

I'M AFRAID
Making a Comeback – Part 8

COMMON FEARS WE FACE BECAUSE OF SETBACKS IN OUR LIFE:

FEAR #1: Mary: Fear of **INADEQUACY**

“Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. So, the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary. for God has decided to bless and use you! You will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus . . . and he will be the Son of God, and his Kingdom will never end!’ Then Mary asked, ‘But how can this be?’” Luke 1:29-34

FEAR #2: Joseph: Fear of **DISAPPROVAL**

“Now this is how Jesus Christ was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, being a good and righteous man, decided to break off the engagement quietly, so it would not disgrace Mary publicly. But after he had considered doing this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child in her is from God’s Holy Spirit.’” Matthew 1:18-20

FEAR #3: Shepherds: Fear of **UNEXPECTED** change.

“That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory flashed and surrounded them. They were terribly frightened, so the angel said to them ‘do not be afraid!’” Luke 2:8-10

FEAR #4: King Herod: Fear of **LOSING CONTROL**

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the time that Herod was the king of the Jews . . . Then some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and started asking: ‘Where is the child born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him!’ When King Herod heard this news, he was deeply frightened and disturbed, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem!” Matthew 2:1-3

FEAR #5: Zechariah: Fear of being **DISAPPOINTED**

“While serving in the Temple an angel appeared to Zechariah. When he saw the angel, he was confused and overwhelmed with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid! Your prayer has been heard!” Luke 1:11-13

HOW CAN I REPLACE MY FEARS WITH FAITH?

1. SURRENDER my life COMPLETELY to God daily.

“Mary responded, ‘I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever God wants for my life!’” Luke 1:38

“Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, and give up your sins. 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. Then you’ll rest safe and secure, filled with hope and emptied of worry!” Job 11:13-18

2. STOP listening to the voices of FEAR

“Whatsoever is not based on faith is sin.” Romans 14:23

3. Fill my mind with MUSIC that PRAISES God.

“Then Mary sang, ‘With all my heart I praise the Lord! I rejoice in God my Savior, for he notices and cares for me, a simple servant girl! . . . He has blessed me, and He is the Mighty One who is holy . . . He is All-Powerful . . . He can do anything . . . He meets all our needs . . . and He keeps his promises!” Luke 1:46-56

4. Base your HOPE on the PROMISES of God.

Elizabeth said to Mary, “You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.” Luke 1:45

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in God. And when I trust in God, I am not afraid! I praise him for what he has promised.” Psalm 56:3-4