

Church Without Walls - Raw transcript of interview:

2024-06-07 CWW Week 10 - Fear

Hi everyone. Week 10 of Church Without Walls and um, it's been a great week for me as I've unpacked all the devotionals for this week on our topic, which is fear. And, uh, this is a big topic for us in the time that we're living in. And I look forward to talking about that with you. And I'm looking forward to us going on this journey together.

But before we do that, let's as always ask for the Holy Spirit to lead us as we look into God's word and understand his purposes for our life. Dear Lord, Father in heaven, we struggle with fear. Fear is used by the prince of darkness to control and coerce us. Fear is used to get us to do things that we wouldn't normally do.

Fear robs us of our serenity in life and robs us of the use of the gifts that you have given us. Fear prevents us from doing things that would be fulfilling of our destiny. And fear father debilitates us. So we call today on your scriptures to teach us how to combat fear, how to deal with it and put it into perspective.

And we ask your Holy Spirit to guide and lead this conversation in Jesus name. Amen. Well, once again, I want to thank you all for your support. And, uh, many of you are commenting on the things that we've been doing the last 10 weeks, which have gone very, very quickly. And, uh, I was up once again, early this morning, completing the devotionals that will be out there next week, uh, seven days of devotionals all on the topic of fear, which we're about to discuss now.

Once again, I have to reiterate, I'm not a theologian. I'm not a pastor. I haven't studied at a seminary. My only qualification is once I was blind and now I can see. And that's good enough for God, I'm sure. And I hope it's good enough for you. What I want to do with Church Without Walls Online is to give you the confidence through a basic practical step by step walk through the Bible and a step by step journey into faith with Jesus Christ, avoiding the pitfalls and traps of institutionalized religion.

I just want to give you the confidence to be able to go to the Bible. to speak to God in prayer and to wander into a church of your choosing. To go to a church maybe just down the corner from you. To go into a church anywhere you like and sit down and understand what's going on and why. And perhaps to become part of a fellowship.

I'm not calling you to join any particular denomination and I'm strongly suggesting that you form a group of like minded people in your community and start a home church of your own. You can base it around what I'm doing here every weekend and the devotionals therein. And the other things that we'll be bringing to you as we resource Church Without Walls in the coming weeks.

And if you do that, God will, God will bless you and you pray for it. He will bless you and you guys can work it through for yourself. You can be each other's accountability partners. You can strengthen each other's walk. And you can do as we do here when we have Church Without Walls in the, in the flesh at, uh, Grace Glen Farm where I live, where we run Mission Serenity.

You can have an open discussion about a relationship with Jesus where the only silly question is the one you don't ask. And hopefully you'll have maybe an imaginary sign at your door, or you might even put one up there that says there's a sign at the entrance of our property says, no judgment beyond this point.

Because who are we to judge? So let's talk about fear. Fear has been a major part of our life in the last few years in particular. And I want to ask the question, have we become addicted to safety? Because our whole narrative in the world that we live in now is all predicated on us being kept safe. But from what?

The acronym for fear is false evidence appearing real. And boy, isn't that the truth? And haven't we seen that in the last few years? But there are two different types of fear. There's a healthy fear, and there's a dysfunctional type of fear, which is the one I just referred to. That fear which has you afraid of the shadows.

That fear that holds you back, that destroys your serenity, that robs you of your freedom. Because fear does that. Fear can be debilitating. How many of us have not lived into our God given destiny because we've been too afraid to make choices? which would have gotten us there, but it's never too late. And then there's the other fear, which is a healthy fear.

And that's a fear that is respect based on a reverence and respect. That's the fear that we have for God. God says we should fear him. He doesn't mean that we should tremble. What he means is that we should understand his power, his immense power and respect it. And always respect it and be and hold it in reverence and hold him in reverence.

Let me give you a tangible example because we're all about practical faith. I've always been a fisherman. I love to fish and I used to love to fish on the ocean. I would go out on the sea across the Tweed River at the border of New South Wales and Queensland across a river bar that was very treacherous.

Before ever going out there, I would drive up onto the Headland at Point Danger, aptly named, and I'd look out at the ocean, where I was going to fish, way out beyond the realms of Cook Island and the Nine Mile Reef, and I'd gaze what the sea conditions were like out there, and then I would look at the river bar.

