

## When Fear Is Sinful

C. Buck

Fear is sinful when:  
☞ It proceeds from unbelief or distrust of God.



- ☞ When it ascribes more to a frightening situation than is due.
- ☞ When we fear a situation without considering that God is in control.
- ☞ When we fear that God cannot be trusted, or He will break His promises.
- ☞ When our fear is extreme, and that fear distracts us from living a normal life.

## Fear of God

C. Buck

Although fear can be often one's not trusting in God's protection, there is a fear that is healthy. That is the fear of God. Fear of God is that holy disposition or gracious habit formed in the soul by the Holy Spirit. It inclines us to obey all God's commandments. Its evidences are:

1. A dread of His displeasure.
2. A desire of His favour.
3. A regard for His excellences.
4. Submission to His will.
5. Gratitude for His benefits.
6. Conscientious obedience to His commands.

**"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD."**  
Ps. 112:7

**"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."** John 14:27

## Psalm 37:3-7

Harry Todd

*Trusting in the Lord  
Is the only thing to do?  
To enjoy your salvation  
And bring peace to you.*

*Delight thyself in the Lord,  
Read His Word and pray,  
Claim His precious promises  
And rejoice in Him each day.*

*Commit thy way unto the Lord.  
Let Him live His life through you,  
Do all for the glory of God  
In everything you do.*

*Trusting and delighting gives joy  
As you walk this pilgrim way  
And committing to the Lord  
Gives rest in the Lord each day.*

**"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." — Corrie Ten Boom**

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## Safe, Close to Jesus

Author Unknown

A frightened lark was once pursued by a hawk. Round and round, in narrowing circles, the scared bird flew until it seemed as if its foe would soon plant its beak in its breast.



A friend of mine standing under the birds, felt a sympathetic interest in the chase. He opened his coat, and with a soothing tone and gesture wooed the weaker, frightened lark, into his coat for safety.



There the panting lark sat sheltered from its ravenous foe. Its natural timidity was overcome by a greater fear, and thus its peril and its powerlessness led it to come to a sure refuge.

A frightened believer can also seek refuge in the sheltering everlasting arms of his Saviour. He too can rest in safety close to Jesus.

## Be Not Afraid

Bill Brinkworth

Fear is one of the biggest stumbling blocks most youth and adults face. We are afraid of what could happen, what did happen, or what others may think. We fear for safety, and we fear because of the unknown. Is there something under the bed, or something beyond the next dark corner? Will the bully be there today? Will I say the wrong answer in class, and the kids will think me stupid and laugh? Young stomachs are tied in knots because of something an adult meant figuratively ("I'll kill him" or "the hurricane will blow us away"). Adult stomachs, eaten by years of worrying, can develop ulcers.

We fear. We fret. All is in vain: "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Mat. 6:27)

What good will worry do? It won't make you taller, or thinner. It never solves situations; it just adds to the problem.

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## Be Not Afraid

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Over 50 times in the Bible we are admonished to not be afraid, including:

**When Moses prepared the people for their new life in a new land, he told them of the enemies they would face and not to fear them:**

*“Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;” Deut. 7:18*

Instead of worrying about what could happen, remember how God has helped you in the past, and how He will again, if you ask.

**God reminded Israel, that when it looked like they were out-matched, and out-witted, He was still with them and could help them.**

*“When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” Deut. 20:1*

Remember who God is, and how no one is a match against Him.

**Being out-numbered means nothing to God.** Nothing is impossible with God. *“... Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed*

*by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.”*

*I Chron. 20:15*

*“And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.” Mark 10:27*

**Nehemiah had a seemingly impossible task before him of rebuilding a city.** To make matters worse, the government and others tried to stop him from his task; but still he remembered God was on his side.

*“And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.” Nehemiah 4:14*

David, the great warrior and leader, also had fears. He reminded us not to be:

◆ **Fearful of getting hurt.**  
*“In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.” Psalm 56:11*

*“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.” Luke 12:4*

◆ **Afraid of the night or enemies.**  
*“Thou shalt not be afraid*

**“Fear can be sin when we do not trust God’s protection, and think we can only rely on our own measures of protection.”**

*for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;” Psalm 91:5*

◆ **Afraid of what could happen during your sleep.**  
*“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.” Proverb 3:24*

◆ **Afraid of fear itself or being alone.**  
*“Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.” Proverb 3:25*

Life has many questionable twists and turns. They can be daunting and frightening at times. However, for a Christian, there is no need to be alarmed or troubled. The Christian is never alone. His heavenly Father looks over him day and night. Not one thing can happen to a believer without the Father’s knowing, and He is definitely able to keep His children safe.

**“ Courage is fear that has said its prayers.”**

## Made in God’s Image

Do not be frightened! Matthew 6 reminds us that God takes care of the birds and clothes even the flowers. Since you are made in His image, and if you are one of His, He will take care of His own.



*“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” Mat. 6:26-34*

**“No Christian ever falls beneath today’s load. We only fall when we borrow tomorrow’s trials, without the benefit of tomorrow’s grace.”**