

Trusting God When Afraid

by Wayne S. Walker

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:3). Jesus told us, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). The fact is that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). Indeed, as John reminds us, "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" (I John 4:18). In other words, there is really nothing in this life of which the child of God needs to be afraid.

While the Christian knows these things to be true, fear is still a natural human emotion to certain situations. When we are threatened with danger, when economic conditions point to a possible loss of job, when we are stricken with a serious illness, or when other problems arise which might disrupt our normal lives, we are likely to become afraid. What makes us most fearful about all such situations is that we simply do not know what the future holds. As long as things are going reasonably well, we usually assume that they will continue to do so and are not fearful. However, difficulties cause us more to look to the future and remind us that we do not know what will happen, so we feel afraid.

It is certainly true that "you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). John Henry Newman noted, "I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou Shouldst lead me on; I loved to choose and see my path; but now lead Thou me on." When events occur that darken the way so that I cannot "choose and see my path," I tend to become somewhat frightened. That is why Jesus teaches me, "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).

The Psalmist knew that times would arise when he would be afraid. However, his determination was that in such times he would trust in the Lord. In fact, he went on to say, "In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust: I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?" (56:4). The Hebrew writer quotes this statement to remind us that we need to trust God whenever we are afraid. "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

- via LaVista Church of Christ - LaVista, NE

Look around, be discouraged. Look up, be encouraged.

News & Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Marcia Murphy, sister of Noni Scadden will have very serious heart surgery tomorrow, March 16th at the Cleveland Clinic. Tasha Hall (Southern Hills congregation) will have surgery Thursday, March 26th at Magee Women's Hospital, Pittsburgh.

GUEST SPEAKER: Next Sunday, March 22nd, Charles Pugh will be our speaker both morning and evening.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, April 4th, 9:30 a.m. at Carrollton. Kay Gross will be the speaker.

PANTRY: Tuna & noodles.

ENCOURAGE: Randy Beagle with cards and prayers.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: Weirton Medical Center: Wade Sprout, Marilyn Sprout (Skilled), Mabel Sprout. Calcutta Health Care: Docie Moore. In Cleveland: Dan (Cleveland Clinic) & Sharon Williams. At Home: Marie Jones, Barb Shafer is at her son's [Zane Cook] in New Cumberland, Betty Gentry, Dylan Heinselmann, Beulah Rice, Crystal Baker, Fred Larrimore, Sr. (Karen Strum's dad), Linda Wiersbicki, Gene Miller, Ruth Brewer, Betty Carlin, Harry & Imogene Nice. **Remember others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.**

MEETINGS

Chillicothe, OH	Mar. 15	F. Higginbotham
Tipp City, OH	Mar. 22-25	F. Higginbotham
CHESTER	Mar. 29-Apr. 2	David Hinds
Belington	Apr. 5-10	F. Higginbotham
Southern Hills	Apr. 19-22	Will Montgomery
West Union	Apr. 19-23	F. Higginbotham
Hanoverton	Apr. 26-30	Jeremy Main
Carrollton	Apr. 26-30	Rick Tincher

SEVEN REASONS I ATTEND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

- I desire to learn more about God's Word (John 6:44-45).
- I love my brethren and desire their company (1 Peter 2:17).
- I want to set the right example for my family and others (1 Corinthians 11:1). I believe that attending mid-week meetings is essential to have the best influence.
- I desire to encourage the workers in the church; everyone knows that the workers will be present on Wednesday nights (Romans 14:19).
- I attend because I want to have the attitude, "What more can I do?", rather than, "Do I have to do it?" (Romans 12:11).
- I believe the first and greatest commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).
- The Bible teaches that Jesus may come at any moment (Matthew 25:13). If He should come on Wednesday night, I want to be assembled with the brethren.

- Glad Tidings of Good Things - Jacksonville, AL