

Fear Not! Be Not Afraid!

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In late October 1929, the United States experienced an unprecedented Stock Market crash in which the fortunes of millionaires and the hard-earned money of regular Americans, which they had in banks, all evaporated in one day. There was run on the banks. Banks closed. Businesses closed. Many Americans lost their jobs. By early 1933, the economy had shrunk by 36% and unemployment had skyrocketed to over 25% (1 in 4 Americans were jobless). Just like the sickly thin cows devoured the fat sleek cows in Pharaoh's dream, the prosperity of the 1920's was gone and forgotten. Americans were fearful of the future.

On March 4, 1933, in his first inaugural speech, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attempted to comfort the nation in the throes of depression, uncertainty, despair, and fear. The beginning of that inaugural speech is the following:

*"I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our people impel. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that **the only thing we have to fear is fear itself**—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days."*

Just like the American populace in March 1933, we are all facing today an uncharted path and walking into the unknown, both as a nation and as called-out ones of our Heavenly Father. The world today lives in a state of constant unrelenting fear, either the fear of death and destruction, the fear of violence, the fear of losing our livelihoods and our societies, the fear of the unknown, and the fear of the future.

But we are not to be as the world is. We have been called out of the world to not be part of the world. Our Heavenly Father does not want us to be living in a state of constant unrelenting fear.

The phrase "*Fear not!*" or "*Be not afraid!*" appears 90 times in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

My message this afternoon is entitled:

Fear Not! Be Not Afraid!

In this sermon, I would like to explore in a more in-depth way, the subject of fear— and, more importantly, not having fear in our lives, and instead, having the confidence in our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, to dispel the fears that the majority of world has.

The command “*Fear not!*” occurs 48 times in the Old Testament and 14 times in the New Testament. This phrase is usually followed by a statement of encouragement in the Bible.

The Hebrew words used for “*Fear Not!*” in the Old Testament is *al tirau*, Strong’s #408 & #3372, *al* meaning “not”, and *tirau* being the negative command form of the verb *yare* - meaning “to fear, to be afraid”.

The command “*Be not afraid!*” occurs 19 times in the Old Testament and 9 times in the New Testament. This phrase is usually followed by a statement of encouragement in the Bible.

The Hebrew words used for “*Be not afraid!*” in the Old Testament is *al taaros*, Strong’s #408 & #6206, *al* meaning “not”, and *taaros* being the negative command form of the verb *arats*, meaning “to tremble, to be scared, to be afraid”.

The Greek word used for “*Fear Not!*” in the New Testament is *me fobeísthe* Strong’s #3361 & #5399, *me* meaning “not”, and *fobeísthe* being the negative command form of the verb *fobéo* meaning “to fear, to dread, to be afraid, to be terrified”. The Greek noun of this verb is *fóbos* – “fear, terror, alarm” from which our English word “phobia” is derived.

Having thus defined our terms, let’s now explore this subject of fear and being afraid in four points.

The first point in not being *fearful* and *afraid* is:

1) **Fear not! We are never alone.**

It is important to always remember that God Our Father and Jesus are with us at all times. Let’s review a few men in the Bible where our Heavenly Father encouraged them and told them that He would be with them.

- **Jacob**

Soon after receiving the blessing from his father, Isaac, Jacob had a significant dream from our Heavenly Father.

Genesis 28:13 *And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;*

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. (KJV)

God Our Father comforted and encouraged Jacob that He would be with him and that He would never leave him.

- **Joshua**

Moses knew that he would die soon and that Joshua would lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Moses encouraged Joshua in the sight of all Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:6 *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

7) And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8) And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. (KJV)

Moses had just died, and our Heavenly Father chose Joshua to succeed him. Joshua had big shoes to fill. The whole nation of Israel had only known Moses as their physical leader. What did our Heavenly Father say to Joshua?

Joshua 1:5 *“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

Continuing in verse 9)

9) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (KJV)

God Our Father comforted and encouraged Joshua that He would be with him and that Joshua should not be afraid.

- **David**

We all know Psalm 23 by heart. It is the most well-known and quoted Psalm in the Bible.

Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (KJV)*

David was inspired to write that he would fear no evil because our Heavenly Father comforted him.

