

Fearless 1 – 05/01/11

Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Don't store up *treasures or wealth* for *yourselves* here on earth where they can erode away, lose their value or may be stolen.

20 Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value and are safe from thieves.

21 *If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too.*

My Generation Update:

Pledged to Date: \$8,411,928

Received in April: \$81,053

Received to Date: \$4,907,982

INTRO:

- Today we start the series “Fearless.”
- Fear and the WALLS that it builds.
- We will learn how to tear down the WALLS that fear has built

MESSAGE:

- What WALLS has fear built in our lives?
- How do they get there?
- How do we identify them?
- How do we eradicate them?

Fear is the great inhibitor.

Fear says “No” before you ever get the chance to consider “Yes.”

Fear removes God from the equation.

When God would give instructions about the future, he would often precede it with the words, “Fear Not.”

More than 100 times in the Bible we are told to “FEAR NOT.”

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

6 Be strong and of good courage, *do not fear nor be afraid of them*; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

7 Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

8 And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; *do not fear nor be dismayed.*"

All fear is rooted in the absence of God from the circumstance.

Before God asked Joshua and the people to “Fear Not,” he made certain to let them know that he “would not leave nor forsake them.”

Fear forecast the future based upon the assumption that God’s power and grace will be absent.

“FAITH” takes the evidence of the Word and Faithfulness of God as its final authority and acts.

“FEAR” takes the past, feelings, and sense knowledge evidence as its final authority and acts.

Our thought life is going to be governed by one of two forces: FEAR or FAITH.

Proverbs 23:7 - For as a man *thinks in his heart, so is he*.

Whatever fills your heart, directs your future!

Joshua 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then ***you will make*** your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; ***do not be afraid, nor be dismayed***, for ***the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.***"

“You make your way prosperous” because your everyday life decisions are rooted in the faithfulness of God and are not governed by the external circumstances of life or fear.

Our lives will follow the course of our beliefs, not our desires.

Fear is fed not by how we see God, as much as how we believe God sees us!

Luke 12:7 - But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore, ***do not fear***, you are of ***more value than many sparrows***.

I John 4:18-19

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid (of punishment from God) has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

19 We love Him, because He first loved us.