

Conquer Your Fears

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Introduction:

Fear, it's such a common emotion that can control our thoughts and actions in such an incredible way. It seems like we all had some kind of fear when we were kids. The fear of water, or darkness, or maybe heights, for example. I think one of my biggest regrets from high school happened because of my fear of heights. I had gone on a trip to Carowinds but chose not to ride the roller coasters because of their height. Now, I love huge roller coasters, they are so much fun! Really, it wasn't as much a fear of heights as it was a fear of the unknown. I think that is what holds us back the most in Soul Winning: the fear of the unknown, in reference to speaking to others. "It's estimated that as much as 75% of the population struggles with a fear of public speaking to a certain degree. That means some 238 million people feel nervous about talking to others." – (www.google.com)

1. Understand your responsibility – Evangelism

- a. The great commission is not just for vocational ministry positions; it is for everyone who has put their faith in Christ. (Mt. 28:18-20)
- b. Someone cared enough to share the Gospel with you, so be willing to share it with others that God brings into your life.

2. Understand your resources – 2 Tim. 1:7-8

- a. God has given us the Holy Spirit and He will provide us with a spirit (or attitude) of strength, love and self-control.
 - i. When we walk in the Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, He will provide these attributes.
 - ii. God reminded Joshua of the same thing three times in the first chapter of Joshua – Be strong and of a good courage.
 - iii. "Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear." – FDR "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway." – John Wayne.
 - iv. Though your emotions may be telling you to turn back, run or hide (fear); we must choose to follow the Holy Spirit's leading instead.
- b. God has given us His Word and it will provide us with the understanding we need to be of good courage
 - i. Joshua 1:8 says success comes from meditating on God's Word
 - ii. Often the biggest fear in soul winning is, "do I even have the ability to answer the questions they may have?" Instead of that crippling our abilities to share the Gospel, this should motivate us to learn more about what it is that we believe.

3. Understand your reward

- a. You have been given eternal life (v. 10) – yes, you are sharing the good news of how one can obtain eternal life, but how can anyone threaten you in this life, you have been promised eternal life!
- b. You will earn eternal rewards (1 Cor. 3:11-15) – this world is only temporary, choosing to share the truth with this world will not only prepare them for the next but it will earn you rewards in the next.
- c. You have immediate rewards – if you will put your fears behind you, the joy of seeing the gospel go forward will grow your walk with Christ in a whole new way!

Conclusion:

Fear can control your life in many ways, and it certainly can control your spiritual life if you are not careful. The Bible says that we should fear God rather than men. Many times, if we would win the battle of our mind (2 Cor. 10:5), we could overcome the fear that prevents us from one of the greatest joys in Christianity – sharing our faith with others!