- **Elisha**

In 2 Kings 6 we will read a well-known event in the life of Elisha. The King of Syria was upset that the secrets of his military campaigns against Israel kept getting leaked out. Actually, Yehovah was revealing the king's plans to Elisha, who then passed them on to the Israelites. Upon learning this, the King of Syria sent a huge army to capture Elisha and his servant.

2 Kings 6:13 *And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.
14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.
15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?
16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.
17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.
18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. (KJV)*

The incredible faith that Elisha had in our Heavenly Father was shown in his prayer. He did not pray that Yehovah would let him see the angelic hosts and armies. Elisha knew that they were there. He did not need to see them. He prayed that his servant would be able to see the angelic armies so that his servant would be comforted. Elisha knew that our Heavenly Father was with him.

- **The Children of Israel**

Hezekiah was King of Judah, and Babylon was gaining power and prestige in the world. Through Isaiah, our Heavenly Father gave Hezekiah a comforting message.

Isaiah 41:8 *But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.*

9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. (KJV)

The meaning of verse 14 is better rendered in the New English Translation –

“Don’t be afraid, despised insignificant Jacob, men of Israel.” I am helping you, says the Lord, your Protector, the Holy One of Israel. (NET)

Yehovah told Israel not to be afraid and that He would help them. They would not be alone.

Through Jeremiah, our Heavenly Father gave a prophecy about a future time when both Israel and Judah will come out of captivity.

Jeremiah 30:10 *Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.*

11) For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished. (KJV)

After enduring the sufferings of captivity, the future children of Israel and Judah are told by our Heavenly Father not to fear and not to be afraid because He is with them and because they are not alone.

- **Jesus the Anointed One**

During His earthly ministry, Jesus told His disciples and the multitudes many times that they should not fear and not be afraid. One of those examples is when Jesus walked on the water of the Sea of Galilee to His disciples in the boat in Matthew 14.

Matthew 14:22 *And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.*
23) *And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*
24) *But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.*
25) *And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.*
26) *And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.*
27) *But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. (KJV)*

Jesus told His disciples not to fear because it was Him who was coming and it was Him who was with them. At the end of the transfiguration of Jesus that Peter, James and John saw, a voice from heaven (maybe the voice of our Heavenly Father) spoke to them.

After hearing the voice and experiencing the transfiguration, the three disciples were “*sore afraid*” (the Greek words mean “greatly terrified”). Jesus immediately comforted them and told them not to fear.

In John 8 Jesus was talking with the Pharisees, and He told them with confidence that His Father was with Him.

John 8:28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*
29) *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. (KJV)*

Jesus knew that our Heavenly Father would not leave Him alone, and that He would always be with Jesus.

On the last night of His physical life, Jesus encouraged His disciples that our Heavenly Father would give them a Comforter, His Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*
17) *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

18) *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (KJV)*

Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them comfortless.

Jesus knew that His death was imminent and that all the prophecies about Him as the Anointed One would be being fulfilled in the next few hours.

John 16:32 *Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. (KJV)*

Jesus was comforted in the fact that He knew that He was never alone, and that our Heavenly Father was always with Him and would be with Him in His final day of life.

The Bible is full of examples of men and women who were told that our Heavenly Father would be with them and that they should not be *fearful* and *afraid*.

The second point in not being *fearful and afraid* is:

2) Fear not! Our Heavenly Father has not given us a spirit of fear.

Again, the world as a whole, lives in a constant state of fear. Sin causes fear. When a righteous person is in his house and hears a siren approaching, they wonder if someone got hurt or is in need of help. There is no fear in the heart of that righteous person. However, when a bank robber is in his house and hears a siren approaching, he is filled with fear, because he is wondering in his heart if it is the police coming to arrest him. He lives his days with that constant fear of being caught. Sin brings on that fear. We read about this in Proverbs 28.

Proverbs 28:1 *The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. (KJV)*

A wicked man is always fearful of being caught, of being found out, of being hunted down. He is always and continually looking over his shoulder. Thus, every siren, every police car, every law enforcement officer brings a certain level of fear to the wicked man, whereas a righteous man is not fearful of being caught or being found out. There is no fear.

In Proverbs 10, we read another verse concerning the fear that the unrighteous and evil people have.

Proverbs 10:24 *The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. (KJV)*

Proverbs 10:24 *The fears of the wicked will be fulfilled; the hopes of the godly will be granted. (NLT)*

Again, the wicked live in a constant state of fear that the righteous just do not live in.

