



# Those Who Serve God Without Fear

A Teaching Outline

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## **Those Not Fearing**

**Fear not those who come to do the Lord's work.**

### **1 Corinthians 16:10**

**Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am.**

Paul was sending Timothy ahead to Corinth. Paul respected Timothy and had worked closely with him (Philippians 2:22; 1 Timothy 1:2). Although Timothy was young, Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to welcome him because he was doing the Lord's work. God's work is not limited by age. Paul wrote two personal letters to Timothy that have been preserved in the Bible (1 and 2 Timothy).

**Speak the word of God without fear.**

### **Philippians 1:14**

**And that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.**

In the past, missionaries—those who spread the Good News—boarded ships to go to foreign lands and did not expect to see their homeland shores again. Their good-byes were final, in terms of earth time. There was no turning back. While air travel, e-mail, and other technologies have made worldwide separation much easier, pioneering with the Good News still requires a high sacrifice. Paul's passion was for others to discover the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ, no matter what the cost would be. Pressing through frontiers of spiritual darkness still requires pioneers today—people who will reach neglected people or new people groups. Pray for missionaries, support them, and join them.

Being imprisoned would cause many people to become bitter or to give up, but Paul saw it as one more opportunity to spread the Good News of Christ.

Paul realized that his current circumstances weren't as important as what he did with them.

Turning a bad situation into a good one, he reached out to the Roman soldiers who made up the palace guard and encouraged those Christians who were afraid of persecution.

We may not be in prison, but we still have plenty of opportunities to be discouraged—times of indecision, financial burdens, family conflict, church conflict, or the loss of our jobs. How we act in such situations will reflect what we believe. Like Paul, look for ways to demonstrate your faith even in bad situations. Whether or not the situation improves, your faith will grow stronger.

### **The parents of Moses did not fear the king's command.**

#### **Hebrews 11:23**

**By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.**

Moses' parents trusted God to protect their son's life. They were not merely proud parents; they were believers who had faith that God would care for him.

As a parent, have you trusted God enough to take care of your children? God has a plan for every person, and your important task is to pray for your children and prepare them to do the work God has planned for them to do.

Faith allows us to entrust even our children to God

## **Moses did not fear the wrath of the king.**

### **Hebrews 11:27**

**By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.**

Moses became one of Israel's greatest leaders, a prophet and a lawgiver. But when he was born, his people were slaves in Egypt, and the Egyptian officials had ordered that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed.

Moses was spared, however, and Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses in Pharaoh's own household (Exodus 1-2)! It took faith for Moses to give up his place in the palace, but he could do it because he saw the fleeting nature of great wealth and prestige.

It is easy to be deceived by the temporary benefits of wealth, popularity, status, and achievement, and to be blind to the long-range benefits of God's Kingdom. Faith helps us look beyond the world's value system to see the eternal values of God's Kingdom.

True wealth is eternal. Consider the most powerful or well-known people in our world—how many got where they are by being humble, self-effacing, and gentle? Not many! But in the life to come, the last will be first—if they got in last place by choosing to follow Jesus.

Hebrews has a critical message for earth-loving Christians. Don't forfeit eternal rewards for temporary benefits. Like Moses, be willing to make sacrifices now for greater rewards later (Matthew 6:19-21).

**Do not fear evil reports.**

### **Jeremiah 51:46**

**"Now so that your heart does not grow faint, And you are not afraid at the report that will be heard in the land-- For the report will come one year, And after that another report in another year, And violence will be in the land With ruler against ruler.**

The people were paralyzed with guilt over their past. The Babylonian armies had desecrated the Temple and the people were ashamed to return to Jerusalem. But God told them to return to the city because he would destroy Babylon for its sins.

**The man of the earth will no longer cause terror.**

### **Psalm 10:18**

**To vindicate the orphan and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth will no longer cause terror.**

Proud people depend on themselves rather than on God. This causes God's guiding influences to leave their lives. When God's presence is welcome, there is no room for pride because he makes us aware of our true selves.

God sees and takes note of each evil deed, encourages us, and listens to our cries (10:17). He is always with us. We can face the wicked because we do not face them alone. God is by our side.

**God has given us a spirit of power and love and a sound mind.**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.**

Timothy was experiencing great opposition to his message and to himself as a leader. His youth, his association with Paul, and his leadership had come under fire from believers and nonbelievers alike. Paul urged him to be bold. When we allow people to intimidate us, we neutralize our effectiveness for God. The power of the Holy Spirit can help us overcome our fear of what some might say or do to us so that we can continue to do God's work.

**The Lord will never be afraid nor terrified.**

**Jeremiah 23:4**

**"I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.**

Those responsible to lead Israel in God's path were the very ones responsible for Israel's present plight, and so God had decreed harsh judgment against them. Leaders are held responsible for those entrusted to their care. Whom has God placed in your care? Remember that you are accountable to God for those you influence and lead.

**The virtuous woman will not be afraid of the snow.**

### **Proverbs 31:21**

**She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet.**

The woman described in this chapter has outstanding abilities. Her family's social position is high. In fact, she may not be one woman at all—she may be a composite portrait of ideal womanhood.

Do not see her as a model to imitate in every detail; your days are not long enough to do everything she does!

See her instead as an inspiration to be all you can be. We can't be just like her, but we can learn from her industry, integrity, and resourcefulness.

**Their house is safe from fear.**

### **Job 21:9**

**Their houses are safe from fear, and the rod of God is not on them.**

Job refuted Zophar's idea that evil people never experience wealth and happiness, pointing out that in the real world the wicked do indeed prosper.

God does as he wills to individuals (21:22-25), and people cannot use their circumstances to measure their own goodness or God's—they are sometimes (but not always) related.

Success to Job's friends was based on outward performance; success to God, however, is based on a person's heart.

**God is without fear.**

**Job 41:33**

**"Nothing on earth is like him, one made without fear.**

Job was quoting the Lord's earlier questions to him (38:2, 3). He openly and honestly faced God and admitted that he was the one who had been foolish.

Are you using what you can't understand as an excuse for your lack of trust? Admit to God that you don't even have enough faith to trust him. True faith begins in such humility.

**God is not dismayed by fear.**

**Job 39:22**

**"He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; and he does not turn back from the sword.**

God asked Job several questions about the animal kingdom in order to demonstrate how limited Job's knowledge really was. God was not seeking answers from Job. Instead, he was getting Job to recognize and submit to God's power and sovereignty. Only then could he hear what God was really saying to him.

**An invitation is given to open your heart's door.**

**Rev. 3:20**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

**To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*.

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