

Topical Message
Battling Fear
Pastor Mac

KAPONO: Would you join me in a word of prayer? Loving Father, we thank You so much for this time that we can gather together. And just like prayer, sometimes we just don't feel like it. Same goes for worship, well, many things for that matter. But we thank You that we are here this morning and that we do it despite whatever it is that we're going through, that in it, what a blessing, Lord.

Would You continue as we get into Your word, Lord, to encourage and teach us, Lord, and may You give us a focus that we may not be distracted, Lord. Be with Pastor Mac, Lord, and his family as Your faithful servant continues to do Your will. Help him to stand up strong with courage and a boldness, Lord, through Your Holy Spirit to do what it is You called him to do, Lord. Bless his teaching this morning. In Your word, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR MAC: Praise the Lord. Thank you and please be seated. I want to first start by saying good morning. [Congregation says, "Good morning!"] Yes. That's it. That's exactly what it is despite how we may feel. And on behalf of Pastor JD Farag, I want to welcome you here to our livestreamed service on this Sunday at Calvary Kaneohe.

For those of you who are visiting for the first time, we welcome you and pray that you're blessed by the love and fellowship. And prayerfully, you got a chance to go into the Fellowship Hall. We have a delightful treat for you today. Fried Locust.

[Laughter]

It's delicious!

[Laughter]

They said it tastes like bacon.

[Laughter]

That was a part of our Thursday night teaching, so it was an inside joke. But there's no locust out there. I'm only kidding.

[Laughter]

But if you have some, let me know. But welcome. And we thank you for coming. I do want to remind everyone about our next prayer meeting that will be held here in the sanctuary on the 4th of June at 7:00 p.m. So if you are able to come, please come out so we can pray as a church body.

There's many things to pray for. And in these dark and perverted times, we need as much prayer as we can give and do. And I guess and would pray that you all agree with that. If you're not able to make it, just stop, drop, and pray wherever you are. Praise the Lord.

All right. On Sundays we have two services. The First Service is normally dedicated to the Prophecy Update and the second one to the sermon. For today, I would ask you to join me in the *Book of 2 Timothy Chapter 1*. We'll pick it up at *verse 6*. And I would ask all who are able to stand to do so for the reading of the scriptures this morning, followed by a word of prayer. *2 Timothy Chapter 1*, well-known passages of Scripture.

As the word of God reads, **“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and**

Topical Message
Battling Fear
Pastor Mac

of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God..."

Why don't we pray and ask for the blessing on this teaching this morning? Father in heaven, thank You, Lord. We pray that You would meet us here in a special and unique way. Despite how many times we may have gone through this scripture, bring something new because Your word is alive and active.

And may it activate our hearts in a way that we may serve You better. So Lord, speak to us as we sit here with our ears open. Open our hearts and our minds to receive Your word of truth. In the mighty name of Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, we do pray. Amen.

All right. Please be seated and thank you. This morning, the title of our teaching is 'Battling Fear.' And I don't care who you are or what your status is on this earth. Everyone has battles with fear. And just simply saying "trust in God" will not automatically end our battles with fear even though in the end, that's the simple answer.

But if that was the absolute empowering expression, then we would not need all of the words that we have captured in the scriptures that deals with fear. These accounts are there to show us how real fear is as well as to show how loving and good our God is who knows that all of us will often be impacted by fear.

If we are living for God, especially each and every day, we face something that has the potential to just shake us up. And on many occasions, we only have a short period of time to activate protocol: Get to Jesus. Are you following me? Because if not, and kinds of things come in the mind. And they are not healthy.

But God is faithful to provide that much-needed comfort and words of encouragement in order for us not to be crippled by fear. And this is one of the major battles that the Apostle Paul knew that Timothy would be dealing with regarding threats from within the church and from without. And as it pertains to this portion of this letter, the Apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit, would speak a passage of Scripture that deals with fear head on because of the power of God. And no matter what the fear may be, this passage can be used to put that fear where it belongs.

So with the Lord's permission, we are going to start off with some historical background for the benefit of those who may not know, as well as a reminder for all of us of the circumstances surrounding the Apostle Paul as he would write this most encouraging letter.

Then we are going to expound on these verses by first keeping them in the context of what the Apostle Paul was saying to Timothy, and then afterwards, we are going to take the liberty to address various aspects of fear that all of us have and/or will face in one way or another.

Hear me, church. Fear is a real problem. It is. And this battle has to be fought with the weapon of the word of God. And with that, let's discuss some historical background regarding this letter so we can put our minds in this place. Because at this point, we know that the Apostle Paul was in prison in Rome.

And his imprisonment was done by the Roman authorities, meaning that he had a case against him by the Romans. This was not something that was drafted up by the Jews. Are we following? And

Topical Message Battling Fear Pastor Mac

with the Apostle Paul being a Roman citizen, oh my goodness, they would spare no expense to use every aspect of the law they had at their disposal.

In fact, many suggest that one of his charges was him being responsible for the great fire in Rome in 64 A.D. that burned down much of Rome. Historians would go on to say that it was blamed on the Christians, and the Apostle Paul was seen as their leader. Whatever the case, he is in prison. And because of the circumstances, he knows that he will be executed. He knows this.

Now let's think about this. He's sitting in a Roman prison basically awaiting the word to be given to have him killed. And yet he does not show one ounce of fear. But instead, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he would fearlessly encourage his younger protegee, Timothy.

Now, you think about that. Do we see this? This is worth meditating on alone. I will tell you, church, we need to get to this point every day. Do you hear me? I don't think you do. I'll say it. We need to get to this point every day that we have already lost our lives because of the One who lives. And as we face death, we can fearlessly encourage others to die to self and live for Christ. And we can all get there. And in doing so, that would rid us of fearing anything that would control us. That's the facts.

So Timothy, who again was dealing with many issues regarding the church, will now receive this letter while understanding completely the circumstances that the Apostle Paul was facing. And I could only imagine how encouraged he was when he got this letter. I mean, just think about how when we read it, how our spirits are lifted up some 2000 years later, and we're not in this circumstance. And these three verses that we'll expound on that's found near the beginning of this letter had to aid in fueling Timothy to continue his dedicated service to the Lord. Are we there? I pray that we are.

So let's get to it. *Verse 6 of 2 Timothy, Chapter 1*, the word of God reads, **“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”**

Here, the Apostle Paul is bringing to the remembrance of Timothy that he was to rekindle this faith that he already had. He never lost it. Just keep rekindling it. Paul was saying that even though what you are and will be going through will be very difficult and even is, do not allow those challenges or the fear of uncertainty to extinguish that gift that God has given you. And this call to stir up was an active call towards Timothy.

In other words, Timothy had to continue engaging in this process of stirring up. Why? Because the Apostle Paul will soon be gone. And this gift that God had given him was enough. He would not need some new gift from God. No.

And notice that this stirring up was not stirring up himself like he was supposed to psych himself up somehow. Like be like, I'm Timothy, baby, yeah.

[Laughter]

That's not how it was. We have to be careful of that sometimes, right? We try in our own strength and might to stir ourselves up. No, no, that's not it, no. It was about the gift of God that was in him, a gift that God does not take away.

Topical Message

Battling Fear

Pastor Mac

The Bible tells us that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. He does not take them back nor does He change His mind. The problem is we do. And when it comes to His gifts and our minds change, we often decide not to continue using them. And in many cases, it's because of fear.

And this appeal by the Apostle Paul was, in a way, getting ahead of that fear. And it's not unreasonable to see how fear would be looming over the head of Timothy. Again, not only was the church facing unthinkable persecution from without, it was also facing all kinds of problems from within.

And being a pastor then is nothing like being a pastor today in America. Nothing. And He had to be thinking like, yo, man, my mentor is locked up in Rome facing death. That's probably going to be me. Right? So perhaps I should just quit while I'm ahead, or while I still have a head. (Sputtering) I'm just saying. Well, I would be sick of that. I'm just being real. Because it's real life that he was dealing with. This is what we're talking about.

So Timothy would have to make a decision. And of course, the Apostle Paul knew this. And this is one of the reasons that he would personalize his words in this verse by stating that he had laid his hands on him. Do we see how personal that is?

And this is very important for us to know because many of us look at things like the laying on of hands as something so trivial. But that's not how it should be. It should be taken very seriously even today, by the way, especially in the way the Apostle Paul was speaking about.

Because even though God had given Timothy a gift to evangelize, the gift to preach, the gift of handling Scripture, the confirmation of that calling being confirmed by a man of God would have been overly blessed. And not just any man of God, no, but a man of God who would be able to pass on spiritually the power that had been given to him. This is a real thing, you know.

In other words, it was kind of like passing the baton, oh, but with spiritual benefits from the teacher. This would be given to the entrusted student, if you will. And it would also come with the same responsibilities as well as many of the same challenges. The student could not be expected to be treated better than the master. We've heard that before, right?