The Apostle Paul concisely and confidently states a comforting truth about our Heavenly Father.

2 Timothy 1:6 *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

7) For God [ho theos – the God – God Our Father] hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (KJV)

So, the Apostle Paul wrote that our Heavenly Father has given us a spirit of power and not fear. In Galatians 5, we read about the fruit, the end product, of using our Heavenly Father's Spirit in our lives.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (KJV)*

We can notice quickly that the fruit of our Heavenly Father's Spirit does not include fear. These end products of the Spirit are the exact opposite of fear. We are assured that our Heavenly Father will never leave us, and that we will never truly be alone.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

6) *So that we may boldly say, The Lord [Kurios without the "the" – Yehovah in the Septuagint – God Our Father] is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (KJV)*

Verse 6 is a quote from Deuteronomy 31:8 which we read earlier in the sermon. With our Heavenly Father always with us and helping us, we should not fear anything that comes our way. Do we have that confidence in our Heavenly Father which casts out that fear?

The opposite of fear is boldness. Jesus the Anointed One was tempted in all ways that we are but without sinning. He knows what we are going through. With love and understanding, He says "Yes! Been there, done that!"

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

15) *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

16) *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (KJV)*

So, we are to approach our Heavenly Father's throne with boldness and without the fear of man. We revere the Father. We humbly seek and follow Him. But we come before His throne with confidence. Our Heavenly Father's Spirit gives us that boldness and confidence.

Our Heavenly Father has truly given us a spirit of power and not of fear.

The third point in not being fearful and afraid is:

3) Fear not! Our Heavenly Father wants us to succeed.

So many of the Christian faith view our Heavenly Father as a stern, hating, angry God who is just waiting for us to fail so that He can punish us. Many people view God Our Father as a vengeful, spiteful, and unloving Being. Many consider that Jesus is the only Being keeping God Our Father from completely destroying the earth and all of us with it. But this could not be further from the truth.

The most quoted and well-know verse in the Bible sheds light on this truth.

John 3:16 *For God [ho theos – the God – God Our Father] so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (KJV)

Our Heavenly Father loves all of us so much that He allowed His very own Son to be tortured and killed so that He would be our sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. Does that sound like an angry, spiteful, vengeful, almost out-of-control Father?

But why did the Father allow His Son to die? Because it was part of the Plan of Salvation. Without Jesus' death as payment for our sins, we have no hope of eternal life, and we have no future in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom. As verse 17 states: Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus into the world not to condemn the world, not to obliterate the world, not to destroy the world, but to save the world through His Son. Our Heavenly Father let His own Son be killed so that we could succeed! That, brethren, is huge! If we ever doubt that our Heavenly Father wants us to succeed, just meditate on those two verses alone.

Our Heavenly Father wants all of humanity to be saved and to understand His plan of salvation. The Apostle Paul includes this in his letter to Timothy.

1 Timothy 2:1 *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (KJV)

From verse 5, we understand that the "God" in verse 3 is God Our Father. So, the Apostle Paul is instructing us that our Heavenly Father wants all of us, all His children, to succeed and to be saved. God Our Father does not set us up for failure. As we read previously in Hebrews 13:05 that our Heavenly Father will never forsake us or leave us. He and His Son are in it with us to win it!

Jesus uses an analogy to show how important we are to our Heavenly Father and for us not to be afraid.

Luke 12:6 *Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?*

7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. (KJV)

So, brethren, don't be afraid, because our Heavenly Father places much value on each and every one of us. Let's continue on in verse 31 of Luke 12.

Luke 12:31 *But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

32) Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (KJV)

Jesus instructs us not to fear and not to be afraid, because our Heavenly Father wants us to succeed in entering His Kingdom.

In Matthew 6, we read a parallel account of Luke 12.

Matthew 6:25 *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

26) Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27) Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28) And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29) And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30) Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31) Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

Our Heavenly Father treasures us and values us and deeply desires to see us in His Kingdom to live with Him and His Son forever and ever. He deeply desires to see us succeed in our spiritual battles against the adversary and against the world. Knowing how much both the Father and Jesus love us, knowing that they care for us, and knowing that they are there for us, should remove fears from our lives.

