

Sledgehammer Blows to Fear

From James MacDonald

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword (Romans 8:31–35, ESV)?

Fear has no place in the life of a follower of Jesus. In fact, fear contradicts faith. Faith says, "Whatever I face, it will be okay because of God." Fear sneers, "It will not be okay," and thinks nothing about God.

God seldom seems farther away than when your heart is filled with fear. Afraid, you survey your own resources, trying to be self-sufficient, and realize you aren't nearly enough. An anxious, frightened perspective of your circumstances is never good—and never from God. "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear" (Romans 8:15a). "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). Fear doesn't come from God.

The Apostle Paul exhaustively addressed this issue of fear in Romans 8. He was a master at asking questions to make a point. In the verses above, he posed seven questions, six of which are sledgehammer blows against fear. Along the way, Paul named the full gamut of our fears, from our enemies to every conceivable danger.

Paul didn't teach that this list of troubles won't happen to us but that when any or all of these things do happen, they won't crush us because of what we have going for us:

1. "God is for us."
2. He "gave [his own Son] up for us all."
3. He will "graciously give us all things."
4. "It is God who justifies."
5. Christ Jesus "is interceding for us."
6. Absolutely nothing "shall separate us from the love of Christ."

These are six, ringing sledgehammer strikes that can shatter our fears. And they confirm that fear has no place in the life of a Christian.

We need not fear, because God is with us individually. There's a special sense in which God is with each one of His children personally—like your closest friend sitting next to you in a stadium full of strangers. He is with you in a unique way that an unbeliever cannot experience. And not only is He with you, but He is also for you. "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31b)? The answer to that question shatters fear with the power of faith in Jesus Christ.



LIGHTHOUSE

Reach Restore Refine

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March 3, 2019

We welcome you to all our services!

Sunday:	9:45 AM	Pre-Service Prayer
	10:00 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Morning Worship
	5:00 PM	Pre-Service Prayer
	6:00 PM	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	6:30 PM	Prayer & Devotion

Announcements

We will not have Kids Church, today, due to Communion

Next Sunday: All-Church Bowling at Edgewood Bowl in Neosho from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

March 31: This months Special Offering will go to the Don & Myrna Marble Memorial Scholarship.

Pastor Don & Myrna Marble Memorial Scholarship 2019/2020

We are currently accepting applications for the 2019/2020 Academic Year.

If you are interested in applying, the application is available on the table at the back of the church.

Deadline to submit your application is Friday, April 26, 2019.



Door Greeters for March:
Eli & Lisa West

Thought of the Week



Daylight Saving
Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday!



The **Gospel Lighthouse Kids Church** has been added on **Remind!**

Remind is a messaging app that allows the teacher to send out reminders about their class or group.

We will be using remind to send reminders about upcoming Kids Church dates, lessons and reminders!

Remind is a **FREE** app.

Please do the following to be added to our **GLH Kids Church Remind group:**

1. Text @glhkids
2. To this number- 81010
3. Answer the following questions to be added to the group.

Once, this is finished you will then be joined in our GLH Kids Church group!

Feel free to send any questions you have through Remind or see Brooke Gariss.



All-church Bowling party and Life Group activity at Edgewood Bowl in Neosho on Sunday, March 10, from 3-5pm. **We are asking the Senior Adult Sanctuary Class to provide drinks & ice; the Bridge-builder class to provide Chips & Veggie Tray, and the Young Adult class to bring desserts.** Come join us for a fun time of fellowship.