

# *Fear not, I will help thee*

*Preached By*

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## God has not given us the spirit of fear

Go to your bible at Isaiah 41, verse 10.

I would like to close this year, and move into next year, with some faith resolutions. Tonight's theme concerns a challenge that I face regularly. However, I am sure many of you will relate to this evening's message.

Over the past three weeks, I have been teaching about spiritual warfare and the wiles of the devil. These wiles, for which we can use the Greek word **Methodia**, relate to the schemes - and the deceitfulness - of the devil and his demons assigned to us. During these last weeks, I have listed many of the different methods that the devil uses to attack us. Fear was one of them. Now fear comes in many different guises. It can attack us with anxieties, conflicts, intense suffering, physical or mental pain. The list goes on and on.

Let us explore how God's word deals with fear.

The first three words in this evening's text, Isaiah 41:10, read as '**Fear thou not**'. I realize that day-in, day-out, this is a difficult principle to follow. However, you are now looking at someone who has the same experiences, trials, and tribulations as you do. In addition, I know that when those trials and tribulations hit **me**, fear creeps in. And sometimes it seems as though those trials are testing me every minute, every hour, every day. Fear slips through my defenses.

However, God is not the author of fear. God has not given us the spirit of fear. Fear is not from God. Fear is not something that God created in us.

Fear is one of the Devil's methods to tear us down - to see if we will slip, stumble, and eventually fall away. In Paul's letter to Timothy, chapter one verse seven, it states '**God has not given us the spirit of fear**'. Therefore, whenever I read Isaiah chapter 41:10, this coming year, I am going to keep reminding myself - '**Fear thou not**'. I hope that you will do the same - should this apply to you.

**'Fear thou not!'** It is not too difficult to remember. However, I assure you, Satan and his demons will try to make us all forget what God is telling us to do. **'Fear thou not!'**

But why not be afraid? Let us continue into the verse. **'For I am with thee.'** Sometimes I question God. I ask the Lord, 'Where in the heck are you?' When I have been in my dark valley or surrounding circumstances for what seems a long time, I doubt whether God wants to be part of it.

However surprising, He does. He is there with me. He is there with you. He is there with all of us. That is the promise. That is the promise that Jesus gave us. He will never leave us or forsake us. Even though, sometimes, we just feel like He is not there. In addition, we feel like He is not there because we slip out of Faith and into escalating fear.

We start looking at the events of time - at what is in front of us, for instance not recognizing that He is there with us. I definitely find it perplexing that we focus on how the devil and his demons are always attacking us, whilst forgetting that Jesus is also there with us. He will never leave us. Nor will He forsake us!

Jesus did not give us the spirit of fear! Fear thou not!

## **Be not bewildered**

Let us continue. **'Be not dismayed.'** Perhaps a better translation is **'Be not bewildered'**. Surprising interpretation? Not really. It is the Old Testament and I know that Isaiah 41 was directed to the children of Israel. However, I want all of us to personalize this verse so that it is relevant to our day and age. Claim it. Personalize it to meet your needs. Personalize its promise to provide you with hope.

I know **I am** claiming it! **I am** taking Isaiah 41:10 and a few other verses and making them my promises. I am making them my resolutions for the upcoming year.

**'Be not dismayed.'** **'Fear thou not.'** If we can remember and act in Faith on these two resolutions throughout the coming year, we will have the devil and his demons on the run. The God we serve is more than powerful enough to overcome the devil's attacks and more than powerful enough to overcome our trials.

Now let us move on. Let us go to 1st Peter 4:12.

But first, a recap. Isaiah 41:10. **'Fear thou not, for I am with thee.'** **'Be not dismayed.'** Well, that is Old Testament.

Let us go to the New Testament. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, chapter four, verse 12. This is Peter writing to the Saints to tell them that believers should not be ashamed or puzzled about what they are going through.