How was it going? Was the outgoing tide pushing against a southeasterly swell and making it treacherous to cross? And then I'd make a decision. Would I go out, or would I not? And often that decision was based on a healthy respect for the sea. Could the boat handle it? Could I handle it? Well, maybe. But if the conditions weren't right, I respected the sea enough not to go out.

And that's the kind of respect I'm talking about. You might have had a V8 powered car was your first car when you got your license. You knew it's awesome power. It was terrifying if you put the foot down. And you respected it and hopefully you drove it accordingly. Or if you were like me, you had a few accidents and learned the hard way.

That's a different kind of fear. It's a fear that stops us from walking off the edge of a cliff because we're scared of heights. It's a fear that, um, that prevents us from making stupid decisions because we understand what's going on and we can see the treachery in it. And there's a saying that goes that fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

So, um, That's a healthy fear. And, uh, that's one that we should always have in the foundation of our emotions so that we can gauge the decisions that we make wisely. So how do we deal with the other kind of fear? Let's put aside the fear of God because we've established that. And in his character, we've established already from the first 10 weeks of Church Without Walls, we've established that God's character is based on love.

It is, it is love, pure and simple. We've talked about it not being the fluffy kind of love that's all, um, that enables people to do the wrong thing and let them get away with it, where there's no accountability. There are some people who are saying we should be like that now as we deal with the aftermath of the last four years.

But if we don't hold people to account, if we don't hold people to justice, then we're enabling bad behaviour to continue. And God's love is that kind of love. God's love will hold you to account in order to grow and strengthen your character. And we've already discussed character development and we're going to be continuing to talk about character development because that's the essence of the relationship with God.

Our relationship with God through Jesus Christ is, is a step by step day by day journey through character development, learning from our mistakes, from our interactions with other people. It's healthy. It's good. It's healthy. Amen. And part of that is a healthy understanding of fear. But God never gives us anything that he doesn't equip us to handle.

God will never throw a challenge at you that he won't equip you to deal with. And God never wastes a hurt. And that's a permeating theme right the way through everything I do at Church Without Walls. Because it relates to our recovery ministry, Recovery Road, which we're going to be launching here within two weeks time.

And I look forward to bringing that to you. Fear is something that we must hold in context and the Bible tells us in so many places, not to let fear debilitate you. Give the fear over to God and let him, him deal with it. And we're now about to unpack some of those Bible verses and talk them through because the devotional this week has been a phenomenal journey for me.

It's helped me understand my own fears and reinforce my strengths. So let's open our Bible now at, um, the book of Isaiah 41 and verse 10. Um, this is a great verse. It's a very reassuring verse. And we need to unpack this from the point of view of what's actually being said in the book of Isaiah. So the book of Isaiah says in 41 and verse 10, So do not fear, for I am with you.

Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. So let's unpack that. What does that actually mean? So do not fear for I am with you. Well we know he's with us. We've already discussed that. Remember how we talked about the comforter and the triune nature of God, the three part personage of God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We understand that when Jesus went back to heaven. to sit at the throne of God. He told his disciples that I will send a comforter and he will guide and lead you. We just prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us through the Bible. And I want to remind you that as you, as you study the Bible, as you meditate and pray, ask the Holy Spirit to coach you, to take you on the journey, because the Holy Spirit will do that.

He will take you on a journey that's relevant to where your heart and your knowledge is at this stage. Don't be afraid, I reiterate, if there's something in the Bible you don't quite get your head around. The Holy Spirit will bring you back to that when he knows you're ready to deal with it. So we do have the Holy Spirit with us and that's the presence of God in us and all we have to do is invite that in.

So do not fear for I am with you and that's what that means. Do not be dismayed. We shouldn't be dismayed anymore because we know that God is all powerful. We know that he created all things. All things that were made were made by him. We know that he has our destiny in his hands. Many still get upset with the fact that God seems to allow certain things to happen, certain bad things.

Many people refuse to have a relationship with Jesus because they think if Jesus was all powerful. Why doesn't he stop the abuse of children? Why doesn't he stop the carnage that's going on in the world? Why doesn't he stop the evil pursuits of globalists and, and, uh, and despots? Well, we've already explained that too, but it's worth touching on again.

He doesn't do that because God is about free will. Because God is love and we were made in his image to love and be loved. We therefore have to have free will. Because you cannot mandate love. In order to choose love, you have to have a choice for an opposite. If you love God, you love the light. But God gives us a choice to stand in the light or to cower in the darkness.

