2Corinthians 11:26-28-Passion

26 In my difficult travels I've faced many dangerous situations: perilous rivers, robbers, foreigners, and even my own people. I've survived deadly peril in the city, in the wilderness, with storms at sea, and with spies posing as believers.

27 I've toiled to the point of exhaustion and gone through many sleepless nights. I've frequently been deprived of food and water, left hungry and shivering out in the cold, lacking proper clothing.
28 And besides these painful circumstances, *I have the <u>daily</u>* <u>pressure</u> of my responsibility for all the churches, with a deep concern weighing heavily on my heart for their welfare.

Pressure is nothing more than Satan's way of trying to <u>influence</u> <u>your thinking</u>, trying to get you to <u>doubt God's love and care for</u> <u>you</u>.

Mark 4:37-39

37 Suddenly, as they were crossing the lake, a ferocious tempest arose, with violent winds and waves that were crashing into the boat until it was all but swamped.

38 But Jesus was calmly sleeping in the stern, resting on a cushion.
39 So they shook him awake, saying, "Teacher, <u>don't you even care</u> that we are all about to die!'...

Notice how Jesus responded.

V39...Fully awake, he rebuked the storm and shouted to the sea, <u>"Hush! Calm down!"</u> All at once the wind stopped howling and the water became perfectly calm.

KJV - Peace, be still!

40 Then he turned to his disciples and said to them, <u>"Why are you</u> so afraid? Haven't you learned to trust yet?"

KJV – Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?

Pressure can bring inactive faith...which is active fear!

2Corinthians 2:11-AMP

11 To keep Satan from <u>getting the advantage over us</u>; for we are not ignorant of his wiles *and* intentions.

1John 5:4-AMP

4 For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and *this is the victory that conquers the world<u>, even our faith</u>. Passion - ...4 You see, every child of God overcomes the world, for <i>our faith is the victorious power that triumphs over the world*.

Pressure...distorts your perception.

2Corinthians 10:5-KJV

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;...

You have to learn to "<u>cast down</u>" every thought or imagination that doesn't line up with the <u>Word of God.</u>

You have to learn to <u>speak</u> the Word of God <u>out loud</u>. This is how you bring every thought into the obedience of Christ!

Hebrews 10:23-KJV

23 Let us hold fast the *profession of our faith* without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

Isaiah 26:3-

You will *guard him and keep him in <u>perfect and constant peace</u>* whose <u>mind is stayed on You</u>, because he *commits* himself to You, *leans* on You, *and hopes* confidently in You.

Peace is the <u>absence of stress</u>!

John 16:33-Passion

33 ...And everything I've taught you is so that <u>the peace which is in</u> <u>me will be in you and will give you great confidence as you rest in</u> <u>me.</u> For in this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows, but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!"

KJV - "...in me you might have peace."

Peace is defined as: a state of quiet or stillness; freedom from disturbance or agitation; calmness in the midst of trouble; freedom from worry and anxiety; and the absence of stress.

Matthew 6:25-AMP

25 Therefore I tell you, *stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life,* what you shall eat *or what you shall drink;* or about your body, what you shall put on.

Peace is the result of reaching the place in your life where you have become completely <u>confident</u> that God <u>loves</u> you, <u>cares</u> for you, is <u>on your side</u> and wants to meet your <u>every need</u>.

1Peter 5:7-Passion 7 Pour out <u>all your worries and stress upon him</u> and leave them there, for he always <u>tenderly cares for you.</u>

Psalm 23:1 – The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want....



DON'T LET PRESSURE PARALYZE YOUR FAITH!

Sunday, July 16th, 2017 Pastor Audie Clairmont