And this had to be understood, which would have made anybody think twice about being called, especially in that day. This was a most dangerous calling, and it still is if it's done in the name of the Lord. Preaching the word of God as God intended it is not some fairy tale. It's not glamorous.

Oh, they make it that way. But they're not preaching the word of God as God intended. They're playing with it, and God's going to deal with them. But if you're preaching the word of God, as God instructed, you will sip from cups of suffering like you can never imagine. Troubles will be on every side. Fearful moments will become a way of life. Who wants this job? But again, with this laying on of hands, it was not only confirming the calling, it was empowering the called.

We see this captured in the *Book of Deuteronomy* in *Chapter 34*, in *verse 9*. As the word of God reads, **“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.”**

Do we see this? This is how serious the laying on of hands should be taken, in particular, as it pertains to leadership and the teaching of the word of God. Again, they would have known what this came with because it is not comfortable at all. This is all about blood, sweat, and tears, numerous

Topical Message

Battling Fear

Pastor Mac

challenges, and numerous fears. And the Apostle Paul knew that Timothy would be facing all of this, and then some.

So this personal application in regards to the laying on of hands, not only reminded Timothy of what this calling entailed, but also gave Timothy that much-needed assurance that what God had already provided would be exactly what he needed in order to complete the works that God had begun. Go forward and fear not.

And think about it. It had to come from the Apostle Paul. Because the Apostle Paul had already been there and done that and was now finishing his race strong in the name of the Lord. So in a sense, Timothy would be like, yeah, he laid hands on me! That's right. And then it might be appropriate for him to be like, God called me family, a self-talking to, a pep talk properly placed. And then that looming fear that was ahead in the distance, based on what He would go through, would have been viewed in a different perspective.

And for us, we can personalize this by putting ourselves on both sides as we address these looming fears in our lives, as well as the lives of others. And one of the first things that we all should do is get ahead of it. Are you following me? And I'm not talking about being some prepper. Do you hear me? No, not being some prepper or trying to predict everything and every outcome that can happen, driving you nuts, making you anxious and paranoid. That is not what I'm talking about.

We are talking about those known or revealed storms to come that there is no deviating off of course from. You're going through this. Are we tracking? This is going to happen. And yes, in those times we are to properly prepare for them by seeking the Lord and the wise counsel that's offered. And we need to determine where we should be going, led by His word and those that He brings into our lives.

And for those of us who's already been there and done that, it's our duty to aid these brothers and sisters who have these looming fears in their lives and get ahead of them before those looming fears become paralyzing realities.

And also, stop putting your head in the sand. It doesn't work. We need to engage them, show them, and tell them how we were able to get through it all by the power of the Holy Spirit and how the Lord enabled us to persevere until the end, whatever that end might be, whether it's the end of that specific trial or the end of our race, as with the Apostle Paul. The Lord will make a way. We just need to take heed to our godly examples, put our complete trust in the Lord, and stay the course. You could try to turn off of it. The wind's going to blow you back.

Captured in the *Book of Proverbs* in *Chapter 12:25*, the word of God reads. **“Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.”**

Do we see the word of God? And the word of God is full of those good words. And I pray that as people of God, we would be full of those good words and good works to pass along to those who are facing these looming fears.

We'll be going in the word of God in *verse 7* of our text. The word of God reads, **“For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”**

Now, this very well-known passage of Scripture makes us so thankful. It should. That we have it, this truth, captured here in the word of God. So on the heels of what the Apostle Paul was expressing to

Topical Message

Battling Fear

Pastor Mac

Timothy about what God had placed inside of him, he would now, by the Holy Spirit, inform Timothy of what was not placed inside of him. Do we see that?

God has given you a gift, but God has not given us a spirit of fear. Almost like he was saying to Timothy in the calling that God has on your life, having a spirit of fear is not of God. It is of the enemy.

Now, this does not mean he would not have sudden fears, times of fear, or even a season of fear. But what he should not have is a spirit of fear as a minister of God's word. This is why Timothy was reminded of what the Holy Spirit gives each and every one of us if we are willing to trust in His works within us. Do you hear that?

You know, on too many occasions it almost seems as if once we're saved, we expect the Holy Spirit to do everything for us, as if we have absolutely nothing to do at all. That is a travesty. We have to allow it to take place by partaking with Him His works of power, His works of love, and His works of a sound or disciplined mind. And there's no doubt that Timothy will understand the application of these words.

