



Fear Not Sermon Series

Week 4 – You are not alone.

This is our fourth and final sermon in our “Fear Not” Series. Let’s recap – we have talked through some practical ways to deal with fear, recognizing it, giving it back to God through prayer and keeping our focus one day at a time. These are powerful

habits that we can continue to develop. Add to that, a spirit of self-discipline and we could start to think we are invincible, but I suggest many of us feel anything but invincible?

That’s where Jesus comes in and reminds us that we are not alone, we are never alone, He is beside us all the way.

Video clip – This is the Air I breathe.

Have you ever wondered why throughout the Old Testament, we hear God saying through His prophets and spokespeople the same thing over and over and over again? *“Do not be anxious” ... “Do not fear” ... “Do not be afraid.”*

In the New Testament we see the same appeals - to fear not or not to be anxious. Why? Because that’s what fallen humans do - we are anxious and fearful by nature and that nature is fallen, fallible, corrupted and sinful. We were not created to be anxious or fearful which is why God has continually pleaded with us to not fear.

But these are not just commands from God – they are actually promises from a loving Father!

We see around the world many people adopting – seeking out the orphans of the world to bring them into their families. And in a very real sense, whether we were born into a functional natural family or not – we all wish to be adopted – we all carry an innate desire to have someone point to us and say – this child is mine.

The Apostle Paul wrote some amazing words in Ephesians 1 containing some foundational truths which impact everything we think about God, His love and our relationship with Him and others.

Read: Ephesians 1:3-14 from the Voice Bible.

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One, who grants us every spiritual blessing in these heavenly realms where we live in the Anointed—not because of anything we have done, but because of what He has done for us.

God chose us to be in a relationship with Him even before He laid out plans for this world; He wanted us to live holy lives characterized by love, free from sin, and blameless before Him. He destined us to be adopted as His children through the covenant Jesus the Anointed inaugurated in His sacrificial life. This was His pleasure and His will for us.

Ultimately God is the one worthy of praise for showing us His grace; He is merciful and marvellous, freely giving us these gifts in His Beloved. Visualize this: His blood freely flowing down the cross, setting us free! We are forgiven for our sinful ways by the richness of His grace which He has poured all over us. With all wisdom and insight He has enlightened us to the great mystery at the centre of His will. With immense pleasure, He laid out His intentions through Jesus, a plan that

will climax when the time is right as He returns to create order and unity—both in heaven and on earth—when all things are brought together under the Anointed’s royal rule.

In Him we stand to inherit even more. As His heirs, we are predestined to play a key role in His unfolding purpose that is energizing everything to conform to His will. As a result, we—the first to place our hope in the Anointed One—will live in a way to bring Him glory and praise. Because you, too, have heard the word of truth—the good news of your salvation—and because you believed in the One who is truth, your lives are marked with His seal. This is none other than the Holy Spirit who was promised as the guarantee toward the inheritance we are to receive when He frees and rescues all who belong to Him. To God be all praise and glory!

Now we may never have heard the words – this child is mine, from an earthly father but, as God says in His Word we have been given every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms, through Christ. We have all the benefits of knowing God – being chosen for salvation, being adopted as His children, forgiveness, insight, the gifts of the Spirit, power to do God’s will, the hope of living forever with Christ.

God is the Father, the Cosmic Father we have always sought. He is the One who adopts us through His saving grace. Perfectly loving and all-powerful, all wise. This Father has claimed us for His own. Whatever trends come and go, whatever the circumstances in our world, He will never let us go.

God would never ask us to do something that was not possible, that would be out of character for a God who is love. When God calls us to

do something, He always empowers us to complete it. God only comes to us in love, and this God, Who is love, says to us today, what He has been saying to us all our lives:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

The Apostle John states simply: *God is Love*. So at the very core of Who God is, you will find love and at the core of what true love is, you will find God.

Therefore, **when God comes to us, He always comes to us in love**. God revealed His love by sending His Son, Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins. This is so important for us to grasp. It’s that simple and that clear, yet many sincere believers have not yet fully embraced this foundational truth.

And this can lead to guilt and fear. And where does that come from – the accuser – Satan. He works to prevent us from accepting God’s love and grace from being fully effective in our life.

What are some of the fears people experience?

Some fears we will be conscious of, but many of them we probably don’t even know are there and yet they can still control our actions, our inaction, our faith and the degree of freedom which we enjoy in Christ.

But this morning, let’s not give our fears any more power. Let’s instead focus on what our lives can be when we just believe God.

Are you challenged by the simplicity of that statement “Just believe God?”

That is why people fear – because they don’t take Him at His word. They simply don’t believe God nor live according to what He has already revealed to us and effected for us in Christ.

