



## I Can Co It Myself!

A Devotion for Christian Life

*Give all you worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you* (1 Peter 5:7 New Living Translation)

My two-and-a-half year old grandson was struggling to put his shoes on and yet declined my offer to help. “No Gramma – me do it.” Well, all right then.

His one-year old brother, though not talking yet, had his own version of “I can do it myself” as he lifted his leg as high as he could in an attempt to climb out of the bathtub. Oh, I don’t think so, I thought, as I lifted him out into the towel.

Independence – in our own way, we all strive for it, don’t we? “Oh, you don’t have to bother calling me at college, Mom. I’ll be fine on my own,” the freshman tells the parent. “Don’t call the doctor dear, it’s nothing really,” the husband assures the wife. “No thanks, I can take care of myself in my own home,” the elderly parent says to the offer of moving into an assisted living residence.

From the time we are little children, we press the boundaries for greater self-reliance, quickly falling into the sin of being self-sufficient, an attribute we think is important for getting along in life. It’s a matter of pride and survival, of our sinful human nature. After all, wasn’t that what Adam and Eve were looking for? Wasn’t it really the desire to be like God, so that they would not have to rely on Him? They thought the knowledge of good and evil would give them greater insight into life and their very existence.

*Give all your worries and cares to God.* “Oh, I’m sure that won’t be necessary, Lord. I’ve handled this kind of situation before. What anxiety? It’s more like a worry, concern, or maybe just a passing thought actually, now that I think about it again. I’m sure I can deal with it just fine, but thanks for Your offer, God. I’ll keep that in mind for another time, maybe.” Just like my grandsons, we assume that doing it on our own is the best way, Kind of childish, isn’t it?

*Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you.* Let’s look more closely at this Scripture from Peter’s epistle. Peter bookends that verse with two seemingly diverse thoughts: in verse six, *So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God;* and in verse eight it reads, *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.* Our Father reminds us that His power and love are at our disposal. He knows all too well how Satan operates; trying to deceive and lure us away from God’s protecting presence.

Yes, life is full of the devil’s handiwork, be it health issues, financial concerns, relationship problems, or environmental hazards. His fingerprint is everywhere in our lives here on earth. He is continually on the prowl, ready to devour us in our despair, or setting us up for the big fall when we let our pride get in the way of admitting we need

God. In our Christian lives, we experience many trials and temptations that cause us worry. It was spiritual warfare for the early Christians and it is spiritual warfare for us in our time. We need our powerful God to fight Satan for us. He alone is able to intervene against the tempter.

We don't have to deal with life's worries and cares by ourselves, because the truth of the matter is, we can't. How much more precious the invitation to turn our worries over to God becomes. Our God is awesome and His power is humbling, somewhat like being an ant looking up at an elephant. There is nothing He can't do for us. We come to Him in humility, knowing that we are less than able while He is perfectly able. His love is rock solid and unchanging.

*Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you.*

We pray –

Yes Father, You are right. I can be so stubborn, so confident in my own resources that I brush You off. Forgive me, Lord, when I forget Your care and concern for me. Forgive me when I let my pride and independence get in the way of Your design for my life. Forgive me for those times when I try to do it myself, instead of seeking Your guidance. Father, I know You care for me even beyond my ability to care for myself. Keep me humble, keep me safe from Satan's attacks and desires. May my life be a witness to Your grace which is perfectly sufficient for me. I come in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Close by singing or saying one of the following hymns.

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You” *LSB #750; LW #420*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” *LSB #770; LW #516*

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