That's our choice. And the only way that we can prove love for him or for anyone else in our lives is by choosing to love them because there's something about them that holds us dear. that sits in our hearts. I'm certain that God doesn't like the bad things that are done to people. But he can't stop them because if he does that he stops the very nature of love in its essence.

And as we get to understand him and the work he's doing in our lives we can see that. It's often said why do good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people. Well that's kind of like that. The bad things that happen to good people, by now I'm starting to realise, are there in necessity to develop my character.

Remember the serenity prayer we talked about last week? Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace? Well, hardship can be categorised as bad things. And our character development doesn't proceed if only good things happen to us. It doesn't make sense. So to that end, I see the bad things that have happened in my life has actually been for my good.

I survived them. God got me through them. And in the wisdom I gained from that, I no longer have the fear that used to debilitate me because I know that I can deal with it through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. And we talked about that last week.

So do not be dismayed. Um, because you don't have to fear because God is with you and he says, for I am your God and I will strengthen you and help you. He will, he promises to do that. But what's the key to getting that support? We have to ask for it. We have to invite him in. He'll be ever ready to give us what we need, but don't expect him to give you what you want because quite often what you want is not really what you need.

Sometimes God would rather you go without in order to gain the benefit from the going without. The hardship is a pathway to peace. And then he says, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. What does that mean? Well, I unpacked that this morning and it was fascinating and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

And I haven't, I haven't. looked at this particular scripture and analyzed it as much as I did this morning and what I found was fantastic. What I found was reassuring and I want to pass it on to you. What is God's righteous right hand? Well it's Jesus. Jesus is the righteous right hand of God. As I explored that I found many references that alluded to the fact that Jesus is the right hand of God.

Let's look at a couple of them. For example, we have in the book of Mark chapter 16 and verse nine. If you've got your Bibles, go to Mark 16 and verse nine, Mark 16 and verse nine. And it says there, so then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Let's set the scene for that scripture. Jesus had risen from the death of his crucifixion. He had spent some time with the disciples, teaching them further before he had to go. He was consoling them. He promised them that he would send the comforter. He promised them that he would himself return. And then as he ascended to heaven, and they saw him disappear, He went to the right hand of God.

He sat at the right hand of God's throne. That's a very reverent position. It's an exalted position. So the Bible tells us through Mark 16, 9 that Jesus is the right hand. Now let's look at another scripture, the Psalms, Psalm 110 and verse 1. Now the Psalms were mostly written by King David. We know this from study.

Some of the Psalms weren't written by him, but they were mostly written by him. And the Psalms are the book in the Old Testament that are beautiful. It's filled with poems and, and songs and prayers. And it's, it's a beautiful book and it's filled with wonderful wisdoms. Now, King David, who wrote, who wrote the Psalms said this in Psalm 110, 1, the Lord says to my Lord, Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool at your feet.

I'll say it again. The Lord says to my Lord, says David, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool at your feet. This is God referring to Jesus at the right hand. Jesus is God's righteous right hand. And David, what's interesting here is acknowledging Jesus as his Lord, because notice the wording, it says, the Lord says, God says to my Lord, his Lord being Jesus, sit at my right hand.

Now that's interesting because Jesus is of the same bloodline as David, but Jesus came after David. But David acknowledges Jesus in this scripture, in this psalm, because David knew through his study that Jesus was there at the beginning. Jesus is the I am. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is there at the beginning and he'll be there at the end.

Jesus is God. And David understood that. And he obviously understood that in the way that that psalm was written. So there's two scriptures that tells us. That tell us clearly that Jesus is the right hand of God. And what's so good about that? What's the good news about that for us? Well, if Jesus is at the right hand of God and Jesus

materialized in the flesh to show us the character of God, he also came to show us how to behave, to live into his divine principles for our being because he created us and to live by his laws, laws, which are the divine principles.

Remember. The Ten Commandments are the ten basic operating instructions so that you function in the way you were designed by God to have the best performance and live the best life. You can't argue with that. We're seeing now the, the fruits of the lack of those, uh, of, of those particular laws as they're withdrawn, as God has been withdrawn from our society.

The world has become a darker place and we have become accepting the unacceptable. There's no doubt about that. So as we understand that and understand God's purpose, Jesus's purpose in our life as God's right hand and we know that we can approach him directly because we have to go to God through Jesus.

