

FEAR  
His Presence  
February 19, 2017

Introduction: I believe one of the greatest hindrances to living the Christian life is fear. Fear of what to say. Fear of what to do. Fear of not knowing enough. Fear of uncertainty. One of the first emotions when facing challenges – or the unknown – is FEAR. Jesus offers his disciples a presence – the Spirit – to teach and help them overcome their fears. The Spirit, who is the living presence of Jesus, is not one of timidity, but one of power, love and self-control. And, he is here to help us overcome our fears – truly.

Scripture Reading: John 14:21-26

JESUS IS EXPECTING US TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

SO, WHO CAN TEACH US TO OVERCOME OUR FEARS?

I. In our Fear, Jesus is With Us.

*Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and **manifest myself to him***” (John 14:21).

A. Fear demands we reprogram our brain by believing.

*Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, **how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?**”* (John 14:22).

B. Fear demands being obedient to the words of our Master.

<sup>23</sup> *Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, **he will keep my word**, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> **Whoever does not love me does not keep my words...**”* (John 14:23-24a).

II. In Our Fear, We Must Learn Everything We Can About the Helper.

*“But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send **in my name**, he will **teach** you...”* (John 14:26).

A. The Spirit teaches from the same source as Jesus.

<sup>49</sup> *For I have not spoken on my own authority, but **the Father** who sent me **has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.** <sup>50</sup> **And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.**”* (John 12:49–50).

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? **The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works (John 14:10).**

... And **the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's** who sent me (John 14:24b).

B. The Spirit enlightens like Jesus.

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you **all things** and **bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you**" (John 14:26).*

<sup>14</sup> *And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup> **His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered** that these things **had been written** about him and had been done to him (John 12:14–16).*

III. In Our Fear, We Desperately Need to be Reminded of the Very Words of God.

<sup>20</sup> *But he said to them, "It is I; **do not be afraid.**" (John 6:20).*

<sup>27</sup> *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.** (John 14:27).*

<sup>19</sup> *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were **for fear of the Jews**, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" (John 20:19).*

<sup>44</sup> *Then he said to them, "These **are my words that I spoke to you** while I was still with you, that **everything written** about **me** in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he **opened their minds to understand the Scriptures** (Luke 24:44–45).*

The Spirit and Jesus share the same work – **they are helpers.**

The Spirit and Jesus share the same defining characteristic – **they teach.**

The Spirit and Jesus share the same function – **they enlighten.**

The Spirit and Jesus share the same desire – **they aid us in overcoming our fears.**

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