

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 God*).

Our believing God 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 God". This verse begins with "above all", telling us that our faith is of primary importance as we act on the Word of God we know. With this "discus of believing God" in the spiritual competition, we can "quench" (outdistance) all the "fiery darts" (javelins) of the wicked one, the adversary. As we believe God, 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 (*believing God*); 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 workerth (*is energized*) in us,

We have Christ in us, the power of the holy spirit. As we believe God and walk in His love, 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