Jesus is our mediator, Jesus is our filter. Then we have a friend indeed because Jesus says I stand at the door and knock. And those who will abide in me, I will abide in them. He is with us through the strength of his Holy Spirit. And he is at this moment interceding on our behalf to pave a way for our eternal life.

Imagine the strength that it would have taken for him to go through what he went through during that 24 hours before and during his crucifixion. Boy, I hope we can get just part of that strength. So that's, that's, um, that was Isaiah 41. 10 and Isaiah 41. 10 paved the way for where we go to from here. Um, and this, this is one I love Psalm 23.

4 once again, written by David. David knows what he was talking about because David wasn't perfect. We know that David had an affair with Bathsheba and as a result of that he broke every law in the book. Every single commandment was broken by David. But through repentance and acceptance of his wrongdoing, God forgave him and restored him to be beloved of God.

And David wrote this one, this psalm. It said that David's best psalms were written after he sinned and repented. And it says in Psalm 23 in verse 4, Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for your rod, for you are with me, and your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

I concur with that a hundred percent. There have been many occasions in the last four years where I've had to abandon any sense of my own safety in order to step out for God. Because I felt that's what God was calling me to do. I've said and done things, I've been to some places in the last four years that I doubt I would have gone to if it weren't for the strength that God put in me.

I really do feel like I can walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil. Because when we love God, and when we know that He is ultimately in control, and when we know that even the worst thing that could happen to us on earth, which is death, means nothing if we love God, because it's just one more sleep till we see Jesus.

Then what is there to fear but fear itself? The King James version says, yea thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear, I shall fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy Rod and my staff, they comfort me. Some of you will remember the book, the Charge of the Light Brigade

that featured very heavily in the writing of that book and the subsequent movie. Here's the next one I really like. This, this one is 2nd Timothy chapter 1 and verse 7. So the 2nd book of Timothy in the New Testament, chapter 1 and verse 7. For the spirit of the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self discipline.

The spirit that God gave us. Who is that? The Holy Spirit. The spirit He gave us when used in conjunction with His laws. His design laws and principles for our life is designed to take away any, any sense of being timid. It's designed to give us the strength and power to walk and live into our destiny, whatever that may be, to actually

take risks that are thought through and put to prayer in order to achieve the things that God wants us to achieve in our lives.

The spirit God gave us does not make us timid, it empowers us. Any behaviour that I have that is, that, that demonstrates any goodness in character doesn't come from me. It comes from the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit who lives in me that does the behaving for me. And that I find really fascinating. So, the spirit of God does not make us timid, but gives us power.

Love and self discipline, which all go hand in hand together. Power, love and self discipline all come from the Holy Spirit, which is what I just alluded to when I talked about my own personal beliefs. Now I want you to think about all the things that you could have done in your life but never did. You held yourself back.

You didn't feel good enough. You didn't feel you could follow through. Have you ever lay awake at night and wondered what would have happened if you'd taken that job? If you'd applied for that promotion? If you moved to that other town or state? What would have happened if you continued that relationship with this particular person or that person?

Regret is a consignment to the warehouse for wisdom. Remember when we talked about the past being a warehouse for wisdom, not an armoury to keep weapons? Often we have to go back and revisit those things and ask ourselves what we'd have done differently. And applying that with the Holy Spirit helps us to make better decisions for our future.

The other one that really sticks out for me in the study of this week is Psalm 27 and verse 1.

Of whom shall I be afraid? Well, that's very interesting. Once again, that was written by David. The Lord is my light and my salvation. Well, yes, he is. I can't think of any other source of light or salvation. It's Jesus or it's nothing. He is our savior. Whom shall I fear? What David's saying is you don't have to fear anybody.

The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? I thought about that this morning. I thought about my enemies. Who is my own worst enemy? It's me. I'm my own worst enemy. And I bet anything you like, you would agree with me that you're your own worst enemy. We are. We're often more critical of ourselves than others would be in certain situations.

And in order to understand that, I thought to myself, why is it that I know what I should do, I know the right thing to do, but I struggle to do it all the time? What is it about me that does that? What is going on in me that has that happen? And I thought there's a lot of scriptures written by the Apostle Paul.

Uh, the great, uh, writer of the New Testament. And I think about Romans 7, Romans chapter 7, which is the sin chapter in that Paul talks about, about sin. So let's go to Roman chapter 7 in Romans chapter 7. I was taken there this morning because when I read that, uh, that verse, Um, the Lord is my light and my salvation.

Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? I thought to myself, it's me. I'm the dummy who screws up in my life. It's me. I'm my own worst enemy, as I just said. And I thought to myself, Oh, broken as I am, how on earth can I call on God? And then those words brought a scripture to mind.

Because somewhere in the Bible it said, Oh, wretched man that I am. And I looked it up and I found Romans chapter seven, which is, as I said, the, the chapter about, about sin and the law of God. And Romans seven, verse 24, Oh, wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death. I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Oh, wretched man that I am. That's how I feel about me. There's not a day goes by that I don't kick myself for making stupid decisions, thinking evil thoughts and falling back into sin. It's crazy. And I wondered, you know, when you think about Paul, he wrote some of the most profound books in the New Testament.

He was a good man. He was a man devoted to God and loved of God as well. And I wonder what got him to the point where he said, I wretched man that I am. So I read the whole chapter of chapter seven and the bit where it talks about a wretched man that I am comes from verse 15. And this is really, this is really me to a T for what I am doing, I do not understand for what I will to do, what I want to do.

That I do not practice, but what I hate that I do. So let's paraphrase that he's saying, I dunno what I'm doing. I just don't understand it for what I want to do, the things I know I should do for my own benefit, my own character development. I don't practice. I don't practice what I preach and what I hate to do.

Those things I despise that I do, I do all the time. I don't always eat well. I often don't think good things of people. I often linger too long on an image on the internet. I often eat the things that I shouldn't eat. I often keep when I should be sharing. All these things that I know I shouldn't do, I do.

But isn't that true of all of us? And if it was true of Paul, then it must be true of all of us. A wretched man that I am. So I come to see when I study that verse that our greatest enemy is ourselves because we're the ones who screw up. We're the ones who accept the unacceptable. We're the ones who cower to fear and don't live into our destiny.

We're the ones who make the bad choices. We're the ones who are responsible. The next one I love that I really got a lot from was Joshua 1. 9 Um, Now Joshua was a general. He was a military man. Joshua was the general for Moses. Joshua's famous for the battle of Jericho. What was incredible about Joshua we're going to discover in this verse.

In Joshua 1 verse 9, have I not commanded you, be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Once again, reference to the Holy Spirit and God is watching over us. Have I not commanded you? Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged.

There's no reason to be when we walk with God. So what happened that made Joshua famous? Well, it was the Battle of Jericho, really. Joshua came upon the city of Jericho, which wall, his walls look to be impenetrable. He had a massive army but the city was well laid out and it was well stocked and provisioned.

A siege was going to take a long time. Joshua asked God, how should I bring down the walls, how can we enter the city? God said to Joshua, march around the city seven times and when I command you on the seventh time, sound your trumpets and the walls will come tumbling down and we know what happened, the walls did tumble down.

Did the walls come down because of the sound vibrations of the trumpets, or did the walls come down because of Joshua's incredible faith in God, in that he followed his instructions and obeyed God to the letter? I think the latter is more appropriate. When we obey God, when we listen to that still, sweet, small voice that guides us through our journey, when we walk right in behind him.

That's pretty hard to put a foot wrong. The only time we come unstuck is when we switch off that voice, allow the background static to interfere with us, and we wander off course and leave God where we left him, which is of no help to us because we have to remain connected to that power source in order to abolish the fear in our lives.

The verse I want to bring out our, uh, fireside chat to a close with today is Philippians Chapter four, verse six to seven. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Anxiety is a killer, isn't it? The anxiety with all suffered as a result of what's happened in the last four years has probably been some of the worst on a global level that I've ever seen in my 71 years of life. I used to suffer from

anxiety, I used to worry that I didn't have enough, I would never have enough, I would never be good enough, I would never be perfect enough, I would never be safe enough.

All those things impact on the serenity of a life given to us by God. He wants us to have serenity. Doesn't mean he wants us to have constant fun and joy. Because the whole journey is not being about joyful, being joyful all the time. It's about growing our character and strengthening our soul. And softening our, um, our hearts.

Replacing our hearts of stone with a heart of flesh. So do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, by prayer and speaking to God and asking God, with thanksgiving, thanking Him in advance that you know that He will meet all of your needs, not necessarily all of your wants.

