

FEAR-LESS

Imagine your life without fear, how different would it be? I am talking practical here.... I do not mean no fear of touching a hot stove, playing in traffic, or jumping out of a plane without a parachute. How different and more enjoyable our lives would be without fear of financial pressures; job problems; or fear of cancer, stroke, or heart attack. No fear of becoming widowed, getting old, or Alzheimer's.

For some people, fear is a 24-hour uninvited guest in their heart. Fear comes oversized and leaves no room for peace or happiness. There is all kinds of fear: sudden fear, long drawn-out fear, fear for no reason at all, and phobia fear. Phobia fear is an exaggerated fear of a specific thing. Fear corrodes our confidence in God and fear turns us into control freaks. Martin Niemoller, a German pastor and theologian, early in the 1940's became a friend of Adolf Hitler. Before the war was over Neimoller renounced Hitler and turned away from him. He said this after he realized how insanely hateful and manipulating Hitler was..... "I discovered that Herr Hitler is a terribly frightened man." Fear releases the tyrant within you!

We see fear and hear fear in the disciples in Mark 4. This fear is not a tyrannical fear, but a fear that forgets that Jesus created all things. He can create storms and he can calm storms. Jesus and the disciples are in a near hurricane storm. The disciples were almost scared literally to death and Jesus was asleep on the back of the boat. Certain the ship was going to explode from crashing waves, in great panic they wake Jesus up and say, "Wake up, do something or we are all going to die." I love Jesus' response; he simply says to the waves, "Quiet, be still." He seems upset that his nap was disturbed. By the way, he asked the disciples, "Do you still have no faith." In closing, I want to ask you which is greater in your life, fear or faith? They really cannot reside in the same space. Sooner or later, one wins over the other. So...what will it be.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Sandra Stribick, Aaron Slone, Haiti Missionary Hostages

Events: November 1st 10:30 AM: Women Moving Forward (WMF). Learn about why 95% of mission's funds goes to 20% of the world. Talk with missionaries that live in Thailand. At the home of Donna Clickenger.