

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

7.30.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

When I am Afraid

## Psalm 56: 1 – 4

Mankind, often time is afraid, and this is because fear is a worldly emotion that is experienced by everyone. While God responds and operates through faith, Satan operates through worldly fear. In Christ abides faith, hope, and love with the greatest of these as love, and in the world abides love, anger, and fear with the greatest of these being fear. Faith will overcome fear, but first we must acknowledge its presence in our life by identifying the fear that hinders us. We do so, by allowing God to work within us through his spirit, trusting in him to strengthen our faith, so that we might become obedient to his word, because without the word, there is no faith.

**Hebrews 11: 1,....**now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen....

Faith is having the confidence that the things that God has revealed in his written word, without question, has, and will continue to come to pass. A living faith in Gods word, and confidence in the hope of his promises is a faith that is secured through our redemption in Christ. Our faith is not about who we are, or what we have done to commend ourselves unto God, but are faith abounds in Christ and what he accomplished on the cross. Our faith is not based upon our own reasoning, but true faith is anchored in spiritual facts, therefore it is the substance of these facts that are conceived in the word of God. Our faith sees beyond the reality of our lives, and enables us to treat, as a reality, those things which are unseen, those things that God has revealed unto us through the truth of his word, by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Our faith in God will give unto us the power to overcome the fear that is obstructing our relationship with God.

**Psalm 56: 1 – 4,....**be merciful unto me, O God, for man would swallow me up, he fighting daily oppresseth me....mine enemies would daily swallow me up, for they may be many that fight against me, O thou most high....what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee....In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust, I will not fear what flesh can do unto me....

There are many times in our life, when just like David, we have felt friendless, fearful, and in despair. These desperate feelings of worldly emotions cause sadness and isolation and will bring us into a state of feeling trapped and all alone. It is now that in this state of mind, that we cry out unto the Lord, knowing that no one but God can restore us through his divine intervention.

**2 Corinthians 7: 5,....**our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side, without were fighting's, within were fears....

Everyone at some time, has times of intimidation, discouragement, and depression, but when we began to look beyond all these things and look unto God, we will see that this sorrow has come according to the will of God, and if we will allow it to do so it will create in us a humble, submissive heart, that is prepared to walk in the newness of our life of Christ. This not only will comfort us, but will help us to endure and to re-establish our unity in the body of Christ, and also strengthen our relationship with God, which will train us up in his righteousness, mature us in his faith, and put us back on the pathway to spiritual growth.

This is why David said:

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

If we would think back upon the week that we have come through, there would probably be more than one instance, of a time of fear in our life that we could relate to. But more importantly, instead of thinking about the moment of fear, let us think about our reaction to that fear. We either turn to worldliness, which does not resolve anything, yes, it might camouflage it in our life for a while, but sooner or later it will resurface again. On the other hand, we can trust in God, who will give unto us the strength to endure until he sees fit to reward us with victory over these circumstances in our life. We must remember that what we are going through is much greater than we are, but God has an eternal purpose for all that he allows, therefore, we should trust in him.

**Isaiah 12: 2,....**behold God is my salvation, I will trust, and not be afraid...

As believers, the best place to go whenever we are in doubt is back to where it all started, which was at the time, when by faith believing, we accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ. It was at that moment in time, when all who are born again, that the thoughts of a man are separated from all of the worldly fears that can consume him, and we put our complete faith, and trust in God. Therefore, our thoughts were captured in the presence of the one who gave his life for ours, so that we might escape the turmoil of this world of sin, and have eternal life with him.

**Ephesians 4: 22 – 24,....**put off concerning the former conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts....and be renewed in the spirit of your mind....that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness....

Here is what happened when we were born again. We were born of the Holy Spirit, we received a holy spiritual nature, the nature of Christ. Therefore, we were born into a newness of life, and given a regenerated spirit, the indwelling Holy Spirit, this is our new life in Christ. So, we laid aside, or we put off the old sinful, lustful nature, because it was being continually corrupted with the deceitful desires of our flesh, and we were renewed in the spirit of our minds. Therefore, we should no longer be a part of the fallen nature that we inherited from Adam, but let us remember that we did only put it aside, for we cannot completely be rid of it while living in this mortal body, and we have the tendency to allow those fleshly desires to rule in our life once again.

For this reason, God has given unto us his Son in written word to take us back to that moment in time when we started our personal relationship with him. This is so that we might renew our minds, to wash our minds clean, which takes away the doubt and the fear. But do not misunderstand, this will take away the fear, but it does not take away the circumstance that caused the doubt and fear to begin with, these circumstances we must still deal with by trusting in the Lord. When we remove the doubt and fear from our mind, this will enable our new life in Christ to grow and mature.

This is why Christ, when he prayed, said:

**John 17: 17,....**sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth....

Sanctification takes place at the moment we are justified in Christ and continues on as long as we continue to grow in grace, mature in faith, and become conformed into the image and likeness of God. All that is of God, and all that is recorded by Christ his Son is contained in the word of truth. Therefore, Gods word is love, and perfect love cast out fear.

Fear, guilt, and shame cannot exist alongside faith, hope, and love. In the life of a believer, fear will render the believer powerless, but fear will be rendered powerless by Gods love. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can look to Christs unshakable promises in his word, which will sustain us through every circumstance in our life, so that we should not fear. Therefore, what time I am afraid, I will trust in God through his word.

Let us Pray.

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