



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide #16  
Based on sermon: “No Fear”  
Preached May 2, 2009

1. What are you afraid of? Spend some time sharing some of your fears and how they make you feel. Would you say that since 9/11 your fear/anxiety index has gone up, down, or remained the same? (Note: this question is not limited to your fear/anxiety of a terrorist attack. The 9/11 date is simply a marker in time to help you identify your overall anxiety level in the last 8 years.)

2. The Bible has a lot to say about fear. The phrase “Fear not,” or “Be not afraid,” is recorded more than 100 times in Scripture. If you have a concordance, take some time to find and read several of these “Fear not” texts and discuss the contexts of the statements. Who was talking to whom and why?

3. The Bible really talks about fear in two contexts—one negative and one positive. Hebrew uses many words for the negative aspect of fear (i.e., “terror,” “sorrow,” “fright,” “timidity,” “dread,” “rage,” “anger,” and “trembling.”) The positive is expressed in the word, *Yirah* or “reverence.” It is a reverential awe of God; a reverence for His power and glory. Read the following texts and make a list of some of the positive benefits we get from a *Yirah* of God.

- Prov. 8:13; Prov. 1:7; Prov. 10:27; Prov. 14:26; Prov. 14:27; Prov. 16:6; Prov. 19:23; Prov. 22:4.

4. Discuss the following statement: “The secret to living without fear in scary times is living in holy fear of God at all times. . . Just as you fight fire with fire, the believer fights fear with fear (*Yirah*). You fight terror, sorrow, fright, timidity, dread, rage, anger and trembling with a life of reverence for God. And the weapon of our warfare is worship.”

5. Read Acts 16:16-34 and discuss how the above principle was demonstrated in the experience of Paul and Silas in prison?

6. Read through Psalm 64, paying attention to the tactics of our enemy against us. What is the battle strategy for the righteous found in verse 10? (See also Philippians 4:4.)

7. If “coming in out of the storm” is a metaphor for “taking refuge,” then how does Psalm 100:4 help us to understand the how-to of taking refuge in Christ?

8. Discuss how praise leads us to an attitude of submission. (See Job 1:21, 22)

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Faith is not developed in the crisis. The crisis simply reveals the quality of the faith you already have.” Explain your answer.

10. Discuss how praise brings the presence of God. (See Psalm 22:3; 2 Chron. 5; 20:13-26.) How have you experienced the presence of God in response to praise?

11. Discuss how praise helps us focus on Jesus.

12. What conclusions can we draw from this lesson regarding fear?