



July 29, 2018

“Don’t Be Afraid”

Isaiah 41 - 43

Pastor Gary Hamrick

There are more than 300 times in the Bible that God exhorts us to not be afraid or to be worried or to be anxious. Why? Because we are! Everyone wrestles with some kind of fear in his life or her life. No matter how tough we present ourselves, all of us deal with fear to some degree. Just between Isaiah 41 and Isaiah 43, we see that there are five times when God commands us not to be afraid, and that’s because he’s with us, he will help us, and he loves us. If you’ve ever struggled with fear in your life, you’ll be encouraged by this teaching by Pastor Gary.

Historical Background

1. The first 39 chapters of the book of Isaiah are primarily about God’s judgment and wrath, and the last 27 chapters are primarily about God’s grace and kindness.
2. Do not be afraid is a consistent theme in these chapters.
 - a. **Isaiah 41:10** – “So **do not fear**, for I am with you; **do not be dismayed**, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Emphasis added)
 - b. **Isaiah 41:13-14** – “ ‘For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, **Do not fear**; I will help you. **Do not be afraid**, O worm Jacob, O Little Israel, for I myself will help you,’ declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.” (Emphasis added)
 - c. **Isaiah 43:1, 5** – “But now, this is what the LORD says – he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘**Fear not**, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ... **Do not be afraid**, for I am with you...’ ” (Emphasis added)

3. The fear of the Israelites was the fear of war.
 - a. [Isaiah 41:11-13](#) - *“All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”*

4. Pastor Gary said: “God loves to bring emotional rest to his people. God delights in replacing your fears with his peace.”

5. Not all fears are bad or wrong.
 - a. Some fears are good/healthy, including the fear of God, which means to have an awesome respect and reverence for God, and the innate fear God gives us that protect us.
 - i. [Psalm 111:10](#) - *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...”*
 - b. Some fears are chemical, meaning that scientists understand and medical professionals have the ability to treat anxieties that are medical disorders.

6. Pastor Gary said: “[For] the majority of us, the kind of fear that we’re talking about today - the kind that God wants to address in our lives - are the impulsive reactions to life’s circumstances that are often a reflection that we don’t trust God. ... Fear is an emotional response to something that is often unknown or sometimes even unrealistic. Sometimes it’s not even real, but often it’s imagined. [This] kind of fear in our lives can have an effect on our lives, and [that] can range anywhere from something that’s a distraction in our daily living, to downright debilitating.”

7. An acronym for fear: False Events Appear Real

8. For Christians, fear is sin, because God gives us the command: *“Do not fear.”*

9. Pastor Gary said: “[God] will never tell us to do something or to not do something without also giving us the strength, the ability, the grace, or the power to comply.”

10. David had his share of fear, especially when King Saul spent about 10 years chasing after him intent on killing him.
 - a. [Psalm 56:3-4](#) - *“When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?”*
 - i. Bible scholars believe David wrote [Psalm 34](#) and [Psalm 56](#) from the Cave of Adullam, in which he was hiding from Saul and his men.
 - b. We know that before David became king he killed a bear and a lion with his own hands, and he slew Goliath, so it’s easy to see that he wasn’t a wimpy guy, yet he experienced fear and being afraid.

- c. David's fear wasn't imagined; it was reality, but he turned his fears over to God.
- d. **2 Timothy 1:7** - *"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."*
- e. **1 John 4:18** - *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear..."*
- f. Pastor Gary said: "God wants to deliver us from fear; Satan wants to capitalize on it. [Whenever] we give way to fear, we give access to Satan in our lives. [Whenever] we give way to faith, we give God greater access in our lives. [So] it becomes a choice for us. Are we going to operate in faith or are we going to operate in fear?"
 - i. Pastor Gary read the lyrics to Zach Williams' song *Fear Is A Liar*.¹

Do Not Be Afraid - God Is With You

- 11. **Isaiah 41:10a** - *"So do not fear, for I am with you..."* (Emphasis added)
- 12. In **Deuteronomy 31:1-8**, we read about the transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua, and Moses encouraged Joshua and the Israelites to remember that God would be with them.
 - a. **Deuteronomy 31:6** - *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of [your enemies], for **the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.**"* (Emphasis added)

Do Not Be Afraid - God Will Help You

- 13. **Isaiah 41:10** - *"... do not be dismayed, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**"* (Emphasis added)
- 14. **Psalms 46:1-3** - *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."*

Do Not Be Afraid - God Loves You

- 15. **Isaiah 43:1-5** - *"But now, this is what the LORD says - he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... Since*

¹ <http://zachwilliamsmusic.com/fear-is-a-liar-lyrics/>

you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you...' ” (Emphasis added)

- a. Pastor Gary said the phrase, “*I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life,*” are ancient words of redemption, which we can see in the Great Exchange of Jesus Christ.
 - i. **Romans 5:8** - “... *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”

You Need Jesus

16. Pastor Gary said: “You will not know the deliverance from fear in your life, until you have Jesus in your life. You need a relationship with the living Savior, so that you now have the Holy One, God Almighty, as your ultimate source to lean on. Without Jesus you are without hope. [There] are a lot of people in this world who do not know Jesus, and [the way] they deal with their fears through therapy and overmedication. ... Many people are suffering under the weight and burden of fear, worry, and anxiety, oftentimes simply because they don’t know the Prince of Peace, who will give them the ultimate peace.
17. A new acronym: My Father Eternal Almighty Reigns
18. **Philippians 4:6-7** - “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

Discussion Questions

1. Read **Isaiah 41:1, 5, 10-14** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about fear. (See #6 above)
3. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s acronym for fear, which emphasizes being fearful about things/events that appear to be real. (See #7 above)
4. What was your reaction to Pastor Gary’s statement that fear is sin? (See #8 above)
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about Satan’s desire to use fear to harm us. (See #10f above)

6. Spend time talking about David and the fear he experienced while being on the run from King Saul, and how David resolved to turn his fear over to the Lord, from whom he received help. (See #10 above)
7. How have you seen the Lord intervene or bring needed help to you in a time when you were fearful? (See #11 through #14 above)
8. Read and discuss [Isaiah 43:1-5](#). (See #15 above)
9. Close your meeting by reading Pastor Gary's comments about the deliverance the Lord brings into our lives. (See #16 and #17 above)
10. Close your time by praying the Scriptures.
 - a. Ask a member of your group to read [Philippians 4:6-7](#). (See #18 above)

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).