The fourth point in not being *fearful* and *afraid* is:

4) **Fear not! Faith and love cast out fear.**

Two important righteous traits which are inextricably linked are faith and Godly agape love.

Galatians 5:5 *For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

6) *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.* [Godly agape love]. (KJV)

The Greek verb for *work* in verse 6 is *energéo*, Strong's #1754, meaning "to actively work, to accomplish through effort". This verb is where we get the English word "energy".

So, the Apostle Paul is saying in verse 6 that faith is accomplished through effort by and is actively worked by Godly agape love. Love produces faith, and faith increases love.

The Apostle Paul further links faith and love together.

2 Timothy 1:13 *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love [Godly agape love] which is in Christ Jesus.* (KJV)

Again, love and faith are linked together in our spiritual lives. They go hand in hand together.

Galatians 5, where we will read again the fruit or the end results of our Heavenly Father's Spirit – and two of those end results are love and faith.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love [Godly agape love], joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

23) *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* (KJV)

The daughter of a Jewish leader was deathly sick, and the Jewish leader asked for Jesus to come to heal her.

Mark 5:35 *While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?*

36) *As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.* (KJV)

Even though the Jewish leader had just been told that his daughter had died, Jesus told him to have faith and to not fear. Faith is the opposite of fear. If we truly have faith, we have no fear. We have no doubts. Doubt and fear are also linked, just like faith and love are linked. The Apostle John discusses the perfect Godly agape love that we should have and its impact on fear.

1John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (KJV)*

Fear and love, just like fear and faith, cannot coexist with each other. Either fear will overshadow love and faith, or love and faith will cast out the fear in our lives.

Faith and love are protection in our spiritual lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. (KJV)

We should be spiritually wearing the breastplate of faith and love. A breastplate covers and protects the torso of a soldier. The breastplate of faith and love will protect our hearts from the damage that the spears of doubt and fear could cause if they entered into our hearts. But with the breastplate of faith and love, the spears of doubt and fear will bounce off and be deflected, the same as casting out the doubt and fear that could enter, grow, and consume us. Again, our faith in our Heavenly Father and our showing of Godly agape love will cast out all fear from our lives.

In today's message, we have explored the subject of fear and more importantly, not having fear in our lives, and instead, having the confidence in our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, to dispel the fears that the majority of world has. We explored this subject in four points, which were:

1) Fear not! We are never alone.

As shown in the examples of Jacob, Joshua, David, Elisha, the Children of Israel, and Jesus the Anointed One, they were told not to fear and that our Heavenly Father would be with them. Just like them, we today should not fear because our Heavenly Father will always be with us.

2) Fear not! Our Heavenly Father has not given us a spirit of fear.

Our Heavenly Father has given us His Spirit, and that Spirit is not a spirit of fear but of power. Using His Spirit in our lives constantly gives us the boldness to fight without fear our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual battles each day.

3) Fear not! Our Heavenly Father wants us to succeed.

Our Heavenly Father has not set us up for failure. He wants us to succeed spiritually and enter His Kingdom and live with Him forever and ever. He allowed His own Son to be sacrificed for us so that we would succeed – and we will succeed! That knowledge helps to eliminate the fears in our minds.

4) Fear not! Faith and love cast out fear.

The opposite of faith and Godly agape love is doubt and fear. Doubts lead to fear, whereas faith leads to Godly agape love. The love from our Heavenly Father that He gives us will drive out all fears from our lives.

Although we are living in treacherous and unprecedented times, we should not be afraid. Although we may be walking in our own personal version of the valley of the shadow of death, we should not be afraid. Although we may be concerned of our unknown future, whether it be as a country, or as a society, or as a church of called-out ones, we should not be afraid.

Our Heavenly Father is still on His throne. He has not left us. He has not abandoned us. We, as His called-out ones, are one of the main focuses of His attention. He loves and cares for us so very much and will always be with us. He wants us to have faith and love and not to have doubts and fears.

We should never allow doubt, distrust, uncertainty, disbelief, anxiety, and discouragement to overtake us. That is what our adversary is diligently striving for. But our Heavenly Father is way stronger than our adversary. He is the great Almighty and All-Powerful King of the universe. We serve Him and worship Him, and He loves us so very dearly.

Brethren, *fear not! And be not afraid!*