

WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID
TOUGH QUESTIONS, REAL ANSWERS
Pastor Dennis Clanton
Woodland Church
Sunday, March 24, 2019

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David.

1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."

"I will fear no evil; For You are with me."(Psalm 23, NKJV)

1. WHAT FEAR IS HOLDING YOU BACK?

"Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety."
(Proverbs 29:25, NLT)

- Identify
- Name
- Unmask

a. FROM RECEIVING CHRIST.

“God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5:8, NLT)

“It is true that through the sin of one man death began to rule because of that one man. But how much greater is the result of what was done by the one man, Jesus Christ! All who receive God’s abundant grace and are freely put right with him will rule in life through Christ.” (Romans 5:17, GN)

“This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the worst of them,” (1 Timothy 1:15, GN)

b. FROM PURSUING GOD’S DREAM FOR YOUR LIFE.

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9, NLT)

“Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” (Philippians 2:12–13, NLT)

2. FAITH NOT FEAR WILL DEFINE MY LIFE.

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

Nelson Mandela

“I can lie down and sleep soundly because you, LORD, will keep me safe.” (Psalm 4:8, CEV)

“When I was upset and beside myself, you calmed me down and cheered me up.” (Psalm 94:19, Message)

a. LISTEN TO MUSIC THAT GLORIFIES GOD.

“All the earth worships you and sings praises to you. They sing praises to your name.” Selah (Psalm 66:4, NCV)

b. READ YOUR BIBLE, BOOKS AND ARTICLES THAT GROW YOUR FAITH.

“When I am afraid, I will trust you. I praise God for his word. I trust God, so I am not afraid. What can human beings do to me?” (Psalm 56:3–4, NCV)

*“Keep this Book of the Law always **on your lips**; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8, NIV)*

c. DO LIFE WITH FAITHFUL PEOPLE.

*“It’s the rule of the sea,” they told me. “When a ship is in trouble we stay with it until released by the Coast Guard. After all, today it was you, but tomorrow it might be one of our boats that needs assistance.”
Westfall, J. F., *Getting Past What You’ll Never Get Over**

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NLT)

3. OWN THE NEW IDENTITY GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9–10, NLT)

GROWTHWORK

“Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, and give up your sins— even those you do in secret. Then you won’t be ashamed; you will be confident and fearless. Your troubles will go away like water beneath a bridge, and your darkest night will be brighter than noon. You will rest safe and secure, filled with hope and emptied of worry.” (Job 11:13–18, CEV)

1. IDENTIFY THE FEAR HOLDING YOU BACK.
2. YOU ARE WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE.
3. WHAT RESOURCES OR WHO CAN HELP YOU OVERCOME YOUR FEAR.
4. WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW.