

Victory Connect Lesson
Living Without Fear
Pastor Paul Daugherty
December 24, 2023

Introduction: The Christmas Season is a time of great joy for many, for others it can be a time of great stress. The angel of the Lord said to both Mary and Joseph: "Do not be afraid." Christmas is a time to choose to overcome fear with faith in God.

Key Passage: [Luk 1:37 NKJV] 37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

1. The angel told Mary "Do not be afraid." [Luk 1:30 NKJV] 30 Then the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

2. The angel told Joseph "Do not be afraid."
[Mat 1:20 NKJV] 20 ...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

How to find faith in a world full of fear?

1. Look Up. (Fix your focus on Christ.) [Isa 26:3 NKJV] 3 You will keep [him] in perfect peace, [Whose] mind [is] stayed [on You], Because he trusts in You.

2. Listen Up. (Joseph listened to God's messenger.)
[Mat 1:23 NKJV] 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**," which is translated, "**God with us**."
[Rom 10:17 NKJV] 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing...

3. Lift Up. (Make Him known, lift Him up to others.)
[Luk 2:12,17 NKJV] 12 "And this [will be] the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 17 Now when they had seen [Him], they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

4. Light Up. (The world needs the light of Jesus.)
[Jhn 8:12 KJV] 12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your greatest source of joy?
2. Share a time you overcame fear with faith?
3. Do you know someone who needs the light of Jesus?

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