

Philadelphia Church

From Fear to Faith

December 23, 2018

Pastor Derek Forseth

Quote

"Fear motivates some... others it destroys."

- unknown

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Cont.

²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

How often are we like Joseph?

- ◆ We want to keep up appearances
- ◆ We don't want others to look down on us
- ◆ We do what is the least difficult
- ◆ We weigh the pros and cons

Question

Do I choose fear or faith?

How do I confirm if the word is from God?

◆ Scripture

◆ Prayer

◆ Godly counsel

◆ Circumstances

Job 33:14-18

¹⁴ For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it.¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds,¹⁶ he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings,¹⁷ to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride,¹⁸ to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword.

Truth 1

Our concern should be what God thinks rather than what others think.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Quote

If faith is only part of your life than
doubt has easy access. -PD

Question

What is your reaction when fear is upon you?

Three reactions to fear:

- ◆ Isolate
- ◆ Run to others
- ◆ Turn to God

God's answers to prayer:

- ◆ No... it's not best for us.
- ◆ Slow... we're not ready for the answer yet.
- ◆ Grow... He wants to teach us.
- ◆ Go... our request lines up with His will.

Truth 2

Resilient Faith usually comes from
small steps of obedience. - PD