

Fear Not

Many people live a life of fear. Some are afraid of animate objects, such as snakes, spiders, birds, or large wild animals. For others, their deepest fear is failure. Children often fear the dark because of unknown or imagined dangers lurking under their bed or in their closet. Some people fear dying, also because of the unknown. Fear of rejection causes us to freeze in our tracks and do nothing.



People are afraid to act and instead, ball up in an imaginary fetal position. They hope whatever is the cause of their fear will pass them by, the sun will rise, and everything will be okay. But nothing happened and nothing changed. We failed *because* we didn't act. A person afraid of being rejected when sharing their faith didn't even have a chance to win a soul for Christ; instead, he kept his faith to himself.

There certainly are unknowns in our daily lives. What is about to happen is only unknown to us. God knows exactly what is in store for us. If you fix your eyes on your own naval in the fetal position you are letting your own humanity block the potential for real gain. When you fix your eyes on Jesus, the potential is unlimited. Fear is a lack of faith that God is in control and will take care of you.

Remember the disciples in the boat, seeing a man walking on the water towards them. Walking on water is impossible without God. The disciples were afraid, thinking they were seeing a ghost. *Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid, Jesus said (Mark 6:50)*. Remember Peter asking Jesus to allow him to also walk on the water. As long as Peter's eyes were fixed on Jesus, he walked on water. When Peter began to doubt, he instantly started to sink. *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)*. We can do the miraculous if we fix our eyes on Jesus and trust him to help us do the extraordinary.

Don't let your comfort zone become your coffin of inactivity. God protected Paul in Corinth. *For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city (Acts 18:10)*. Even in human conflict the Lord calms the fears of Gideon and Joshua when he says, *Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die (Judges 6:23)*.

How does he do this? God empowers the faithful. Without God's power you are restricted to human limitations. Mary was afraid when the angels approached her, telling her she would bear a child named Jesus. *Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God (Luke 1:30)*. She mothered the Savior of the World. With God, anything is possible. He chose you to doing something significant for Him.

You are not alone. Fear is the most commonly used word in the Bible. We all have our fears. But, the Bible accompanies the use of the word fear with the assurance that God is with us. I wouldn't step on a snake or jump off a cliff without a parachute, but I would trust that God gives me wisdom to make good choices in life and the understanding He will be with me when my choices are made to glorify God.

Question: What fears do you have that prevent you from taking action?

Prayer: Lord, we all have fears – some real and some imaginary. Help us to overcome the fears that would otherwise hold us back from being the person you created us to be. We pray our comfort zone will be the comfort You give us. Be with us always, to the end of the age. Amen.