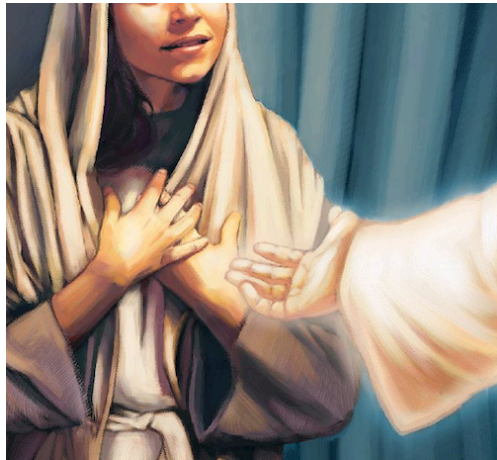


How Can Love Overcome Our Fears?

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.
1 John 4:16



READ: Luke 1:26-33

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death—can take that love away."

Henri Nouwen

REFLECT: How does love overcome our fears?

Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
¹⁷ For the Lord your God is living among you.
He is a mighty savior.
He will take delight in you with gladness.
With his love, he will calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."
Zechariah 3:16-17

"Calm" (Hebrew: Charash) = to engrave, plough, devise, cause to bring about, to quiet or bring to rest

Q: In what ways is God's love calming your fears? (list out)

Q: What are the areas that fear keeps creeping in? (list out)

RESPOND: What are the ways I can be more like Mary in her response to God?

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him!
Luke 1:46-50

One of the greatest tools to combat fear
is **gratitude.**

List out those things you are grateful for
today.



Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide for the Week

Take some time to look up a few of the many places in Scripture where God states, “Do not be afraid. Do not fear.”

‘Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ Isaiah 41:10

Pray this for others this week...

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power
through his Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power,
together with all the Lord’s holy people,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, a
nd to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled
to the measure of all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:16-19

Jesus: The Hope of the World - ADVENT Calendar

December 18 – LOVE: How Can Love Overcome Our Fears?
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 pm
December 31- New Year’s Eve Service, Saturday, at 9:30 am at the
NewDay Office, 822 South Broadway

NOTE: *We will not be gathering to worship on Sunday, December 25 or
Sunday, January 1.*

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships
With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience
the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

FIND OUT MORE... newdaycov.org
(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)