Present your request to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The peace of God that transcends all understanding. That's the peace that you see in people who are going through hardship, but they're happy. The peace that you see in people who have nothing to eat, but a couple of potatoes and some rice, but they sit around a fire happy in each other's company.

They don't worry about what's coming tomorrow because what they've been given today is sufficient. I've often been heard to say what you did yesterday got you to today and what you do today will get you to tomorrow. There's a piece in that that surpasses all understanding because the world has us living in a way where we've gotta have bulk everything in order to survive the oncoming trauma that's seems to be coming over the next hill.

That's not how it is. Our best survival mechanism is faith in Jesus Christ. And then we know that we will be okay. He will monitor our, our condition. And he will, he will supplement all of our needs as and when we need them. We leave it to God and all the worry and anxiety disappears when we leave it to God.

God never wastes a hurt.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Fear not, for I am with you, God says. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. So do not fear, I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand, Jesus. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For thou art with me. The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged. For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. Because fear does, has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. It's all there and the Bible has many more references about how the counterfeit fear that destroys, coerces and controls us can be put to rest, can be put to the sword with a relationship with Jesus Christ.

I spent a lot of my life worrying about a whole bunch of things that never happened. I've often said if I had a dollar for everything I worried about that didn't happen, I'd probably be a very wealthy man. I do fear myself sometimes. I fear that the things that I do, uh, are often not all that wise, but even considering my actions in that frame gives me an opportunity to make better decisions.

I don't uphold myself to be anything special. Other than I am the son of the living God, as you are the sons and daughters of the living God. I know that I'm not perfect. I know that I'm going to make mistakes. I know that I've made a lot of mistakes, but I don't fear them. I see them as opportunities. I'm growing from them.

I look forward to a life eternal with Jesus Christ. And even though dark clouds lay across the horizon, I live a life of joy and peace now. I've set myself up to do that. I look at things through the frame of God every single day. As I'm talking to you now, behind the camera, I'm looking through a window that shows the windswept hills of the northern rivers.



It's a beautiful sight. God's creations are everywhere. It feels well with my soul.

Am I afraid of the future? No. Because I know that God's in control. And I also know that there are lots of people who are going to prey on the fear of others in order to coerce and control us into doing things we don't want to do. And we give them that power when we succumb to fear and don't understand the love and the salvation of Jesus Christ.

And you know what? It'll make you crazy. But here's something else to consider. People will only drive you crazy if you give them the keys. It's up to you. Only you can decide. The choice isn't that hard really. You can decide to stand in the light or cower in the darkness, in fear. If you can't make a decision one way or the other, I hate to tell you, but you've already made a decision to cower in the dark.

God wants us to have the courage and strength. To stand up and move into the light, to feel the fear and do it anyway, knowing that it's the right thing to do because he is with us and because we love him and we fear and respect him, that we will go there with him. We will walk that extra mile with Jesus Christ and hopefully take a few more people with us.

Cause that's how we build community. We bring God back into the equation. And we start to see the light come back in, and the unacceptable things that we've accepted in the last couple of decades, they can be rooted out and put right. But the choice is ultimately yours. What will you do? Will you stand in the light of Jesus, or will you cower in the darkness of Satan?

You couldn't make it any more simple. The trouble is that sin is made attractive. Sin is fun in many areas, but it's not fun for long. And whatever we, whatever sin that we have is our addiction that um, fills the gaps for the moment is only temporary. The greatest pain is the pain of disconnection and the greatest fear is the fear of rejection.

And all of those things are fueled and fed by Satan. And all of those things are dissipated in the love of Christ. So I implore you all to put fear to the sword. Look at your Bible and find out all the many other ways that God says to, uh, to deal with fear and do it. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Let's pray. Dear Lord, Father in heaven, we thank you Lord for this chat that we've had today by the fire. We thank you that you have given us the encouragement to step out in faith. To make risk something that is calculated but worth following and worth fulfilling and worth doing. Have us be safe to a degree but have us never ever step away from risk when it's for our character development.

Help us to be strong in you. Help us to be sound in you. And guide and lead us through the valley of the shadow of death. Is our prayer in your precious name, Lord. Amen. God bless you all and I'll see you next week when we talk about forgiveness on Church Without Walls. May you have a blessed week. Please share this amongst your friends.

Spread the word. Amen. And continue to comment wherever you can. And we look forward to bringing you more resources in the coming weeks. God bless you all. And bye for now.