

Overcoming The Spirit Of Fear!
Isaiah 44:1-8

Introduction:

1. **IE:** “5-year old Johnny was in the kitchen as his mother made supper. She asked him to go into the pantry and get her a can of tomato soup, but he didn’t want to go in alone. “It’s dark in there and I’m scared.” She asked again, and he persisted. Finally she said, “It’s OK—Jesus will be in there with you.” Johnny walked hesitantly to the door and slowly opened it. He peeked inside, saw it was dark, and started to leave when all at once an idea came, and he said: Jesus, if you’re in there, would you hand me that can of tomato soup?”
2. Most Of Us Grow Out Of These Childish Fears!
 - But, What Makes You Afraid Today?
 - Fear Can Take The Shape Of Many Different Emotions:
 - Anger – At Things You Can’t Control!
 - Hatred – Of Things You Don’t Understand!
 - Worry – Of Things You Cannot Plan!
 - These Are Just Different Forms Of Fear!
 - What Makes You Afraid Today?
3. Tonight, I Want To Begin Our Study Of Isaiah 44 By Looking At A New Testament Verse Which, I Believe, Provides A Clear Outline Of Our Text:
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 - “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind!”
 - The Lord Does Not Want You To Be Afraid!
 - In Fact, Fear Is An Opposite Of Faith!
 - When You Are Angry At Things You Can’t Control, It Is Fear – Not Faith!
 - When You Hate Things You Don’t Understand, It Is Fear – Not Faith!
 - When You Worry About Things You Cannot Plan For, It Is Fear – Not Faith!
 - But The Lord Has “Not Given Us The Spirit Of Fear; But Of Power, And Of Love, And Of A Sound Mind!”
 - The Lord Has Provided His Holy Spirit To Each Of His Children To Drive That Fear Away & Develop That Faith & Trust You Need In Him!
 - How Has He Done This?
4. Look At Isaiah 44:1-8!
 - Verse One Calls Your Attention To What The Lord Is About To Say:
 - “Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen!”
 - How Many Times Does The Lord Say To You & Me In His Word: “Hear” Or “Listen” Or “Take Heed” (As We Saw This Morning)! – It Is Used 95 Times In Isaiah Alone!
 - How Many Times Do We Actually Hear & Listen & Take Heed When He Does!
 - He Wants You To Listen To What He Has To Say, Because What He Has To Say Is Extremely Important!
 - He Calls Jacob, His “Servant” & He Calls Israel, His “Chosen”!
 - This Is What God Has Called His People To Do!
 - This Is What God Has Called His People To Be!
 - Sometimes It Is A Fearful Thing To Live A Life Of Faith In God!
 - Have You Ever Been Afraid Of What God Has Called You To Do?
 - **IE:** Called To Be A Pastor Or Missionary, But Was Too Afraid! Called To Be A Witness, But Are Too Afraid!
 - Have You Ever Been Afraid Of What God Has Called You To Be?
 - **IE:** Called To Be “A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!” (1 Peter 2:9) But Are Too Afraid To Take The Necessary Stand!
 - If So, You Need To Listen To What God Is Going To Say To You Tonight!
 - 44:2 - “Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen!”
 - It Is The Lord Who Is Speaking!

- And This Is Why We Should Listen!
- Not Because Of What Is Said, But Because Of Who Said It!
- When God Speaks – You Need To Listen!
- It Is The Lord Who Says To You: “Fear Not!”
 - The Lord Tells You Not To Be Afraid!
- After All, Isn’t He The One Who:
 - Made You?
 - Giving You That First Spark Of Life!
 - Formed You?
 - Molding You Into The Person You Are!
 - Like A Potter Using All The Necessary Tools!
 - Helps You?
 - Do You Really Think That The One Who Made You & Formed You Is Going To Just Leave You Alone To Fend For Yourself?
 - No, He Loves You & Is Going To Help You!
 - “Help” - To Surround & Protect - **IE**: A Circling Of The Wagons!
- You Do Not Need To Be Afraid!
 - No Matter What God Has Called You To Do!
 - God Has Called You To Be His Servant – He Will Help You To Become His Servant!
 - No Matter What God Has Called You To Be!
 - God Has Called You To Be “Jesurun”!
 - A Name For Israel & For All God’s People, Which Means: “Upright” In Character!
 - He Will Help You To Become This Way!
 - Because He Provides Someone Very Special To Help You!

5. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind!”
- God Has Provided To You, His Child, His Own Holy Spirit To Drive Your Fears Away!
 - The Holy Spirit Is The Spirit Of Power, Love & Of A Sound Mind!
 - And Through The Holy Spirit’s Work In These Areas, Our Fear Of Our Circumstances Will Turn Into Faith In Our God!

* You Do Not Need To Fear, Because:

1. *The Spirit Of God Provides The Power Of God!*

- “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power!”
- 44:3-4 - “For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4 And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses!”
 - Many Times You Become Afraid Because You Believe You Have No Power To Overcome Difficult & Even Seemingly Impossible Situations!
 - To You, The Lord Provides:
- A Promise Of The Spirit’s Power!
 - Verse 3 Gives 2 Parallel Statements:
 - The Lord First Tells You What Kind Of Power He Will Provide!
 - The Lord Then Tells You How He Will Provide That Power!
 - What Kind Of Power Will He Provide?
 - Abundant Power! “Pour!” Not A Sprinkle, But A Deluge!
 - Satisfying Power! “Water” & “Floods!”
- How Will He Provide This Kind Of Power?
 - Through His Spirit!
 - The Holy Spirit Is The Water That Will Quench The Thirst Of Those Who Need & Desire It!
 - This Is A Prophecy Of Pentecost – When The Holy Spirit Was Sent To Empower & Illuminate God’s People, So That They Do Not Need To Fear!
 - Remember Acts? The Small Band Of Christians Were Together In One Place!

But When The Spirit Of God Came Into That House, They Went Throughout The World Preaching The Gospel With Power & Boldness!

- This Is The Kind Of Power That The Lord Can Provide!
 - This Is The Kind Of Power That The Lord Wants To Provide!
 - The Power Of Pentecost! That Drives Away Fear! That Empowers You, His Child, To Do What He Has Called You To Do & To Be What He Has Called You To Be! We Also See:
- The Result Of The Spirit's Power!
 - The Outpouring Of God's Spirit Upon You Will Cause You To: "Spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses!" (44:4)
 - You Will Become What God Has Created / Formed / Helps You To Be!
 - This Verse:
 - Reveals The Vitality The Holy Spirit Gives!
 - You Will Be One Of Many Blades Of Grass!
 - **IE:** "Strength In Numbers!"
 - You Will Be Lush, Green & Fertile – A Demonstration Of The Holy Spirit's Power!
 - Reveals The Strength The Holy Spirit Gives!
 - A Strong Tree Is One That Receives Continual Nourishment!
 - You Will Be Strong – An Illustration Of The Holy Spirit's Power!

* You Do Not Need To Fear, Because:

2. *The Spirit Of God Provides The Love Of God!*

- "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love!"
- 44:5 - "One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel!"
 - Many Times You Become Afraid Because You Do Not Believe In The Power Of God's Love Or You Don't Believe That You Love Him As You Ought!
 - 1 John 4:18 - "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love!"
 - Here We See An Illustration Of Love!
 - **IE:** Just As A New Bride Will Relinquish Her Maiden Name – The Name She Was Given At Birth – The Name She Was Known By Her Whole Life – And Will Take On The Name Of Her New Husband! She Does This Out Of Love! Love For Her New Husband! Love For Her New Family!
 - This Is What We See In Verse 5!
 - The Holy Spirit Gives You The Love You Need In Order To Cast Out Your Fear!
 - And When You Learn To "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength!" (Mark 12:30):
 - You Will Identify Yourself As His Possession!
 - "I Am The Lord's!"
 - You Are His Servant! For Him To Use In Any Way That He Desires!
 - And The Spirit Of Love Will Cast Out Your Fear!
 - You Will Identify Yourself With His People!
 - "And Another Shall Call Himself By The Name Of Jacob!"
 - Forsaking All Other "Names" & Associations, You Will Take On God's Family As Your Family! Your Church Will Become Your Family!
 - And The Spirit Of Love Will Cast Out Your Fear!
 - You Will Identify Yourself With Him Permanently!
 - "And Another Shall Subscribe With His Hand Unto The Lord!"
 - To "Engrave" The Name Of Your Master – The Lord – Upon Yourself With Your Own Hand!
 - Not A Forced Branding (**IE:** Like A Cow) – But A Willing Devotion To The Lord!
 - And This Spirit Of Love Will Cast Out Your Fear!
 - You Will Identify Yourself With Him In Your Personality!
 - "And Surname Himself By The Name Of Israel!"
 - Your Character Will Reveal What Kind Of Relationship You Have With The Lord!

