

Recognise the Sovereignty of God



Isa 41:10 is a comforting verse that reminds us of the sovereignty of God amid man's fears. Who is your God today will affect your response to fear. In the 19th century, Deism taught that there is a God, but He is not interested in us anymore. Deists could not reconcile why bad things still happen when there is a God. But nothing happens by chance. God guides and leads us. God gave Jesus to save us, and He kept His Word, and **you must believe and trust in Christ and repent of your sins first before you can overcome your darkest fears. The presence of God with us helps us to manage or drive out our darkest fears.**

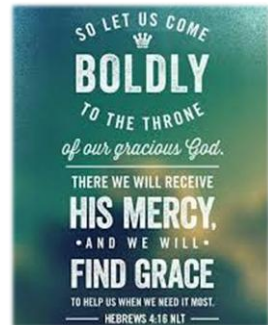
God-Given Resources to Overcome Fear

The sovereignty of God is very reassuring that He will always keep us. Isa 41 gives the basis to overcome fear. In v.10, 13 and 14 God repeats at least 5 times He will strengthen us, be with us to uphold us and to help us. **To help a person with fear, we should try to understand why the object is fearful and then to bring the person to the knowledge of God.** Heb 4:16 reminds us that the Lord understands all because Jesus went through it all. We believe absolutely because we can trust God's assurances in His Word.

The knowledge of the Word of God gives us assurance and hence a coping mechanism to overcome fears. Prayer is another avenue when by we share and communicate our fears to God for His peace can clam our darkest fears. Paul and Silas sang praises to God when they were in prison and the Lord delivered them. While we may not experience that miraculous deliverance, singing hymns to God calms our nerves and helps us to focus on Him and can give the serenity of our souls when we needed it most. **The fellowship of the brethren in church in mutual encouragement and prayer can help as well when we share our burdens and cares and fears with one another. They may be used of God to reach out to us to manage our fears.**

Note that Paul says that phobias or timidity are not something God meant us to have. (2Tim1:7) Unconfessed Sins can bring fear in our lives and fear destroys effectiveness in our testimony and our fellowship with God and others. Gideon won in the battle against the Midianites with 300 non-war trained people. Moses stood in front of the Pharaoh and delivered the people of Israel though he was frightened at first. What's your greatest fear today? There is no need to fear when we place our trust in the almighty God.

Do not focus on your fears. We need to make a choice what our minds want to dwell on. To focus on the source of fear is to encourage more fear; **rather let us focus on the Lord who has the power to take away fear and we find strength, peace and comfort instead. We need to choose to fix our thoughts on what is**



true, honourable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable as Pau says in Phil 4:8 and 2Cor 10:5.

In trusting God, we need to pray to Him, and we need to believe His Word, and obey His commands. Scripture abounds with reasons we should not be afraid but put our trust fully in the almighty Lord even amid potential danger or impending fears.

Cultivate Reverence and the Awareness of the Presence of God

When the Bible tells us, “*Do not fear,*” it means we are not to allow anxiety, phobias or fretfulness to rule our lives or affect us adversely. We are not to be a people full of panic. We are to be people of faith in God instead to the world. **The right fear to overcome all fears is the “good fear” – the Fear of God.** Solomon says, “*the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.*” (Prov 9:10) Prov 8:13 says, “*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*” Prov 14:26-27 says, “*In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*” Do you have this reverential fear of God in your heart today? Do you cultivate fear of God in your children by teaching them His Word, his righteousness and holiness?



In Psa 56:11, the psalmist writes, “*In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid. What man can do unto me?*” This is a good testimony to the power of trusting in God. Regardless of what happens, the psalmist will trust in God because he knows God is trustworthy. **The key to overcoming fear, then, is faith and trust in God and obedience to His Word. Trusting God can give us the victory over fear. Seek God first in good or bad times and trust Him who is all-knowing to make things right in his own time and know well that He is with us all the time.**

Conclusion

We need to combat the temptation to be enslaved in phobias. We are in a spiritual battle, and one of the enemy’s tactics is to promote irrational fears. In His grace, God has given us spiritual armour to wage a battle against the wiles of the evil one including fear. Eccl 12:13-14, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*”

Let our response to overcoming fear today be one to know and obey, love and fear God first as our Saviour and Lord and then to worship and serve Him and keep His commandments.

Hope this helps.

Jack Sin

Memory Verse

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Demeanor of the Church (Eph 4:13-32)***", continuing the quarterly study on the "***Book of Ephesians: Serving Christ & Exalting the Sovereignty of God in the Church***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor Jack will preach on "***The Moral/Spiritual Standards of the Church (Eph 5:1-21)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walking Through the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Esther (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. **2025 Annual Church Camp** will be held on **Jun 10-13** at **Forest City Marina Hotel**, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "***Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era***" and guest speaker **Rev Tan Eng Boo**. Register by 29 Mar 2025 with Dn Paul at hp:97314733.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
8. Pray for:
 - **Travel: Deborah** [Norway/Finland 19/2-1/3], **Dn Paul** [Japan 22/2 – 1/3]
 - **Gospel Peace Station**- Hokkien outreach by Joseph & Rachel in Ang Mo Kio.
 - **Medical: Poh Suan** [fractured right ankle], **Dn Paul's mother** [medical conditions], **Pastor's mother** [cataract op on 4 Mar], **John W's sister Angeline** [lung Cancer], **Kim Meng** [fractured left wrist], **John W's daughter** [dialysis treatment].
 - **Dr Samuel Gan**: Work and outreach at the University, theological studies and CMI ministry.
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.