Verse 12 reads, **'Beloved, think it not strange the fiery trial'**. What sort of trial? Not just any old trial - a fiery trial. A test of faith that, eventually, is going to prove that we are more worthy than gold. **'Beloved, think it not strange the fiery trial, which is to try you.'** The Greek word for trial there is **Perismos**. The fiery trial is to prove us. The fiery trial will demonstrate to Satan, and the rest of the world under his control, that God has someone who will take His word and trust in Him. God allows us to go through fiery trials to see if we will place our trust in Him and hang in there with faith in His word. They are to prove us.

**'Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you.'** It would be easy to read this verse and not catch its meaning, **"Although some strange thing happened unto you."**

In other words, Peter says, 'Why are you surprised? Weren't you expecting the fiery trials?' We have to remind ourselves to expect the trials on a daily basis and we have to have faith, daily, through the trials.

What if our Lord came today? I would not want Him catching any of us being faithless. Therefore, Peter warns us by saying, 'Why do you think it's strange that this is happening to you?' He states it twice!

Let us read the verse again.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:12. **'Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to prove you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.'** Do not think it is strange because it is happening to you. Trials are going to happen.

I have to admit sometimes when something hits me, I am saying, 'Why in the world is this happening?' I am guilty of doubt. In addition, I am sure that many of you are having a flash of recognition. You are as guilty as I am.

**'Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, to prove you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.'** Go back to Isaiah 41:10. **'Fear thou not, for I am with thee.'** God is speaking there. **'Be not dismayed.'** Back to first Peter, 4:12. **'Think it not**

**strange concerning the fiery trial which is to prove you.'** The message is the same - whether Old or New Testament.

If we can apply these simple instructions during the year ahead, but more frequently than during the last year, then we will know that our faith is growing with God. Remember that the purpose of our existence here on earth is to prepare us for eternity. God is preparing us for eternal life.

Not by any of our works - but by faith and by trusting in Him. Not by thinking that what is happening to us is strange - but by anticipating it and expecting it and then responding as God would want us to. We have a wonderful promise. And what is that promise? **'Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy God.'**

## **Elohim is our powerful God**

There are many different names for God. There is one particular name for God that is used 2500 times in the Old Testament. This is second only to the covenant name of Jehovah. So it is used often. So what is this name of God? **'For I am thy Elohim.'**

And what does Elohim mean? If you go to the different sources available, you will find that each has a slightly different definition on what the singular or plural name of Elohim means. The one factor that rings, repeatedly, in the description of this name is the powerful name of God. He is a powerful God. All definitions declare God to be supreme, eternal, almighty - the creator of the universe.

If you cannot remember all the definitions and attributes of Elohim, remember what Elohim means. He is a **powerful** God. Another description of Elohim is 'one who puts forth power'. He is the being to whom all powers belong. It applies to limitless, unqualified energy, a **powerful** God. Therefore, that is our promise.

What excites me is that we are not in this alone. Man will fail us, but we have a powerful God who is on our side. **'Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy Elohim'**, the creator of the universe with supreme power over everything. If you and I truly believe that, then we will have fewer fears to deal with. You and I will be less dismayed. We will not think it is strange that negative things are happening to us.

**'Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy Elohim'**. I am your powerful God. What an ally to have on our side! He is more than a trusted ally. He is our father, our creator and our reason for being. What a significant force to have fighting for us!

With our Elohim, we will be less dismayed. We will not think that the fiery trials are strange because we will have this almighty, powerful Elohim supporting us.

Let us continue. **'For I am thy Elohim. This is my promise, and this should be your hope and your promise. I, Elohim will strengthen thee.'** The Hebrew says it more clearly. Not, **I will**, as that is already past tense. Rather, **I have** strengthened thee.

God, Elohim, is questioning why we are depressed and miserable. Why are we dismayed? He asks, 'Haven't I strengthened thee?' If we live a life of faith and trust in His word, we will not doubt what God has promised. However, for those people who say, 'Once saved, always saved,' 'once you have faith, you always have faith,' it is just words. You must have disciplined practice and constantly trust in God's word.

