

## Fear Not; Isaiah 41:8-10

- I. Fear
  - A. What we fear most is the unknown
    1. We are afraid of the dark because we don't know what is in it
    2. We fear death because we don't know (or think we don't) about heaven or hell
  - B. Fear is not real
    1. "Fear is not real. The only place that fear can exist is in our thoughts of the future. It is a product of our imagination, causing us to fear things that do not at present and may not ever exist. That is near insanity. Do not misunderstand me danger is very real, but fear is a choice." Will Smith
    2. We do know a lot about heaven and about hell
    3. If heaven is our home, then we have nothing to fear!
- II. Not Dismayed
  - A. To be dismayed is to be afraid
    1. Do not fear
    2. Isaiah 41:10 is one of the over 600 times God tells us, "Do not fear" (be afraid, fear not, etc.)
    3. Barak didn't want to go to the battle without Deborah (Judges 4:3ff)
    4. Moses didn't want to deliver Israel from slavery (Exodus 3:1ff)
    5. Gideon was hiding in the winepress threshing wheat
      - i. Judges 6:12 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."
      - ii. Gideon complains about their oppression and accuses God of forsaking them
      - iii. Judges 6:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"
      - iv. Gideon continues to give excuses, this time about the weakness of his tribe (Manasseh) and his family
      - v. Judges 6:16 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."
    6. Just like Gideon, like Joshua, like Moses, like Deborah, God is with us
  - B. We should be courageous
    1. Moses gives his final encouragement to Israel before his death
    2. Deuteronomy 31:6-7 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." <sup>7</sup> Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it.
    3. Moses repeats it in 31:23
    4. What courage it must have taken for Paul to walk back into Lystra after being stoned (Acts 14:19ff)

5. Acts 20:22–23 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.
  6. This is after God gives him rest in Corinth for 18 months
  7. God tells Paul about the hardships he will have to endure
  8. Acts 9:15–16 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”
  9. Paul accepted the call knowing what would happen to him
  10. We, too, are promised suffering
  11. 2 Timothy 3:10–14 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it
  12. If you desire to be a Godly Christian, then you will face persecution
- C. “Be not dismayed”
- III. Strengthened
- A. “I will strengthen you, I will help you” (Isaiah 41:10 in part)
  - B. To be courageous and strong <sup>1</sup>
    1. Our strength is not our own, it comes from God
      - i. Paul tells us that he and his companions were burdened **beyond their strength**
      - ii. 2 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.
      - iii. Paul encourages the church at Ephesus to use God’s strength
      - iv. Ephesians 6:10 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
      - v. Then he tells them to use the armor of God (not our own construct)
      - vi. Paul acknowledges to Timothy that it is God’s strength and not his
      - vii. 1 Timothy 1:12 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,
    2. We often want to rely on our own strength, our own understanding, even our own selves
      - i. We get some sort of satisfaction by doing things “on our own”
      - ii. Proverbs 3:1-8
      - iii. Let’s go back to Paul’s second letter to the church at Corinth

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<sup>1</sup> Ludwig Koehler et al., [\*The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament\*](#) (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 65.

- iv. 2 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.
- v. If we rely on ourselves, then the end is death (spiritual)
- vi. Proverbs 14:12 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

C. Since our strength comes from God, we must rely on Him to show us the way

#### IV. Do Not Fear

- A. God tells us not to fear, because He is the one supplying our strength
- B. We should not fear death; death is not an unknown; we know where we are going
- C. Luke 12:4–5 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. <sup>5</sup> But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!