

Facing Our Fears

Fear or Courage

Part 1

April 11, 2021

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1. God wants _____ to define your life not fear

Joshua 1:9 “This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (NLT = New Living Translation)

II Timothy. 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” (NLT)

*I Corinthians 16:13 “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be **courageous**. Be strong.” (NLT)*

2. Experiencing fear is _____

I Corinthians 2:3 “And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling...” (ESV= English Standard Version)

II Corinthians 7:5 “When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside.” (NLT)

3. Courage is only developed by _____

- Face fear through _____

I Peter 5:7 “Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.” (NLT)

*Psalms 34:4 “I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my **fears**.” (NLT)*

- Face fear with _____

Joshua. 1:9 “...For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (NLT)

*I Peter 1:13 “So prepare your **minds for action** and exercise self-control...” (NLT)*

- Face fear with _____

Hebrews 11:6 “And it is impossible to please God without faith...” (NLT)

James 2:17 “So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” (NLT)

- Face fear with _____
I Thessalonians. 5:11 "So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing." (NLT)

Romans. 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (NIV = New International Version)

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Discussion Questions:

1. How have you experienced fear during the past 12 months? How has COVID played a part in your fears? How would you describe your fear level today?
2. What does it look like to have fear defining your life? What does it look like to have courage define your life? How does it make you feel knowing God desires you to be courageous?
3. Even though fear is a normal human experience, do you ever feel guilty being afraid? Do you believe that if you were spiritual enough you would never experience fear? Discuss the fact that the Apostle Paul experienced fear and so did Jesus.
4. Discuss the four specific ways we face our fears. Which ones have you experienced? Which ones are the most difficult for you to follow through on?
5. What is a fear you need to be facing?
6. Discuss Romans 12:2. How is the world conforming people to be afraid? How do we resist this influence and be transformed instead?