

Faith Over Fear

We are in uncertain times. As the pandemic continues, no one's quite sure what will happen next or how concerned we should be. Right now, what we need is faith over fear. Throughout history, many of the Church's finest hours have come when, in the middle of desperate circumstances, faith emerges. Let's listen to Jesus' words in John 14, "Rise, let us go from here."



INTRODUCTION

Especially in uncertain times, the way to have faith over fear is found with peace. Today's message reminds us that peace is available to us through the Holy Spirit and that the peace of Christ is different than the world's peace.

STARTER QUESTION

How has your routine with work, family, social situations, and church been disrupted because of the coronavirus? What has been your biggest concern or fear with this virus? How can we respond to this uncertainty from a Christian standpoint?

INTO THE WORD

Read Philippians 4:6-7 and John 16:33. Discuss how we can apply this to our current situation. What does it mean to say that Biblical peace does not depend on our circumstances?

Read Isaiah 41:10; Joshua 1:9; and Psalm 23:4. What do these verses say about God's faithfulness to you? What are His directions for you to follow?

Read Acts 4:32-37. How did the early believers serve and "be the Church?" What are some practical ways to love our neighbors?

APPLICATION

John 14:25-31 offers four principles: 1. Peace is available 2. Don't be afraid 3. Trust in God's faithfulness 4. Be the Church. Which point resonates most with you right now? What action or attitude can you take from applying any of these principles to your life?

John 14 discusses the "Helper" of the Holy Spirit. The Greek word is "paraclete," or defined as "I am with you." The Helper is "the one called in to protect you." How does that give you peace, knowing that God is with you and wants to give you peace in uncertain times? How can you be a dispenser of peace to others?

Scripture tells us that spending time with God gives peace and wisdom, which in turn, takes our eyes off of our problems (Isaiah 26:3; Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5, etc.). What are some ways to tune out the world's response to trouble and to spend more time listening to God's response?

PRAYER

Pray this week that God will fill us not with "a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7). Ask God to give you wisdom in how you can be a tool to share His love and peace with your family, your friends, and your community.