

Living Beyond Fear

Kris Brenes

What would your life look like if you lived beyond your fears?

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10 NLT

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid... Matthew 14:25-30

- Jesus comes to us. (v. 25)
- Jesus calms our fears. (v. 26-27)
- Jesus calls us to step beyond our fear. (v. 29)

"Do your feet mark where fear has driven you or where faith has taken you?" - Erwin McMannus

Living beyond your fears...

- Every fearful situation is an invitation to draw near to God.
- Refuse the lie that says, "What I fear is bigger than my God."

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT

○ I'm not trusting God with _____.

Trust in God

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 56:3-4

Connect

What was a quirky fear or childhood fear you have had?

Word and Reflection

Fear is a powerful human emotion that can paralyze your life. Your fears reveal a lot about you. They reveal what you value the most, but they also reveal where you trust God the least. What would your life look like if you lived beyond your fears? To take a step, see every fear as an invitation to draw near to God. Refuse the lie that says what you fear is bigger than your God. Commit to living as if God is in control and will do everything He's promised to do.

Isaiah 41:10; 1 John 4:18; Matthew 14:22-33; Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 56:3-4

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Matthew 14:22-33 and 2 Timothy 1:7. Pastor Kris posed this question from Erwin McMannus: *Do your feet mark where fear has driven you or where faith has taken you?* How have you seen your fears influence your thoughts and actions? Where do you need to "get out of the boat" and take a step?
- Read Philippians 4:6-7. How can drawing near to God help you live beyond fear and replace it with faith instead?
- Read Psalm 56:3-4. How could your life be different if you put your full trust in God and sought Him daily? How do you currently seek God and develop your relationship with Him? Where can you improve?

Action

- What step can you take to live beyond your fears and get out of the boat?

Prayer

- Lord, You are more powerful and so much bigger than my fears. Thank you for Your constant presence in my life. Fill me with the peace that only You can give. I give You all of my fears and I trust them to You. Amen.
- Also pray for the needs of those in your Grace Group and for those to whom you are reaching out.