

DO NOT FEAR

Those who belong to God have every assurance and resource available to them to be able to walk through life's circumstances and events with full confidence and with joy!

Luke 21: 25-26 (NIV) "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26: Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

(KJV) Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

- 1. Fear of world events**
- 2. Fear of the Dark**
- 3. Fear of people**

Some examples from Scripture.

a. Isaiah and the threat of invasions by powerful nations

Isaiah 8:11 This is what the LORD says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow

the way of this people. "Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.

b. The Early Church

The early church experienced of persecution for being followers of Christ.

1 Peter 3:13-14 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14: But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

c. Paul wrote to the Philippian believers from his prison cell

Philippians 1:27-28 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for

the faith of the gospel 28: without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved - and that by God.

HOW DO WE REPLACE FEAR?

We replace fear with FAITH!

Faith and trust and acceptance of God's promises to us.

Luke 21:28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

And what about the Great Commission – reaching the nations – in all of this?

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Question

How do we respond to frightening events and the unknown?

Things that we have no control over?