

“Out of Balance”

by
Brad Williamson

- What** As Josh's worries overwhelm him, a friend reminds him that reading the Bible brings him to the One who can help him through it all.
- Themes:** Worry, Anxiety, Pressure, Fear Trust, Bible, God’s Word, Support
- Who** Josh
Steve
- When** Present
- Wear
(Props)** Bible
- Why** Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 11:28-30
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational, however, Josh should be a little over-the-top with his delivery.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Josh is standing center stage, his arms out representing a human scale. The Bible is on the floor under his raised right arm. His left arm is weighed down with unseen "problems." Josh is visibly worried when Steve enters.

Steve: How's it going Josh? Everything alright?

Josh: Is everything alright? How can you possibly ask me that? Didn't you see the news last night?

Steve: Nah, I get all my news from Facebook...like a responsible person.

Josh: You use Facebook? Are you insane? People make fake profiles to steal your money. There's also fake ads and scam romances. I read a Buzz Feed list about it. Number three amazed me!

Steve: Is that what's in your hand there?

Josh: Part of it. These are my worries.

Steve: That's a pretty big stack of worries. Aren't you the guy that called me at four a.m. once to tell me about a dog that could surf? What could you possibly have to worry about?

Josh: What about this...I'm at work yesterday and I saw the owner and my supervisor having a conversation!

Steve: *(long beat)* So?

Josh: They're talking about me! I just know it!

Steve: Did they look at you? Or say your name? Anything to indicate they were talking about you?

Josh: No. They wanted to make sure I didn't get suspicious. Pretty clever.

Steve: They could have been talking about anything! Work, football, their kids...anything!

Josh: Oh man, you should hear what happened to my kid.

Steve: I'm almost afraid to ask.

Josh: He fell asleep on the school bus and forgot to get off. He had to ride the bus through the whole route before they brought him home.

Steve: *(laughing)* That *is* funny.

Josh: Funny? It's not funny at all! Is my kid not important enough for the bus driver to think about? What's wrong with *my* kid? Why isn't he being noticed? Is he socially awkward in some way?

Steve: I suppose that's one way to think about it. I thought you were worried that the bus driver had kidnapped him.

Josh: Oh great!

Josh's left arm drops down a bit more.

Steve: What happened?

Josh: You gave me a new problem to worry about.

Steve: So every time you have a new problem, you get weighed down?

Josh: Of course! Doesn't everybody?

Steve: So I shouldn't tell you about the chainsaw I borrowed from you.

Josh tips a little more, so that he's standing crooked.

Josh: *(increasingly panicked)* Oh great. What happened? You broke it? You cut your leg? No, you cut someone else's leg? No! You cut a tree branch and it fell onto someone's car which rolled into their garage and killed their cat and now they want to sue me because I loaned you the chainsaw without making sure you knew how to use it! That's it, isn't it!? ISN'T IT!?

Josh heaves dramatic breaths of panic and exhaustion.

Steve: No. It's just out of gas.

Josh: Out of gas? Out of gas?? You really had me worried!

Steve: I noticed that. But most of what was worrying you was stories you made up in your own mind.

Josh: What am I supposed to do? Just walk around in happy ignorance, letting the world walk all over me? I need to be ready for anything. In the words of Scar from the Lion King: "Be prepared!"

Steve: But you don't think you might be going overboard a bit?

Josh: Am I? Oh no, maybe I am!

Josh's left arm drops more so he is very crooked.

Steve: Your life seems really out of balance.

Josh: *(visibly crooked)* What are you talking about?

Steve: Look at you. You're like the leaning tower of Piza!

Josh: I do feel a little off.

Steve: Let me see if I can help.

Steve tries to pull Josh upright, but Josh "snaps" back into place. After analyzing the situation more, he finds the Bible on the ground and picks it up.

Steve: What's this? Is this your Bible?

Josh: *(beat)* Oh yeah! I remember that. It fell off a while ago. I didn't have time to read it because I was researching about Facebook scams.

Steve: Well, maybe this is why your life seems so off kilter.

Josh: What do you mean?

Steve: Let me try something. *(opens Bible)* "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

Josh straightens up a little.

Josh: Hey! That's pretty good. What else is in there?

Steve: *(flipping pages)* "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Josh: *(straightens more)* Rest does sound good. These worries are getting kind of heavy.

Steve: I think you've spent so much time worrying about the problems in your hand that you forgot to go to the One who can help you through them.

Steve puts the Bible in Josh's right hand. He immediately balances out.

Josh: Oh wow! That's so much better! You know these worries seem kind of silly now.

Steve: Ya think? Maybe now that you've calmed down, you can tell me what you saw on the news yesterday.

Josh: *(thinking)* You know I don't remember. It doesn't seem that important now... But they had this dog who could ride a skateboard! It was the most adorable thing I ever saw!

Steve: Yeah, I think balance has been restored. Let's get out of here.

Both exit.

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