**'For I am thy Elohim. I have strengthened thee. The Lord is my strength. The Lord is my powerful God. Yay, I will help thee.'** Not only has He strengthened us, but also He is going to help us. What a wonderful and powerful message. If you remember only one detail tonight, remember this.

How glorious a promise that we have a powerful God who will strengthen us and, additionally, help us. If only all of us could remember that more frequently. Then Satan would have no chance of manipulating us with his methods, his deceitfulness, his schemes, the fears he tries to plant in our minds.

Well, I am going to try to remember the message. I trust you will be able to remember it as well. **'Fear thou not, for I am with thee. Be not dismayed for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, Yay I will help thee.'**

## **Stay focused on the Lord**

That is not all He promises. Let us look at another promise. **'I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.'**

In addition, how do we become held up to have strength, to have fewer fears, to be less dismayed? By faith. Through His righteousness and by faith through His word. Not by our works but through faith. It has to be through God and His word.

'Oh God, give me the faith on a daily basis so I can have imputed into me, your righteousness.' That is what I will be praying for. That is what I will be asking for as I get up each day.

No, the enemy is not going to like it, but whom do you serve? Do you serve the devil or your Lord and Savior?

Too often, I hear, 'Oh I don't want to engage in a faith fight today'. Do not think it is strange. Expect it. And once you get past that point of expectancy, then you'll be able to move further along in your faith walk with Christ. You will have God's righteousness imputed into your life through faith.

That is what it is saying here folks. **'I will uphold thee, with the right hand of my righteousness'**. Go down to verse 13. **'The Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying to thee. Fear not, I will help thee.'**

My mentor used to point out that when God repeats Himself, we need to pay attention. Well, He has repeated Himself in verse 13 for our benefit. **"Fear not, I will help thee."**

I can only imagine. Here is the Elohim and now also the Lord Savior Jesus Christ, holding my right hand. Just imagine Him holding your right hand and saying, 'I will help thee!' Picture it in your mind. Have faith that God's word is real! He is holding your right hand.

Am I suggesting that when we are going through problems like business failure, a marriage that is about to fall apart, a physical or emotional illness, that He is holding our right hand? Yes I am. He is not only holding our right hand, He is also telling us that He is going to help us.

I came here this evening, the last Sunday of this year, to give us hope for the upcoming year. To give encouragement to all of us, me included, who are facing the fiery trials more often than any of us would like. To let you know that it is not strange that these things are happening to you or any of us. To let you know that the fears do not have to take over your life, because God is strengthening you. He is upholding you with his right hand of righteousness. He is helping you.

I suspect you are saying, 'That's Old Testament. How does that apply to you now?' OK. Let us go to the New Testament to Matthew, chapter 14. You are all very aware of this particular story. You will have seen volumes of books written about it and it is a very popular message. It applies to what I am saying tonight.

Mathew chapter 14, verse 25. **'And in the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went unto them.'** The Apostles went into a ship in the midst of the sea and they were being tossed around. Fear was creeping in. **'In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went unto the sea.'** This is the walking-on-the-water story that you hear so often. At verse 26, **'And when the disciples saw him walk on the sea, they were troubled. Saying, it is a spirit, and they cried out in fear'.**

See how easily it occurs so quickly. Fear creeps in, shifting your focus away from the Lord. These apostles had previously seen miracles, but still they could not trust Jesus to be their Savior and God Almighty. They were all aware of the Old Testament stories - how Moses parted the Red Sea, Elijah's feats, David's victories. They were aware that miracles happened, but they did not genuinely truly believe in them. Even when God was walking in the flesh with them, they did not believe.

