

Fearless Faith

FEARLESS FAITH

⇒ Be Prepared!

- “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” — Benjamin Franklin
- “I will prepare and someday my chance will come.” — Abraham Lincoln
- “Spectacular achievement is always preceded by unspectacular preparation.” — Robert H. Schuller

⇒ “Fear Not!” (There is good fear and bad fear)

⇒ Persecution and terrorism over there is coming more and more over here... are you prepared?

“The level of exclusion, discrimination, and violence against Christians is unprecedented, spreading and intensifying... In some countries has risen to a level akin to ethnic cleansing,” David Curry, President, Open Doors
www.opendoorsusa.org

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.”²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20: 19-22

-
1. How did the disciples respond? Why? Where was their focus? (v.19a.)
Our Savior is braver than hell, stronger than steel, tougher than nails, and more powerful than death.
 2. Only a resurrected Jesus could shift our focus from death to life. (19b.-20)
 - It was a game changer for the disciples.
 - Jesus: “**Do not fear** those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather **fear Him** who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28
 - Uncertainty is for certain. It’s unavoidable. It’s beyond our control. But living in fear is optional.

He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15

3. How did the disciples’ respond? (v.21-22)

Simon Peter was crucified upside down. **Andrew** and **Philip** and **Thaddaeus** and **Simon** the Canaanite were scourged then crucified. **James** (son of Zebedee, AKA James the Greater) was beheaded. **Bartholomew** was skinned alive and then beheaded. **Thomas** was run through with a spear. **Matthew** was stabbed in the back. **James**, Jesus’ brother, was beaten and stoned, and then from repeated blows to the head with a club. **John** was the only one of the original disciples not to die a violent death. [Judas committed suicide]

Persecution of Christians in the Coliseum: “...for fearlessness of death and the here-after is something we witness in them every day.”

Claudius Galenus (Second-century physician)

LET’S OPT TO LIVE WITH A FEARLESS FAITH.