Now, as it pertains to the power of the Holy Spirit, this power, it should be seen here as, listen, a controlling influence manifesting over reality and a supernatural manner. Let me break that down with some English. The Holy Spirit that we have in us shows us the reality behind what is seen as real. Are you tracking with me?

His power enables us to walk in this fearful world of lies and deceit because of the power of the truth. So no matter what the outlook may have been for Timothy, the outcome had already been decided. And when you know, not hope or kind of think like, but when you know for sure about the outcome in the end, it gives you power in the now.

This man of God had to have had a bold character and bold faith because listen to me, it is impossible to operate — you hear me - the key word "operate" with a character of being a coward being called by the true and living God. Are you following me?

Again, there will always be moments of fear. But what you will not see is a spirit of this behavior for those who are truly called for such a service. Gideon was afraid, but God empowered him. Jonah was afraid, but God empowered him. David was afraid on numerous occasions, but God empowered him. And the list is endless because none of them were exempt.

But God empowered them all and will do the same for us. This is how we need to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Wherever God has placed us, and that will be different from all of us, but this is how we need to walk. And as we minister — hear me — as we minister, the word of God has set the standard. We are to minister with power and not in fear.

We should also take notice of what traits the Apostle Paul would follow up with: Love and having a sound mind. Now just based on the little information that's been expressed by the Apostle Paul as well as what we have discussed in regards to Timothy, it's safe to say that Timothy possessed these important traits of love and having a sound mind.

So what Timothy would need to do as he moved on serving the Lord was to keep these two most important traits fully exercised in every respect. This must be done throughout our walk. Do we

Topical Message Battling Fear Pastor Mac

understand that? It's constant in order to ensure that the Holy Spirit can be manifested to enable us to walk in His power.

And please listen. Don't miss this. Because the impacts are enormous, especially when it comes to dealing with any kind of fear. And I say this that way, to say this, this way. If we lack in our love, if our love is only for self, if our love is conditional, if our love is partial, if our love is not the love of Christ, then we will suppress the power of the Holy Spirit and allow fear to have access to our hearts. Did you hear me, church?

And this is the context that the Apostle Paul was speaking about, the expression that love gives, not your love with God. That's where you get tripped up at. I love the Lord, but you hate everybody else. That's not the love of God. And you think you're walking in the power of the Spirit? You're walking foolishly.

Here we go. We'll read this consolidated list that's captured in the *Book of 1 Corinthians in Chapter 13:4-6*. And we read it often. The word of God reads, **“Love suffers long and is kind.”**

We can stop right there. Half of you get up and go home. Right? I'll be right behind you.

“Love does not envy; love does not parade itself; love is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

And all those things are pertaining to God. And how many times have we read this passage, or have had it read to us? And some people read it every single day. But it means very little without the proper application.

So we need to ask ourselves, is this what our love entails? That's a question for each and every one of us. Because the more of these that I have in place and/or have acknowledged with the humble heart towards God that I need help in one area or another, the less likely that I will leave space or make room for fear to set in.

Because if you love yourself, you fear giving yourself away to anybody. And you can go through the list. So when I'm in a season of fear, the first thing that I check is my love meter. I need to take a look at my love meter. So I go to prayer. Is my love misplaced, Lord? Because I know if it is, I'm making room for fear somewhere. So expose my heart. Examine it. Let me see what it is. Why am I'm missing out?

I don't want this temporary relief from fear that anybody or anyone can give for a second or two. No, no. Because if we find out the root cause, then we can eradicate that fear by doing the word of God. But we have to get to that point first. Some people are just too good for themselves. I'm good. And they scared to death about everything.

This should be very sobering for all of us. And because of the lack of love that we have, could be why we battle fear so much. And it's good for us, all of us, to examine ourselves. We're supposed to.

And knowing this truth is the only way that we can come around and fully embrace what's captured in the *Book of 1 John Chapter 4:18*. As the word of God reads, **“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”**

Topical Message

Battling Fear

Pastor Mac

Do we connect the dots? This is the word of God. And we know that Christ is that perfect love. And we do have His perfect love. We have it. But do we allow ourselves to be made perfect in that love? Do we see the difference? We all have work to do. And again, this could be the reason why we battle fear. And once our hearts have been dealt with, again, on a daily basis, we still need to be examining and deal with our minds.

Now, we have talked before about how the mind and the heart are so closely related. But here the Apostle Paul is making a vivid distinction. Because what he is referring to is that often-lost art of being self-disciplined.

