

No More Fear

Scripture:

Revelation 1:17-18 *“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”*

Introduction

The mission of Christ is to deliver people from fear. His message is one of hope in the midst of circumstances that have the power to paralyze with fear. Today too many people live with fear in their lives, and Christians are no exception. Everybody seems to struggle with the problem of fear. Fear of themselves, fear of others, fear of the past, fear of the present, fear of the future, fear of sickness or death, fear of poverty, and an ongoing list of other fears. I have a list of 533 identified phobias or things that people fear.

Fear has the power to undercut our efficiency, destroy our happiness and diminish our sense of well-being. Fear can paralyze.

I. God knows we deal with fear.

A. God told Abraham to “not be afraid” when it looked like the promise of God was not going to come to pass.

Genesis 15:1-5 *“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” ²But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!” ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” ⁵Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”*

B. God told Isaac to “not be afraid” when digging wells that others wanted.

Genesis 26:24-25 *“And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.” ²⁵So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.”*

1. He had to contend with people over the wells that he was digging.

2. It finally appeared that God had made room for them, but would someone yet come along to challenge him for yet another well.

C. God was ready to deliver the Israelites from fear when things seemed hopeless at the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:13 *“And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”*

II. God is with us when we face things that can bring fear into our lives.

Psalms 23:4 *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

Isaiah 41:10-13 *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” ¹¹ “Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish. ¹² You shall seek them and not find them—those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent*

thing.¹³ *For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'*

- A. Even death does not have the power to bring fear into our lives if we place our confidence in God.
- B. God gives us strength to face our fears.
- C. The thing that brings fear into our lives will be as though it never existed as we hold to God's hand.

III. With God on our side, we do not have to fear when we face changes in our lives.

- A. Most of us like the status quo, the same familiar rut or scenery or landmark.
- B. Songwriter said "the only thing that's permanent is change".
- C. We cannot stop change; therefore we must place our trust in God and His word.

IV. With God on our side we can adapt to any situation.

- A. We can make the best of every situation.
Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."
- B. Our life must be a life of faith, not governed by what we see with our natural eyes.
I Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."
- C. Faith tells us that when one door closes another opens for us.
 - 1. Joseph adapted to changes and doors opened for him until he became the prime minister of Egypt.
 - 2. Moses adapted to his situation and became a deliverer of God's people.
 - 3. The Apostle Paul adapted to the circumstance of his life and wrote 14 of the New Testament books.

V. We must put our faith in the "facts" as God sees them.

- A. Many fears are about things that do not exist.
- B. Joshua and Caleb didn't see the giants as a problem but their eyes were on the promise of God.
Numbers 14:6-9 "But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ⁷and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

VI. Ultimately fear is overcome by placing our trust in God.

- A. Isaiah said
Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'"
- B. Listen to what David said.
*Psalms 34:4 "I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."
Psalms 27:1-5 "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked came against me to*

eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. ⁴ One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.”

Psalm 56:3 “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.”

- C. If God cares for the lilies, He will care for us.

Matthew 6:25-30 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

- D. Our heavenly Father has given us such love that fear cannot stay.

I John 4:18-19 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.”