When fear creeps in, we are on a fast downward road to confusion, anxiety, and conflict. Everything that is not faith in God will enter into your spirit and destroy you. **'And when the disciples observed Jesus walking on the sea they were troubled. Saying, it's a spirit, and they cried out for fear. But straight away Jesus spake unto them saying be of good cheer. It is I, be not afraid. And Peter answered him saying, Lord, if thou be, bid me come unto thee on the water. Jesus said Come. And when Peter came down off the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.'**

As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, Peter was not going to sink. As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will not lose our focus or faith in Him. However, when Peter saw the wind he was afraid. As soon as he turned his eyes off Jesus and began looking at the surrounding situation, fear crept back in. Moreover, beginning to sink, he cried out, saying **'Lord save me'**.

And this is where I wanted to make the connection. I definitely want to bring Isaiah 41:10 into Mathew 14. In the New Testament, **'And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and he caught him.'** Memorize that. In the Old Testament, **'For I the Lord, thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not I will help thee'**. He is saying it in the Old Testament. He is saying it in the New Testament. He wants to take hold of our hand. He wants to take hold of our right hand and help us through whatever we are going through - to calm our fears. He

wants to take our hand - so we are not dismayed, so that we do not think it strange that we are going through the fiery trial. He wants to take our hand with the sole purpose of helping us. **'I will help thee.'**

**'I, the Lord thy God, Elohim- powerful God; will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee; fear not, I will help thee.'** If only we could remember to put our trust and faith in God. He is willing to take our right hand, to hold us up, and to impute His righteousness in us. All we need to do is to have faith in His word.

We have a powerful God who goes before us. We have a Lord and Savior who is reaching out His hand to catch us when we fall. He knows our fears. He knows our temptations. He knows our anxieties. He knows our doubts and He knows our conflicts. However, He is there to help, because his promise declares, **'Fear not, I will help thee'**.

Remember Isaiah when you feel like you are slipping, when you feel like you have let fear enter into your life. Fear is not coming from God because, as Paul wrote to Timothy, **'God has not given us the spirit of fear'**.

Put yourself back into faith and faith in His word. Do not forget who your powerful God is. When those fiery trials bring you down and you are feeling overwhelmed, do not forget that God is there with you. Do not forget Him when those fears overwhelm you, He is your Elohim. He will give you strength. He will help you. He will uphold you with his right hand of righteousness.

Jesus reached out with His hand to catch Peter. Remember that He will also catch you. We have promises - and something to hope for - and to faith on, whenever we find ourselves in situations where it feels as though fear will overwhelm us.

Call out to God Elohim. Call out to the Lord Savior Jesus Christ. They will catch you. Remember to read this when you are facing those low moments in your life. To be lifted up in faith pressing towards the mark. To slap the enemy in the face and say, 'With a God like mine, what chance do you think you have against me? Get behind me Satan! Because that is, where you belong!

I have used the Old and the New Testaments to help you understand that once you recognize that God is all-powerful, you will understand that He is here to help you. He wants to catch you, as He saved Peter from sinking. You **will** gain confidence and faith by living by his word. You

will gain confidence and faith by knowing what His word says. You will gain confidence by acting in faith.

He is the creator, the one-in-charge, regardless of whether or not you like the way He works. Whether or not you like the roads He makes you take, God is in charge.

He is the creator, the all-powerful-God, the Elohim. As we place our trust in his son, Jesus Christ, we know that He who created us can sustain us. This wonderful truth, when fully comprehended, will help you overcome all fears and anxieties in your everyday life.

### **Remember these promises**

Go to chapter 41:10. Humbly come to your Elohim. Claim the promises - My Lord you will help me, you will sustain me, you will uphold me with your right hand and Lord what I bring to you is my total faith and trust so that I can have that imputed righteousness put into me.

As I stand before you tonight, I freely admit that I have had some doubts. Occasionally I have even thought I was not going to make it. And I'm fairly certain that I'll face similar thoughts again.

Nevertheless, I must lean and trust in His word.

We all have to live with the faith that God's word is true. Do not lose your grip. Claim it for yourself. You can make it, because we have a God, who is holding our right hand, who is helping us.

I am saying it repeatedly, so it sinks in. **'Fear not I will help thee.'**

And He will help us. Hang onto that promise and that faith, throughout your life.

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