

## Bermudian Church of the Brethren

**WEDNESDAY'S WORD** – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler  
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week  
August 22 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #754

## When I'm Afraid

(Pastor Larry shared this message today at The Brethren Home – Cross Keys Village mid-week worship)

When Larry was a little boy I was afraid of spiders, mice & snakes. Yeeeck!

As a shy teenager I was afraid that maybe no girl would like me. And yeah, I still didn't like spiders, mice & snakes.

As a college age young man I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to find a job in my chosen field of architecture. And I still worried that no girl would like me. And yes, I was still afraid of spiders, mice & snakes.

When the Lord called me to ministry ... oh boy ... my fears really amped up! I had messed up BIG time! Would any church have me? During this time a girl did like me and we got married. But I still was afraid of spiders, mice & snakes.

Three more years of college and three years of seminary, and then my first call to a little church in Indiana. A new baby girl. Then a new baby boy. Talk about fears! Could I be a good pastor? Would the church like me? Could I be a good daddy? And oh yeah, spiders, mice & snakes.

A lot of years have rolled by. That little girl and that little boy are all grown up. They each have children of their own. Jaxsen was born at Christmas. He's a big boy. He makes me laugh. I love him so very much. I'm afraid ... when I look into those big dark eyes ... what kind of world will he have to grow up in? Will he be safe? Happy? Will I be around to see him graduate from high school? Get married? Have children of his own? My great grandchildren? And yes friends, I'm still afraid of ... spiders, mice and snakes!

What makes you afraid? Health issues? Financial issues? Political turmoil? Raising children? Family issues? End of this life decisions? Being afraid is part of life. It isn't something we grow out of. But something there is help for!

Jesus faced being afraid. He understands fear. In the hours before His execution, knowing that the full sin burden of the world would be upon Him, and knowing well the agony of Roman crucifixion that awaited Him, He said.

***"My heart is overwhelmed with anguish and crushed with grief. It feels as though I'm dying."*** Mark 14:34 TPT

And He prayed to His Father in Heaven,

***"My Father, if there is any way You can deliver me from this suffering, please take it from me. Yet what I want is not important, for I only desire to fulfill Your plan for me."***

Matthew 26:39 TPT

And when the Bible speaks of His sweat being mingled with blood, what is being described is a medical condition known as hematomatosis, when under severe, severe, stress the tiny capillaries in the forehead burst and blood seeps out of the sweat glands.

Yes, our Lord knew what it means to be afraid. He understands your fears. And mine.

In Psalm 56, King David is being held prisoner by the Philistines. His life was in jeopardy. He was afraid. And from his fear, he gives us two important Biblical antidotes for fear. Two important steps to take when we are afraid.

***"When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose Word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid."*** Psalm 56:2-3 NIV

1. **Turn to God's Word** – the promises of God are good medicine. Why? Because when we read the Bible, and know its history we see how absolutely trustworthy are the promises of God. If God says He will do something ... He will do it. The 300 promises alone fulfilled in the birth, life & death of Jesus. Fulfilled perfectly! Give us great assurance that EVERY promise of God is sure. He promises to never leave us alone. (Hebrews 13:5) He promises that nothing can ever separate us from His love. (Romans 8:38-39) Feeling afraid? Turn to God's Word. Read! Listen! Memorize! Trust!
2. **Turn to praise** – Even in the midst of fear & uncertainty ... praise! Sing a favorite hymn. Pray the Lord's prayer. Come to worship. Pray with a trusted Christian friend. The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. (Psalm 22:3 KJV) We are never closer to the Lord than when we worship. Feeling afraid? Want to feel the Lord near? Praise Him!

The African American slaves of our history, upon coming to faith in Christ, wrote many wonderful Spirituals to help them hang on thru very, very difficult days. Fearful times. They would sing them as they worked in the fields. I love the Spiritual *"There Is A Balm in Gilead."* The song is based on a verse from Jeremiah. God has warned Israel that because of their disobedience the nation of Babylon was being allowed to overthrow them. It would be bad. On the east side of Jordan in an area known as Gilead, there grew a plant whose fluid was very soothing & healing. As the Jews heard the prophet's words of coming calamity they cried out, ***"Is there no balm in Gilead?"*** (Jeremiah 8:22) I imagine the Negro slaves working long, exhausting, hot hours. Afraid for their lives, but singing,

*"There is a balm in Gilead, To make the wounded whole; There is a balm in Gilead, To heal the sin-sick soul.*

*Some times I feel discouraged, And think my work's in vain, But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again.*

*(Chorus)*

*If you cannot preach like Peter, If you can't preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, And say He died for all."*

*(Chorus)* (We're going to sing it @ Bermudian Church of the Brethren this Sunday)

So, dear ones, are you feeling afraid today? Does anything have you worried or fearful? Know that you are not alone. Fear is a common emotion. And the Lord does understand! I still can't stand spiders, mice & snakes! But when we are afraid, turn to His wonderful, proven, trustworthy Word and stand upon His promises! And then praise Him! Praise Him with your whole being! For all He has done for you ... for all He is doing for you! Sing! Praise! And let your fears melt into trust!

The Lord loves you so! He really does! Pastor Larry <><