You may be thinking – how can I just believe – I can’t be sure of the absolute accuracy of every biblical document that has been preserved.

So what do we need to believe anyway to be saved?

There is a simple answer – when the writers of the New Testament wrote “believing in Christ” it may not be quite what you think it means, unless you know it’s original context.

The Gospel of John talks about “believing” more than anyone else. John dismisses the idea that you need to know everything about Jesus’ life. Knowing every fact about Jesus was not necessary.

John 20:30 says: Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

What is critical is not that you believe a list of facts but believe one single thing –**that Jesus is the Christ.**

What does that mean? What’s the Christ?

It means anointed one. It alludes to the fact that Jesus is God’s anointed – He is the one who God appointed to reign over His eternal kingdom.

Believing in Christ or accepting Christ means believing in this authority and that we are all answerable to Him.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke talk about entering the Kingdom of God – John speaks of believing in Christ. This shows how the 4 Gospels fit better together.

Jesus was announcing the coming of God's kingdom to earth, with the implication that He was the One bringing it. Believing in Him as the Christ is to receive Him and God as King.

Believing also means following His commands. Paul was utterly focused on preaching the gospel of Christ. This referred to an official announcement that a new king has come into power.

When we give God full access to our heart, our mind, our schedule, our imagination and all the "rooms" in our spiritual, emotional and relational 'house,' then amazing things happen!

How would your life be changed:

- If you were 100% assured of your salvation and equally sure that nothing you can do or fail to do will ever jeopardise your eternal security in Christ?
- If you were assured that God's punishment for sin, all sin, all your sin, past, present and future, has actually been dealt with by Jesus and God will never punish you – not ever?
- If you no longer worried about failure?
- If you no longer let past hurts, grief or the memory of people's actions towards you hold you back from trusting people again, believing people again, opening up to people again, being vulnerable again?
- If your prayers changed
- If your whole life was transformed

- If you stopped trying to work out what God's specific will was for your life
- If you believed that the most powerful created being in the universe, the arch-enemy of God, Satan has actually already been defeated
- If you were no longer afraid of losing control
- If you no longer needed to understand everything about God before stepping out

What risks would you take; what adventures would you embark upon; what bold steps would you take for God and for others if you knew, most assuredly, that as far as God was concerned, you can never fail – you can only learn and grow?

Can you imagine the freedom, the courage, the confidence and the abundance you would then enjoy as a believer in Christ?

God's supernatural power, gifts and miracle-working grace were never meant to be confined to Jesus and the original Apostles only. The same power which raised Jesus from the dead is actually flowing into you as a believer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and that power can flow through you to those around you anytime you decide to believe it and embrace God's empowering presence in your life?

This is the key to our Fear Not Sermon Series - it's the key to our abundant life in Christ; it's the key to everything in the Kingdom of God. These simple words explain why all our fears will continue to haunt us and hold us back: **I don't believe Jesus is the Christ.**

If we don't take responsibility for everything in our life, nothing will change. Our focus should never be on our fears - that only empowers

them. Fear is not the problem – our unbelief is the problem - and that, we can fix, with help from the Holy Spirit.

God longs to hear from us because God knows how amazing our lives will be when we actually believe Him, trust Him and allow Him to fill us to the measure of all His fullness.

God's love drives out all fear, but those are just words on a page and hot air from a preacher until you actually **BELIEVE** them and receive them as a promise from God. God loves you. God cares for you and when you fear or doubt you are saying to God, *“I don't trust you. I don't believe You have really done what You say or will do what You've promised to do.”*

So what saves you? Believe it or not, you don't need to have every doctrinal fact straight. Salvation doesn't come from your own brain. What actually saves you from your sins is the atoning work of Christ, on behalf of those in His kingdom. When you believe that Christ is God's rightful Eternal King and you receive Him as your King you come under His reign.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsBhvSMQUk4>

Love Letter from God.

I invite you to join with me in prayer which is based on Psalm 23. I encourage you to really believe these words and expect God to answer this prayer in your life.

Lord, I believe . . .You really are my shepherd and I shall not want for anything.

Lord, I believe . . .You will make me lie down in green pastures, and lead me beside quiet waters, and restore my soul.

Lord, I believe . . .You will guide me in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.

Lord, I believe . . .that even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for I believe You are with me; Your rod and your staff, will comfort me.

Lord, I believe . . .You are preparing a table before me in the presence of my enemies and You will anoint my head with oil.

Lord, I believe . . .You when You promise that my cup will overflow.

Lord, I believe . . .that goodness and love (not fear and anxiety) will follow me all the days of my life,

Lord, I believe . . .I will dwell in Your house forever.

Lord, I believe . . .now help me in my unbelief.

In the mighty name of Your Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ we pray Amen.