- And The Spirit Of Love Will Cast Out Your Fear!

* You Do Not Need To Fear, Because:

3. The Spirit Of God Provides The Knowledge Of God!

- "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind!"
- A "Sound Mind" Is A Mind That Knows & Understands God!
 - And The More You Know & Understand The Lord, The Less You Will Fear!
 - And It Is The Spirit Of God That Gives You Knowledge & Understanding Of God!
- 44:6-8 - "6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. 7 And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. 8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any!"
- You Do Not Need To Fear, Because The Spirit Of God Will Help You Understand:
- The Relationship Of God!
 - He Is Your King & Redeemer!
 - What He Has Purchased, He Will Never Put Away!
 - So, Why Do You Fear? God Is Greater Than You!
- The Power Of God!
 - "Lord Of Hosts!"
 - He Has Power Over All! Even All The "Hosts" Of Heaven!
 - "He Is Able To Deliver Thee!"
 - So, Why Do You Fear? God Is Greater Than Anything!
- The Eternity Of God!
 - He Has Always Been Before Anything Else Was!
 - He Will Always Be After Anything Else Has Been!
 - So, Why Do You Fear? God Will Outlast Everything!
- The Uniqueness Of God!
 - "Beside Me There Is No God!"
 - So, Why Do You Fear? There Is Nothing That Can Outrank God!
- The Work Of God!
 - 44:7a - Only God Can Take A Sinful People & Make Them Into Trophies Of His Grace!
 - Only God Can Call Them To Himself!
 - Only God Can Perform What Is Necessary To Set Things In Order For This To Happen!
 - So, Why Do You Fear? God's Work Is Greater Than Any Other!
- The Knowledge Of God!
 - 44:7b - God Is Omniscient – Nothing Takes Him By Surprise!
 - He Knows That Which Is Certain!
 - He Knows That Which Is Concealed!
 - So Why Do You Fear? God Knows Everything!

Conclusion:

1. The Lord Again Tells You: "Fear ye not, neither be afraid!" (44:8)
 - Because: "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind!"
2. What Makes You Afraid?
 - When You Understand The Power Of God!
 - When You Understand The Love Of God!
 - When You Understand The Knowledge Of God!
 - Your Fear Will Turn To Faith In God!
3. It Is The Spirit Of God That Will Give You This Understanding About God!
 - You & I Need To Trust & Rely Upon His Spirit!
4. No Matter What Circumstance Or Problem You Are Facing – The Holy Spirit Is There To Drive That Fear Away!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 - "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

5. “When shadows fall and the night covers all,
There are things that my eyes cannot see.
I’ll never fear, for the Saviour is near;
My Lord abides with me!”
- “When I’m alone and I face the unknown,
 And I fear what the future may be,
 I can depend on the strength of my Friend,
 He walks along with me!”
- “Jesus is King, He controls everything;
He is with me each night and each day.
I trust my soul to the Saviour’s control;
He drives all fear away!”
- “How can I fear?
 Jesus is near.
 He ever watches over me.
 Worries all cease
 He gives me peace.
 How can I fear with Jesus?”

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