Week 5 ~ Listen to God’s Leading

Dear Church Family,

Fear cripples. Fear is everywhere and terrorizes our thoughts. This beast takes many forms. Sometimes it assumes the form of anxiety, others it dons the cloak of worry. Still other times, fear excuses itself as caution, hesitation, or safety.

But whatever its appearance, fear is easily recognized by its power to hinder and limit. Fear steals away joy, robs us of peace, pins us down, narrows our perspective, and sets borders on our walk with Jesus. And Jesus, He has no borders. That is why fear has no place in the life of the Jesus follower.

A Case Against Fear

Jesus calls us to action. But if fear dominates our vision, there is no room to act. We gotta kill fear church family! So let’s look at two stories where fear failed by the power of Jesus.

Our talk today revolves about a man named Saul. He hated Christians. Saul perceived and believed all Jesus followers to be cultists. And so, he aimed to wipe the church out. However, God had different plans for Saul. Long story short, Jesus stopped Saul in his journey of destruction and opened Saul’s eyes to the truth.

Though Jesus spoke to Saul personally, he also spoke through a believer named Ananias. Now, how would you react if Jesus appeared to you and commanded you to visit and pray for a man who murdered church people? Well, you would probably react like Ananias did. You would start making excuses; you would say anything to get out of chatting with a Christian killer. And yet, in spite of his hesitation, God persuaded Ananias to action. As result of Ananias’ faithfulness, Saul was healed and became a devout Jesus follower that wrote half of our New Testament.

So, how did Ananias overcome his evident fear? Well, Jesus said this to Ananias after he attempted to excuse himself:

*“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” -Acts 9:15 NLT*

God had a plan, and He invited Ananias to participate with a command: Go!

Going Kills Fear

God told Ananias to go! Going is the ultimate weapon against fear. And, fortunately for us church, going, or taking action, is what Jesus is all about.

Recall Jesus’ words to His disciples:

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”* -Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

Go because Jesus is in charge. Go because Jesus is for us. Go because Jesus has overcome all things. Do you realize what this means? Jesus’ resurrection guaranteed us victory and killed the power of fear once and for all.

God’s Leading

When God speaks, His words smash and crush fear; that is, if we cling to what He says. Here is our challenge church. We must grab ahold of God’s word. Too often our value is placed in what fear says. We fall victim to the voice of worry, the woes of anxiety, and the wails of terror. And we forget: fear is dead. Jesus destroyed fear when He overcame death, Hell, and the grave.

Church, we need to learn the value of God’s word. This means we must first know His word. We must study the word of God, we must reflect on Jesus; we need to recall all that God has done. If we know His word, if we hang tight to His commands, fear will wither.

Fellow Jesus followers, it’s time we stopped listening to fear and learn the voice of God. It is high time we operate by God’s Leading rather than anxieties for tomorrow. God’s word, His commands, His leading, casts out fear. For Jesus is perfect love. And perfect love, well, it absolutely demolishes fear.

Let us listen to Jesus. I am excited for the things He will say to you. I am thrilled for where He will lead you. Because church family, greater things are just ahead!

With Love,

Pastor Vern Pastor Ty

Group Discussion

*Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions with your group.*

1. What fear, anxiety, concern, etc. is holding you back in your life?
2. Why does this fear hold you back?
3. Is there a good kind of fear? Why or why not? Remember, we are defining fear as that which cripples us and stops us from moving forward.
4. Discuss with your group or write down a way you can “GO” and take action against fear. If we do not take action on God’s Word, we will continue to let fear win. How can you take action now against your fear?
5. Do you know any Bible passages that speak against fear? Find them and write these passages down. If you do not know any, a great place to start is to read Romans 8:37-39.

Questions for Kids

*If you have children, here are some questions you can go over with them.*

1. -
2. -
3. -

Closing Prayer

*Close your time together in prayer. Here are a few ideas of what you could pray about based on the topic of today’s discussion:*

* Thank Jesus for His power over fear.
* Ask for God’s perfect love to overcome your fear.
* Pray for courage and boldness to go and take action.
* Pray for strength to trust in God’s Word more than fear.
* Thank God for His Word and His truth.

Weekly Challenge

We need to GO church! We cannot simply sit on this one. Fear causes us to hesitate, second guess, and stop. Jesus has called His church to go! You are a part of His church, His body, so you must go! So think carefully fellow Jesus follower; how can you take action this week? How can you take a step forward in overcoming fear? Most likely, you already know what to do. Then, I challenge you church, to do it! Go! Do not wait. Now is the time to fight fear! I pray you are blessed church as you step out in faith and seize God’s promises as your own.