And one of the ways that this can be gauged is how we respond when those fearful moments arise. That's how we can gauge where we are. There's others, but that's one. And it's very telling.

So let's think. The Apostle Paul here — this is his second letter to Timothy — encouraging him. So again, I believe it's safe to say that Timothy was receptive to those encouraging letters and then would apply the wisdom that was being offered. So when those fearful moments came, he would respond with a discipline mind. Are we together so far?

Because that's exactly what we must do. So are we able to maintain careful and sensible thinking based on the knowledge and understanding that we have learned from the word of God and others in the Lord that will enable us to carry out the manifested Holy Spirit response, proving the power of God's wisdom over fear? Did you catch all of that?

Rewind the tape. There is not a fearful situation on this earth that is not captured within the scriptures. Not only is the context of any and all fears in the word of God, the various solutions in order for practical and wise decisions to be made are there as well. This is why knowing and understanding the word of God is so important.

News flash: We will never get beyond God's word for the best solutions in our lives. Do you hear me? And what we will find in many cases as we deal with these fears is that the only thing that we can do is take it to the Lord in prayer. And I don't mean take it to the Lord in prayer 15 days later after we have exhausted all our resources.

On other occasions we may have small, actionable items to perform, and we need to be aware of that. We could even have entire campaigns that God would put us through. But His word will guide us, whether that's directly or by a multitude of counselors. Having a sound mind and taking everything to the Lord is a must.

If the first thing that we do is call somebody else, our minds are not sound. If the first thing that we do is look on the internet for answers, then our minds are not sound. If the first thing that we do is enter a state of continuous "what if" scenarios, then our minds are not sound. We must seek the Lord first. And then He will clearly order our steps through all the chaos that's often associated with fear.

Now think about this as well. When it comes to all of what the Apostle Paul is mentioning, he makes no mention of any other miraculous gifts in this final letter of his ministry. Do you hear me? What does that tell us? The importance is placed at this point in time on the reliance of the Holy Spirit through love and a sound mind. These are key in our battle against fear. But seeking God through it all is a must.

Topical Message Battling Fear Pastor Mac

Captured in the *Book of Psalms in Chapter 34:4-5*, the Word of God reads, **“I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.”**

All of them looked to the Lord. And when we seek the Lord, we need to do it with our hearts properly postured. This is a holdup. We know we have these issues, but we don't even confess them. And the Lord's like, you're not even at the end of yourself yet.

So you come to the throne. You've got a problem with love. You know you do. You're selfish as I don't know what. And you walk up to the Lord, Lord, I'm kind of good over here, and there, and everything else. I just want You to think about this for me. Please help me out.

But you're not at the end of yourself. We need to come; dear Lord, I'm jacked up. I have a love problem. And I really believe that's causing a lot of fear in my life. Could You help me? Oh, my goodness, the difference would be immediate. And you can't just say it because God knows the heart. And before we get into the last verse of our text, I do want to address this spirit of fear because I believe that too often, we use it out of context, even with the best intentions.

Again, the context that the Apostle Paul was driving home to Timothy was that as a preacher of God's word, there is no attitude of being a coward. Do you hear me? If you are called by God, you cannot have an attitude of being a coward because that's what He has not given you. That's the first sign that tells you that somebody is not called when they pivot and shake, jive, and duck the word of God. Right?

And so we — oh, you're not called — you're self-appointed. In other words, the word of God is not to be presented in a weak manner. The word of God is powerful, and it must be presented in the same power that it was written with, which is the power of the Holy Spirit. So we cannot lose the intended message as we try to comfort those who are in the fight for their lives as it pertains to fear.

Again, fear is real. And we all know that Jesus is the answer. But we have to be very sensitive to those who struggle in ways that we would not wish on our worst enemies. And we need to support them as best as we are able.

And for those of you who are battling fear and the devastating onslaught of anxiety, do not lose hope. Stay in the Word and prayer no matter what, and do not view yourself as less valuable. You're not. In fact, it could be argued that you have more value of what you should be bringing as people recognize the condition that you're in. So be encouraged.

Now, there is also an element behind having a spirit of fear that kind of fits. And that comes when it's self-induced by entertaining devils. Do you hear me? Now devils cannot possess a Christian, but they will drive you nuts, especially by using fear. When you decide to play around with them, they will play back. There's plenty of devils that want to be your friend.

