.

As Joel and I were talking, I shared that, in my opinion, if I had to summarize God's primary message to us in all of the Bible, it could be summarized in two words... Trust Me. I do believe that's true. God wants us to know that He loves us, He's with us, He's sovereign over our

circumstances, and He's working out His good plans for us, no doubt. But all of those messages are the necessary, supporting pillars for this most essential message... "Trust Me."

Joel then shared that he once heard Dallas Willard say that if he had to summarize the entire message of the Bible, it would be in one word... "Relax!" I love that! It's essentially the same message as "Trust Me," but I like it better. I told Joel that I'm stealing that. :)

If you're reading [Bible in One Year with Nicky & Pippa Gumbel](#), you'll know that [today's reading](#) included the wonderful text from Proverbs 3, where it says, "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight*" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

That's it. Are you worried about the ice storm and possibly losing power, pipes bursting, or getting iced in? Are you worried about health, finances, kids, career, etc.? Don't. The LORD is in control. Do your best to prepare for the storms of life, but then trust, rest, give it all to God, and relax. Bad things may, will, and do happen, but even then we don't need to worry or be afraid. "*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it*" (John 1:5). Jesus (the light) is with you in the darkness, and by "*working all things for the good of those who love Him*" (Romans 8:28), He turns the darkness into light. He's got you.

Relax. :)

Praying that you and all of us make it through this storm safely. Grateful for you!

Drue