

# GOD

## Living Without Fear

Many people today live their lives in **fear**. It may be fear of harm, fear of sickness, fear of failure, fear of disaster, or fear of what other people can do. In fact, fear of some kind seems to be an integral part of the everyday lives of **most** people. But **God**, our loving heavenly Father, does **not** want us to have fear in our lives. He provided us with the perfect way to **live our lives without fear**, and that is by keeping our eyes on Him as we believe His Word. As we **trust God** and **believe His Word**, He takes care of us; **instead** of having fear, we can live **power-filled lives** as His beloved children.

First, let's consider a couple **definitions** that will help us to **distinguish** between **fear** and **believing**.

**Fear** can be defined as “a **distressing emotion** aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, *etc.*, whether the threat is real or imagined; **undue concern** or **anxiety**.”

**Believing** can be defined as “having **confidence**, full trust or reliance, in the truth, existence, reliability, or value of something; to have **confidence** in the assertions (the statements or declarations) of someone.”

We find a great statement about **fear** in **Proverbs chapter 29**:

### Proverbs

**29:25** The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

The words “**fear of man**” in this verse are a **figure of speech**, Genitive of Possession, which can be understood as “**man's** fear”: an inward feeling of fear or timidity that a person may harbor. No matter what fear this may be, it always “**brings a snare**”. A **snare** is anything that entraps, entangles, or catches one unawares. It can distract, slow down, or even stop a person from advancing in life. The verse continues: “...but whoso putteth his **trust** in the Lord **shall be safe**.” The word “**safe**” means “**set on high**” – as you trust God, He will elevate you **above** the reach or influence of the circumstances that might invite you to fear.

**Fear** is always **wrong**. It's also **negative believing**, leading to **negative results** rather than positive victories. Look at **Job chapter 3, verse 25**:

### Job

**3:25** For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

God **doesn't** want us to fear. When we **turn to Him**, He **will** deliver us:

## Psalms

**34:4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

“**The Lord**” in this verse is *Jehovah*, God in His personal relationship to that which He has created. When we turn to our **personal God**, He will not only hear, but He will **deliver**, or **rescue**, us from all our fears.

**Our God is with us**, and we **never** need to fear **anything**. Let’s look at a few more verses. Even though some of these are from the Old Testament, remember that **God doesn’t change** (Malachi 3:6).

## Psalms

**23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort (*gently lead*) me.**

## Psalms

**46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

**46:2a Therefore will not we fear...**

“**God**” in verse 1 is *Elohim*, God **the creator** of the heavens and earth. **He** is our refuge, our strength, and our help in times of trouble. We **never** need to fear **anything**.

## Psalms

**56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.**

**56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.**

**Whenever** we are confronted with something that would invite us to be **fearful**, we **put our trust in God**, the **creator**. In verse 4, “**flesh**” is a figure of speech referring to **man**, making this potential fear more specific. But what is **man** compared to **God** the creator? As **Romans 8:31** declares, “If **God be for us, who can be against us?**”

We see a **similar** declaration in **Hebrews chapter 13, verses 5 and 6:**

## Hebrews

**13:5 Let your conversation (*manner of life*) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

**13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

In the **Stephens Text**, the Greek manuscript from which the King James Version’s New Testament was translated, the words “be content with such things as ye have” **more accurately** read: “**be satisfied with present circumstances.**” No matter **what** is happening, **we don’t fear**. **Why?** The verse **continues** in the Stephens Text: “...**in no wise** will I leave thee, **nor in any wise** will I forsake thee.” In the Greek we see the **strongest negative possible**: there is **absolutely no way** that God would **ever** forsake (abandon) us.

Isaiah chapter 41 includes a familiar and very **powerful** verse:

**Isaiah**

**41:10** Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

God exhorts us **not to fear**, because **He is with us**. “**Be not dismayed**” is literally “**look not around**” – we **shouldn’t** allow ourselves to become **distracted** by looking at the worldly stuff. God declares further that **He**, the creator (*Elohim*), will **strengthen, help**, and uphold (**establish**) us.

The word “**strengthen**” in this verse is from the Hebrew word *amats*, to be **strong**, to be of a **good courage**. In the **Septuagint**, a Greek translation of the Old Testament, we find that the Greek word translated “**strengthen**” is *enischuō*, from the word *ischuō*, the verb form of *ischus* which means **strength** or **power**. *Ischuō*, which can be translated “**to be of strength**”, is **also** the word translated “**prevailed**” in **Acts 19:20** which says “So mightily grew the word of God and **prevailed**.” So, when God says He will **strengthen** us, He will cause us to **prevail**. In fact, *ischuō* is **also** the word translated “**can do**” in **Philippians 4:13** which says “I can do (I **prevail** in) all things through Christ which (*who*) strengtheneth me.” **Instead** of being **fearful**, God wants us to **prevail**.

So, **God** wants us to be **free from fear**. **How** can we **do** this? We can live our lives free from fear by **going to God’s Word** and **believing** it.