And guess what? Devils do not sleep. And if you play with them, you won't be sleeping either. Because they will keep you up at night whispering all kind of naughty things in your ear. We need to walk in the Spirit of God, so a spirit of fear will never have a chance.

And now we come to the last verse of our text, *verse 8*. As the word of God reads, **“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God...”**

Topical Message

Battling Fear

Pastor Mac

The Apostle Paul continues. Just like he was getting ahead of that fear that could come, now he would be getting ahead of the shame that could come. And isn't it true that shame causes fear? Think back to the Garden of Eden. After Adam sinned, oh, he hid himself because he was naked and afraid. This is what shame has the potential to do to all of us.

Now, Adam's shame was self-inflicted, but it was shame, nonetheless. And during Timothy's day, many of those scoffers and mockers they only saw Jesus as some dead Jew. That's all. So to them, Timothy is just crazy. And there's no New Testament put together where he could bounce off the Old Testament to prove the scriptures. And many of those miracles that were there to prove the word of God had already served their purpose.

And let's not forget the Apostle Paul is locked up in Rome. And because of that, we can also see how the Apostle Paul did not want Timothy to be ashamed of him and the condition that he was in. And for those of us who have close family members locked up, we can relate to this because we are guilty by association. That's how we look. And if allowed, shame can sink in.

So all of this was no small feat for Timothy, as you can imagine. But still, he was told not to be ashamed. Why? Because there is no shame in serving the true and living God. The world hates Jesus. So what do we expect? We will always be a target. We will always be ridiculed. We will always be presented with some shameful past deeds. I'm waiting for the videos to come out on me.

[Laughter]

It's like, oh, no. Well, it's out there, baby. But the gospel is offensive. And the world wants to silence us — be quiet — and try to use shame as a fear tactic. But God has disarmed principalities and powers and put them to an open shame. So there's no need to fear.

And notice that the Apostle Paul calls himself a prisoner of Jesus even though the Romans and others would see it otherwise. And you know what's also amazing? He did not speak smooth words of come to me and do this, and we're going to share in some type of great reward servicing the Lord. He only offered to share sufferings. Take me off that list, homey, right?

[Laughter]

Who wants to suffer? But here's the beauty of it all. The power of God contained within the Gospels overcomes all sufferings, and it has the power to overcome what used to be a common fear of man. And that's death. And it's safe to say that Timothy knew this. So he would continue his race and live for Christ in spite of death. And we should be doing the same.

But people today, they play around with death like it's no big deal. And people who claim that they do not fear death absent Jesus have no idea what death is. And it's a shame. Because absent Jesus, when you die, you're going to go to Sheol, the abode of the dead, and await judgment, and be cast into hell. That's the fact of the matter.

And let me tell you something. There are no good compartments in hell. You sit around here playing games, heard about Jesus your whole entire life. And you think it's a game? Just foolishness until prayerfully, by God's mercy, He wakes you up at midnight with fear that you've never felt before. And I pray that it never goes away until you realize who the true and living God is. Because you need Jesus for the salvation of your soul. And He is the only one that can keep fear away for good.

Topical Message
Battling Fear
Pastor Mac

And if you don't have Jesus, I encourage you to choose Jesus and be saved today by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

And it is A-B-C simple to be saved. First, by acknowledging that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior who is only Jesus the Christ. *Romans 3:10* says, **"That as it is written, there is none righteous, no not one."**

And *verse 23* says, **"For All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** No one on their own will ever enter the kingdom of God, as shown in Chapter 6:23.

The Bible says that, **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** That's the A.

And the B stands for believe, while the C stands for confess with your mouth. Both are captured and *Romans Chapter 10:9-10*. The word of God reads, **"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."**

A most simple way to be saved, and you'll be able to rest at ease in the truth of God's word without fear. God wants us reconciled to Him because He loves us.

The word of God reads in *2 Peter Chapter 3:9*, **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."**

There is no fear in the Lord. And when we finally submit to Him, the greatest battle of our fears are over. Why don't we stand? Kaponu, come up. And let's pray.

Loving heavenly Father, thank You so much for Your words of truth. We pray that we would just meditate on them day and night and operate in accordance with them, so that we may be well equipped to present Your word to those who are lost in this dark and perverted world that we came out of based off Your grace and mercy.

So we ask that You would have grace and mercy on others, and that we would be bold enough in faith with no fear, to stand out and speak Your word, that others may be saved as well. We love You and thank You and praise You. In the mighty name of Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, we do pray. Amen.