



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? *Matthew 6:26*



When Fear Is Sinful

C. Buck

Being afraid 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.

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Peace Amidst The Storm

Bill Brinkworth

“And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, in so much that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.”



Matthew 8:23-26

The disciples had witnessed many of the healings and casting out of demons that Jesus had done. They realized that such miracles could only have been done by God. However, with all they had seen and heard, they were still men and had weaknesses.

In Matthew 8:23-26, it is seen that Jesus’ disciples experienced a terrible storm at sea while the Son of God was on board. Still, they feared of perishing from the overpowering weather, although the Master of the seas, earth, and planets was not far away from them. All their spiritual victories and observations of God’s power were washed overboard along with the storm’s waters because of their lapse in faith.

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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 into 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 jacket for safety. There the panting lark sat

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They should not be blamed for their weakness, as we are most likely as guilty as they were. We may have experienced great spiritual victories, or seen mighty things in our lives that can only be explained by God's intervention. Our eyes may have seen unexplainable occurrences impossible by natural explanations. We also may have seen and experienced answered prayer. The times we saw God's hand change a hopeless situation into one with a perfect, peaceful ending were not forgotten. Like the disciples, amidst all we have seen and been convinced of, we too can be shaken and fearful. Something unexpected and surprising can make us afraid also.

Jesus was asleep. Nothing was disturbing Him. He was not pacing the deck and wringing His hands. God's son was not fretting because He was the answer to their misery. He was having a peaceful slumber, because He knew what was happening in the future and there was nothing in that future that He could not handle.

When we are frightened for our safety, health, or well-being, remember what the Saviour did for His fellow ship passengers in

this Matthew 8 account. Jesus instantly got involved when the disciples came to Him and changed the circumstances. He can also help us when He is allowed in our "boat," our lives.

Jesus was there at the creation of all that is in this world (Genesis 1:26). He created the waters that were threatening the tiny vessel. The Son of God had total control of the threatening winds that He had also allowed to howl. Nothing took Him by surprise. Nothing was a surprise to Him then, and nothing is unknown to Him when it happens in our lives today.

God's Son knows all about the doctor's verdict of an "incurable" disease. He knows that we lost our job, and the possibility of our losing the house we live in is not a surprise to Him, nor is the whereabouts and spiritual condition of a wayward child a surprise to Him.

He is calm. Jesus is in control. Everything will be all right. The Master is on deck. It will just take a few words from His mighty tongue to dispel all that we fear. As long as He is nearby, why should we worry?

Safe, Close to Jesus

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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.

Bold As A Lion

Bill Brinkworth

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Proverbs 28:1 Also: Ps. 53:5.

The ungodly may be content committing sin they are involved in, but they have been robbed of confidence. They are not even aware they are missing it. Because they have rejected God's way, they are also deprived of the promises, protection, and peace the child of God can have.

Too often, the "wicked" fear what could happen and bite their nails over a lot of never occurring "what if's. They constantly look over their shoulders for dangers that are not there.

There needs to be a balance of what could happen and that God will only allow what He wants to happen in our life. The unbeliever does not have that comfort. However, with the assurance that God

is in control, the believer can have less fear and concern.

Those in sin also have another whispering voice that often nags and frightens them. It is the voice of guilt that also steals the peace they could be having. Although many reject God, His commandments, and have forgotten their past wicked sins, responsibility for evilness still haunts consciences. Guilt can be hidden and ignored, but it is rarely eliminated without God's help.

The righteous, however, should have less fear of the "what if this could happen's. When a person is born into the family of God (John 3:3), He has a heavenly Father who watches over, guides, and protects him through life. Believers can have peace, even amidst trials and tribulations. We can be "bold as a lion," knowing we have our heavenly Father continually watching over us. We are anchored in the Rock that at no time falters, never makes mistakes, and never forgets us. The Lord knows all about what is going on in our lives and all around us. Fear not! You are safe in His hands!



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"Courage is fear that has said its prayers!"

— Author Unknown

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

— Corie Ten Boom