

## Fear vs Faith

### 2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of **a sound mind**.*

Matthew 8:23-27 NKJV.

*<sup>23</sup> Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. <sup>24</sup> And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. <sup>25</sup> Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"*

*<sup>26</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> So the men marveled, saying, <sup>[b]</sup> "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*

Did they not know who it was who got into the boat with them that day? The one who created the Oceans, the currents, the wind and waves was in that little ship with them that day

1. The ship is not going down with the Creator on board
2. The storm does not distress Jesus
3. No matter how Earth shattering, our problems do not cause our God to fear.
4. "O ye of little faith"
5. Look what happened. They all stayed in the boat... they all continued the journey and they all reached the other side.
6. The circumstances of the world around us should not affect our faith in God, and His ability cause us to reach the intention He has for our lives.

### **GOD IS NEVER SURPRISED BY OUR CIRCUMSTANCES!!**

- He wasn't surprised by the persecution of the early church.
- He wasn't surprised by world wars
- He wasn't surprised the Plague, Measles, Mumps, Small pox, SARS, Swine flu or this flu.

- Our God hasn't lost control, and neither should we.

## Coronavirus

- Fear is
  - Paralyzing
  - Causes us to do very reactionary actions
  - Creates confusion

A Sound mind is the opposite of Fear. [2 Timothy 1:7 \[Full Chapter\]](#)

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- Perspective is an important word
- Things like Height and Distance allow us to rationalize what is real and what is imaginary.
  - You've heard it said... "hard to see the forest for the trees"
  - Sometimes you have to step back and take a "bigger picture" perspective.
  - If you just lay in bed at night and worry about the things you can't even see, quantify or believe God for... You are going to be filled with fear.
- Our **reactionary** response gives credit to the "enemy"
  - It's a trap to not follow good precautionary measures
  - Whether we have service in a building or not has nothing to do with our faith... It's just good common sense at this stage.
  - We end up looking like fools if people become sick with this virus from our church
  - We lose our level of influence
- Common sense
  - Social distancing is the best defense against any pandemic

- It is more about not overloading our healthcare system than it is catching COVID-19
- BUT DON'T BE FOOLED - GOD IS OUR SOURCE NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE
  - He has used your job to provide for you
  - He can and will (this word means FAITH) use anything to take care of us
- So how do we plan for our immediate future?
  - Utilize this time for:
    - Family time
    - Rest
    - Working on the projects you keep putting off
  - **SOW** into your
    - Family
    - Career
    - Home
    - Ministry
  - Let your church move outside the 4 walls that have been restricting your growth anyway
  - Plan on how you are going to do your weekly services for the next 90 days
    - Promote online giving
    - Promote online attendance
      - Send out a worship set
      - Send out a prayer list
    - Promote community “family” participation
    - Send a daily uplifting Facebook update
    - Become a resource for your members
    - Become a resource for people who have no one to turn to
    - Hope is always a great message to preach, and your lifestyle, actions, and words are the best message the world will ever see
  - Without any fault of our own we have to create a new normal

***<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.***

***<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:***

*"For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

***<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

God is still in control.

- He has not forgotten His people.
- His plan for this world is still to draw the hearts of all people to Him.
- Let's not allow this time to be a time of decrease, let's allow it to be a time of increase.
- People are praying around this world like they never have before. Let's believe that God is going to answer their prayers, heal their land and rescue the perishing.

**THIS TO SHALL PASS**