



DATE	April 17, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	The Future
SERIES	What keeps you up at night? Perhaps it's the finances, family matters, someone's health, a feeling of betrayal or a regret that haunts you. Or maybe it's a lack of purpose or direction for the future. It feels like you're facing it all alone until you realize, you are never alone! God is near, and He promises peace and rest.

INTRODUCTION: Each week we all hear the same message from Pastor Smith, but what we all hear is unique to how the Holy Spirit speaks to each of us in conjunction with the circumstances of our lives. Before digging into the questions for group sharing, what did you personally hear the Holy Spirit say through the message God placed upon Pastor David's heart to teach?

1. *Chronophobia* is an irrational fear of the future. How often do you suffer from chronophobia? What is your one reoccurring cause for chronophobia? When you are in a state of chronophobia, what is your coping mechanism? How do you find your way out?
2. Where do your expectations for the future originate from? Walk through Pastor David's three thoughts on life as you revisit the corresponding verses he provided. How do these three thoughts work themselves into your daily life as you look at the future?
 - a. Life is short – **James 4:13-15**
 - b. It should be a lot worse – **Lamentations 3:23**
 - c. It's a marathon; not a sprint – **Philippians 3:12-14**
3. Why are people so opposed to change? How should your faith affect how you approach change in your life? Share the last time change *tested* your faith. Share a time change *strengthened* your faith. God is not bound by time, yet as created beings, we are. Why do you think God made time? How does the passing of time relate to change?
4. Read **Acts 1:3-9**. According to Acts 1:8, how did the lives of the disciples change after Jesus left them? Pastor David said change is good, can be hard, and is the only constant. How are all three of these thoughts evident in Acts 1:3-9? How is the Holy Spirit involved in your life, your fears, and your future? According to Jesus in **Matthew 6:35-34**, what should our attitude be toward our future?
5. *Fear of the future is faded by wisdom*. Using **Ephesians 5:15-16** explain how the truth of this statement. What does it mean to know God? How does knowing God better empower us to face the future? Why do you think wisdom will fade our fear of the future? If possible, use Scripture to support your thoughts.
6. Read **Acts 2:42-47**. Walk through the six truths Pastor David shared regarding wisdom, and their corresponding verses. Discuss what each truth looks like in your personal walk with Christ. Which are your strengths and which are weaknesses?
 - a. Wisdom means *power to face the future* – **Colossians 2:3**
 - b. Wisdom means *stretching our minds* – **Psalms 19:7; 119:130**
 - c. Wisdom means *understanding our need for each other* – **Proverbs 11:4**
 - d. Wisdom means *participating in worship*
 - e. Wisdom means *hearing from God* – **James 1:5**
 - f. Wisdom means having *open hands and an open heart*

CLOSING: What are some practical steps you can take this week to intentionally seek wisdom to experience freedom from your fears? Close your time with the reading of **Ecclesiastes 7:25**.