Look at the Gospel of **John chapter 8**, beginning in **verse 31**:

**John**

**8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews (*Judeans*) which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed.

**8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Jesus was speaking to Judeans who had **believed** the things he had just spoken regarding himself. He told them that now that they believed, if they chose to **continue**, or **abide** in his word (**God’s word** since he spoke for God), they would be his **disciples**, his disciplined followers. And not only that, but they would **experientially know** the **truth, God’s Word**, which would **make them free**. Being made **free** here includes freedom from **any** kind of bondage, **including fear**. So, to be **free from fear**, go to **God’s Word** and **believe** it.

We see Jesus presenting the **two options, fear** and **believing God’s Word**, in the Gospel of **Mark, chapter 5**. Jesus was accompanying a ruler of the synagogue whose daughter was dying, and on the way a woman with an issue of blood had just been miraculously **healed** by her **believing**. At that moment, news arrived that the synagogue ruler’s daughter had **died**. **Verse 36** gives Jesus’ immediate **response**:

## Mark

**5:36** As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, **Be not afraid, only believe.**

Literally, this reads: “Be not afraid, only **continue believing.**” The ruler had **already** believed when he went to Jesus for help, and they had just witnessed the deliverance of a woman who had **continued to believe** for years; so with the arrival of the distressing news, Jesus told the man **not to fear**, but to **continue to believe**. We know as we continue reading that Jesus raised the man’s daughter from the dead. **Believing is the alternative to fear.**

Jesus Christ knew about **the power of believing**, no matter what the situation.

## Mark

**9:23** Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.**

All things that are in alignment and harmony with **God’s Word** are **possible**, presently available, for you when you **believe**.

## Mark

**11:24** Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

**Believing** is the **key** to receiving **answers to prayer**. When we are tempted to fear, we can **pray with believing** and expect **positive** results.

**Today**, in this Grace Administration, we have **the gift of holy spirit** and the “**all truth**” referred to in John 16:13, **the Church Epistles**. We can be prepared with God’s Word like never before, living our lives **without fear** as we **believe**.

**First** let’s look at a couple verses contrasting **fear** with God’s gift of **holy spirit**:

## Romans

**8:15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The text more clearly reads: “...ye have received the spirit of **sonship**, in which (*in the spirit, by speaking in tongues*) we cry, Abba, Father.” **Rather** than **fear**, we can **pray perfectly** (by speaking in tongues) as we **believe**.

## II Timothy

**1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

**Rather** than **fear**, the gift of **holy spirit** that we received when we **believed** makes available for us God’s **power**, the **love** of God, and a **sound mind**.

As we walk out on that **love of God** that we received, we have **no** reason to **fear**:

### I John

**4:17** Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

As we dwell, abide, in God's love by **believing** and **acting** on **His Word**, our love is made "perfect" (**mature**). **Then**, we can have **boldness** (**absence of fear**) **today** (**man's day of judgment**).

**4:18a** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment...

As we live without fear, **believing** God's Word and **acting on it**, we can **overcome** in any and every situation:

### I John

**5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith (believing)*.

Our **believing** of **God's Word** gives us the victory to **overcome** the world with the adversary's influences. Keeping this in mind, let's look at **Ephesians chapter 6, verse 16**:

### Ephesians

**6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Because in **our** day and time we are not soldiers but are "**athletes of the spirit**", this verse is **better** understood in **athletic** terms: "shield of faith" is then "**discus of believing**". This verse **begins** with "**above all**", telling us that our **believing** is of primary importance as we act on the Word of God we know. With this "discus of believing" in the spiritual competition, we can "quench" (**outdistance**) all the "fiery darts" (javelins) of the wicked one, the adversary. As we believe God's Word, we will outdistance **anything** that the adversary can throw at us. We have absolutely **no reason to fear anything**.

Finally, we have the great **power of God** available to us.

### Ephesians

**1:19a** And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe...

From **verse 18** we see that **God wants us to know** (perceive, comprehend) how **great** the **power** is that He has made available to us **as we believe**. The **remainder** of verse 19 is actually the beginning of a **parenthesis** that elaborates on how exceedingly great this power is.

We'll conclude by looking at **Ephesians chapter 3, verses 16 through 20**:

## Ephesians

- 3:16** That he (*God*) would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit (*the gift of holy spirit we have*) in the inner man,
- 3:17** That Christ may dwell (*saturate, make himself at home*) in your hearts by faith (*renewed mind believing*); that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
- 3:18** May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
- 3:19** And to know (*experientially know*) the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.
- 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh (*is energized*) in us,

We have **Christ in us**, the **power of the holy spirit**. As we believe **God's Word** and **walk in the love of God**, we are **filled with all the fullness of God**. With all we have, **God** is able to do "exceeding abundantly **above** all that we ask or think" according to **God's power** that is energized in **us**. We definitely have **no reason** to fear **anything**!

We've considered how we can **live our lives without fear**. As we believe God's Word and claim what God has made available **instead** of allowing fear to creep in, we can truly overcome anything that may come our way.

- Dr. Rick Batt