

FEARLESS: LIVING HOPE OVERCOMES FEAR

MAY 30, 2021

WORSHIP

Blessed Be Your Name,
Amazing Grace, Never
Once

WELCOME

What childhood fear did you have that you were able to overcome as you grew older? What helped you overcome such fear?

WORD

READ IT!

1 PETER 3:13-17

Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

PARAPHRASE IT!

Restate the verses in your own words.

TALK ABOUT IT!

- What did you like about the verses?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about following Christ?
- How ready are you to “give an account for the hope that is in you” with gentleness and reverence?

POINT IT OUT!

FEAR seems to be the most prevalent emotion today, especially during this time of lockdown and pandemic: fear of losing your job, fear of what will happen to your loved ones, fear for health and of dying. Is there a way to overcome fear? Let’s look at **1 Peter 3:13-22** to learn how **LIVING HOPE OVERCOMES FEAR**.

There was a time the apostle Peter was characterized by fear. He was afraid of the big waves when Jesus asked him to walk on water. He was afraid of the girl who recognized him as a disciple of Christ, prompting Peter to deny knowing Jesus three times (**John 18:17**). This man who was once full of fear was transformed and became one of the bastions of the Christian faith. What caused him to change from fearful to fearless?

In **1 Peter 3:13-14**, Peter gives a command not to fear and be troubled which was a quotation from the book of Isaiah. What he was saying was if you do what God wants you to do, you have no reason to fear! God commands us over 365 times “Do not be afraid”. In **Matthew 6:31-34**, Jesus tells us do not worry, instead, He commands us to PUT HIM FIRST—to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. We are to live a Christ-centered life!

There are 3 important qualities we can learn from **1 Peter 3:13-22** to overcome fear:

1. CHRIST-CENTERED

1 Peter 3:15 commands us to “sanctify (Gk. *Hagiazo*) Christ as Lord” but many of us we think of Christ as our Savior only. 700 times in the New Testament Jesus was described as Lord – King of kings, Lord of lords, possessing all authority, Almighty, and All-Powerful. We must sanctify Him in our hearts, meaning there’s just one throne in our hearts (and lives). It has to be for Jesus. In **Luke 6:46** Jesus asks, “why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ and do not do what I say?” If we really call Him LORD and sanctify Him as such in our lives, there’s got to be a clear intention to follow and obey Him. Many so-called Christians will say with their mouths, “Jesus is my Lord”, but they live lives that are not reflective of Jesus’ values and His commands aren’t lived out. Instead of running away from Him, the word “**fear Him**” means to give Him the highest respect and adoration. Pursue Jesus because you worship and follow Him for **who He (Jesus) is!** We must be able to explain our faith with gentleness and respect. Jesus is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all. The question is this: have you surrendered everything to Him? Is Jesus Lord over all the areas of your life?

2. CLEAR CONSCIENCE

Peter reminds his readers in **vv. 16-17** to keep on maintaining a **GOOD CONSCIENCE**. It helps you maintain an exemplary behavior, living your life in such a way that your conscience

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brings glory to the Lord. A Christ-centered life creates in us a desire for a clear conscience. If Christ is central, your life and your actions will always be pleasing unto the Lord. Conscience has to do with moral issues of the heart. Your mind may argue in determining what is right and wrong, but your conscience tells you what is right. **Romans 2:14-15** illustrates how Gentiles who don't have the Word of God and the Law, still do instinctively the things of the law. Paul also tells us through **1 Timothy 1:5** and **19** that when we disciple or help somebody grow in Christ, the objective is more than knowledge. We are to teach them how to love like Jesus and hold on to good conscience. To neglect your conscience is to experience spiritual shipwreck. When our conscience bothers us, we know we have to do something in order to live at peace. A clear conscience will help us overcome fear.

Hebrews 9:14 reminds us to cleanse our conscience through the Spirit and Word of God. Some people's consciences are ultra-sensitive that they live in legalism when **Acts 10:15** actually says that what God has cleansed, we must no longer consider as unholy. The other extreme is a dead and seared conscience where one says "my conscience is bothered" and yet still do what's wrong. To make sure we have clear conscience, we must calibrate it by God's Word and God's Spirit. Our conscience has to align with what the Bible says and the conviction given to us by the Holy Spirit. Clear conscience does not mean absolute perfection. But when our conscience is bothered, we need to pause, confess our sins, and ask for forgiveness.

3. CONFIDENT IN CHRIST

We must be confident in what Christ has done for us. **1 Peter 3:18-22** ocuses on the victory of Jesus Christ. He died for our sins and paid the absolute penalty of our sinful ways (**v.18**). Our confidence is that we get to be presented to God as holy, made pure, our sins being paid for and forgiven, washed by the worthy blood of the Lamb. Jesus "made proclamation (Gk. Keruzo)" (**v.19**) of His victory in between His death and resurrection. Who did He make this declaration to? One interpretation says that **v.20** points us people who refused to listen to Noah. Jesus made a declaration to them that Noah was right all along and He declared His victory being the "ark" or vessel that saved humanity. The other interpretation believes that this pertains to spiritual beings— angels who turned their backs on the Lord (**2 Peter 2:4-5, Jude 6**). **Genesis 6:1-2** gives us the term "sons of God" pertaining to angels (**Job 1:6, Genesis. 6:4**). The point is **JESUS has COMPLETE VICTORY over all powers** and He declared His victory. Through His resurrection, Jesus is a triumphant victor assuring our salvation! When you are in Christ, you have secured victory.

During Noah's time (**Genesis 6:11-15**), the world was so corrupt and filled with violence. God decided to destroy the entire earth and nobody could contradict or stop Him. However, He selected Noah to build an ark and by faith Noah obeyed (**Hebrews 11:7**) despite having no idea of what rain and flood would be like. Noah simply believed and obeyed. He invested 100 years of building and preaching about God's coming judgment because of his confidence in God's command and promises. To overcome the fear of men, you must be Christ-centered, have a clear conscience, and stick with your confidence in Christ. **Matthew 24:37-39** tells us one day, Jesus will come again and judgment will surely happen. Are you in the Ark? **Jesus is our Ark**. He is our blessed hope (**Titus 2:13**). He saves us from the judgment that is to come!

WORKS

APPLY IT!

Based on this lesson on **FEARLESS: LIVING HOPE OVERCOMES FEAR**, write down your action point to apply what you learned. Make it your "I will..." statement and follow the S.M.A.R.T. guideline to come up with a do-able action point.

Simple
 Measurable
 Appropriate
 Realistic
 Time-bound

"I will _____
 _____"

SHARE IT!

Who will you share these truths to this week?

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to desire for a clear conscience that is aligned with God's Word. Be ready to witness for Christ confidently and effectively to those around you. Take steps to be a fearless witness in your family, among friends and co-workers of the hope that is in you!

WEEKLY

PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

1 Peter 3:15

