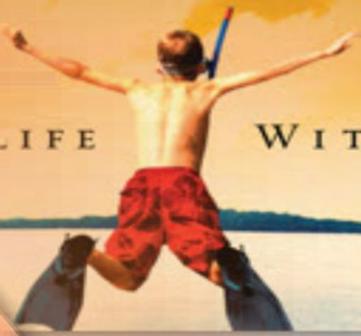


Fearless

IMAGINE YOUR LIFE

WITHOUT FEAR



Life
without fear

Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?

Matthew 8: 26

Hymn/Zoom Service

The King of Love my shepherd is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LF2M8nvKK9k>

Hymn: Second/live service

1. The King of love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever
2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth
3. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee dear Lord beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me
4. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever

CCLI Song # 40681, Henry Williams Baker. Public Domain

Opening Prayer/Song (An adaptation of a song entitled, Fearless)

Songwriters: Dave Kull and others Fearless Lyrics © Integrity's Praise Music

Lord God, we stand together with a heart's cry to give You praise and lift Your name high. We dance and celebrate Your love. We know there's power in Your presence to change our lives and our forever. Jesus, come lead the way, we're running after You. Let Your freedom reign, so chains will break and fear turns into joy. Let Your love restore our brokenness, so hearts will come alive.

Our God, you are with us, you are for us. We are victorious, You make us fearless. You make all things new. Where You walk, will follow. Our hearts are on fire for You, fearless we live for You. Where You walk, we follow. Fearless, we live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord' Prayer

Life without fear (Part 1) 'Imagine your life without fear'

Max writes, 'each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. They're talking layoffs at work, slowdowns in the economy, flare-ups in the Middle East, turnovers at headquarters, downturns in the housing market, upswings in global warming. The plague of our day, terrorism, begins with the word terror. Fear, it seems, has taken up a hundred-year lease on the building next door and set up shop. Oversized and rude, fear herds us into a prison of unlocked doors.

Wouldn't it be great to walk out? Imagine your life, wholly untouched by angst. What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? If you could hover a fear magnet over your heart and extract every last shaving of dread, insecurity, or doubt, what would remain? Envision a day, just one day, where you could trust more and fear less. Can you imagine your life without fear'?

Song: Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAdRk9c1R1o>

Bible Reading: Matthew 8:23-27 (NKJV)

Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marvelled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Life without fear (Part 2) - 'Life without fear'

Max begins his book with an unsurprising reminder that fear is real. He shares a personal ordeal involving his own brother Dee who for forty years, with substance abuse and misuse. He died after spending two fruitful years with the AA. Unfortunately, Dee joined the AA when the heavy drinking and the three packs of cigarettes he

smoked everyday had already taken their toll. His family were left in shock following his quick passing. But they were also comforted, during this sad moment, by a sign he left for them saying, I love you. I believe this is what they needed to be strong, to live on, to live their dreams, not their fears.

Max suggests that his brother must have plucked up a lot courage in his last and fear-stricken moment to leave a message of hope for his family. That is what we all need to conquer fear in our lives, in our family, in our communities, in our nation in Mama earth – Courage, hope, resilience, faith - not the fruitless efforts of many that involve surrounding themselves with large armies, warheads, nuclear weapons and fortresses.

Fear is real. If it is not us that are fearful or fear-stricken, then it is the many individuals, families and groups around us. We fear being sued, finishing last, going broke; we fear the mole on the back, the new kid on the block, the sound of the clock as it ticks us closer to the grave. Fear is unwilling to share the heart with happiness. It is the big bully in the high school hallway: brash, loud, and unproductive. For all the noise fear makes and room it takes, fear does little good.

Max invites us to envision a day, just one day, where such suspicion, unease, the dread of failure, rejection, and calamity are absent. Can you imagine a life with no fear? This is the possibility behind Jesus' question. "Why are you fearful?" he asks (Matt. 8:26). To the fearful, to the fear-stricken, Jesus says, "fear not". 21 times Jesus, urges us to "not be afraid" or "not fear" or "have courage" or "take heart" or "be of good cheer." Jesus takes our fears seriously. The one statement he made more than any other was this: don't be afraid.

Prayer for ourselves and others

Lord God, we pray for the strength to be thankful for today and to enjoy the now in the midst of challenges. Lord, help us to focus on what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives. We are not alone in our fight against all forms of fear. The Holy Spirit and your angels stand with us, around us and in us.

Thank you, Lord, for the "one-step victories" in our lives, not perfect obedience, not perfect performance, not human perfect peace, not our righteousness - but the righteousness by faith in Jesus and His grace. We thank you, Jesus, that you make allowance for our weaknesses, failures, sins, doubts, unbelief, and when fear controls our thoughts and actions. Help us to reject arguing or debating with the devil, with our flesh, and our guilty conscience and fall upon the love, grace, mercy, peace, and the righteousness of Jesus who is our shield and redeemer. Thank you, Lord, for helping us overcome and deliver us from our fears of the known and the unknown.

Lord Jesus, we know that worrying gets us nowhere. Yet we still allow worry and anxiety to consume us. In times such as these, Lord, we ask you to grant us a great amount of strength, faith, and courage to fight off the doubt and fear within our minds. Faith casts out fear while fear casts out faith. We remember your fear-stricken people in eastern Mediterranean region where snowfall has disrupted life for internally displaced people in camps in Syria. We remember your people still

crossing, or trying to cross, the border between Myanmar and Thailand. We pray for women in Guatemala who celebrate their judicial victory in sexual violence cases over half a century. We also pray for all who suffer FGM and hymenoplasty.

We give thanks for plans to reopen New Zealand to the world after two years of covid travel restrictions. Bless your people in Afghanistan with 'next steps' following the talks in Oslo, Norway and draw close to Ukraine as Satellite images reveal a build-up of Russia's military presence in Crimea. We also pray for all those whose lives have been turned upside down by political and economic upheaval, especially Kazakhstan and Haiti.

Lord God, we pray with these examples to focus our thoughts and prayers, we remember that these scary events repeat and recur in many families, communities and nations. When we feel crushed by our own worries, lift our minds and help us to see the truth. When fear grips us tight and we feel we cannot move, free our heart and help us to take things one step at a time. When we cannot express the turmoil inside, calm us with Your quiet words of love. We choose to trust in You, each day, each hour, each moment of our lives. We know deep down that we are in Your grace, forgiven, restored by Your sacrifice. You have set us all free. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn/ Zoom Service: Be still my soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hggC1tqifV8&t=34s>

Hymn - Second/Live Service (Tune: Finlandia)

1. Be still my soul the lord is on your side
Bear patiently the weight of grief or pain
Leave to your God to order and provide
Through every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul your gracious heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end
2. Be still my soul your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Your hope your confidence let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul the winds and waves will know
The voice of Christ that ruled them here below
3. Be still my soul the day is hastening on
When we shall be for ever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgotten loves pure joys restored
Be still my soul when change and tears are past
In His safe presence we shall meet at last

CCLI Song # 3315316, Jane Laurie Borthwick | Kathrina Amalia von Schlegel

Benediction



May the Lord bless us
and protect us.
May the Lord smile on us
and be gracious to us.
May the Lord show us His favour
and give us His peace.

And may the grace...