

## Faith in the Midst of Fear

Faith is belief, confidence, acceptance

Fear is doubt, suspicion, worry

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7*

“When we fear we are essentially stealing something we were not meant to have.” Anonymous

*‘What is all this arguing about?’ Jesus asked. One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, ‘Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit but they couldn’t do it.’ Jesus said to them, ‘You faithless people! How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.’ Mark 9:1-16-19*

*‘How long has this been happening?’ Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, ‘Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into the water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.’ ‘What do you mean, if I can?’ Jesus asked. ‘Anything is possible if a person believes.’ The father instantly cried out, ‘I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!’ Mark 9:21-24*

Faith is \_\_\_\_\_

What would be possible in your life right now if you choose faith over fear?

- Would you finally find healing from a past hurt?
- Would your trust in God grow deeper?
- Would you forgive yourself for past choices and truly believe God forgives you?
- Would you choose to believe that God is indeed for you and not against you? That He desires for you to have a full life?
- Would you trust Him fully with your future?

Choosing Faith is \_\_\_\_\_

The presence of fear does not mean that you have no faith. Fear visits everyone. But make your fear a visitor, not a resident. -- Max Lucado

*Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, 'It's a ghost!' But Jesus spoke to them at once, 'Don't be afraid', he said. 'Take courage. I am here!' Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 'Yes, come', Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me Lord,' he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. 'You have so little faith,' Jesus said. 'Why did you doubt me?' When they climbed back into the boat, the wind and the waves stopped. Then the disciples worshipped him. 'You really are the Son of God!' they exclaimed. **Matthew 14:24-33***

There will be times we take our eyes off of Jesus  
But ----- Jesus never takes His eyes off of us.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:13***

*For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. **James 1:3-4***