

[Isaiah 41:10](#)

Fear Not - God is With Us

Introduction

On March 4, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave his first inaugural address as the 32nd President of the United States. His famous quote, is as follows: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Roosevelt's remarks were directed at the economic recovery and social reform needed for the Great Depression years.

Indeed President Roosevelt assured Americans who were experiencing difficult times in the early 1930's that the only real enemy to be afraid of was fear itself. Yet, God assures us through His Word, that because of His great love, we need not be afraid of fear, nor anything else for that matter. That's because God is with us; He is our God.

Something I want to clarify up front is that the word "fear" has multiple uses in the Bible. In this sermon, we're not talking about "fear of the Lord" ([Proverbs 1:7](#)), but rather human fear that arrests our hearts and minds. I'm experiencing that kind of fear right now - fear of failure, fear of man. But isn't God so good to have your preacher today preaching to myself, as well as to you, about a real-life struggle? Yes, fear is real; fear is natural for us. Faith is real too, but faith isn't natural for us. Remember, too, there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ([1 John 4:18](#)). That's the perfect love of God.

Therefore, the main point of this message is that God in His great love strengthens, helps and upholds His people because He is:

- Present
- Powerful
- Personal

So, if we look closely at [Isaiah 41:10](#), the verse begins with two (2) commands, each followed by an assurance: 1) Fear not, for I am with you; 2) be not dismayed, for I am your God. Then, following those are three (3) promises: God will strengthen you, help you, and uphold you with His righteous right hand.

If there ever were a "go-to" verse in Scripture to "hang your hat on" for peace and assurance, [Isaiah 41:10](#) would be at the top of the list. Also, think about this: Who is the "you" that Isaiah is alluding to? In the time period this was written, which was about 740-690 BC, the "you" is God's chosen people, Israel.

And now in the present day, it's all of those whom God has chosen to be His people through Christ. In other words, the "you" is the church, which is all of you who have put your faith in Christ. We are all benefactors through Jesus according to the riches of God's mercy and the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sins ([Ephesians 2:4-5](#)). That's the good news, the gospel, that God in Christ is always present. He will always be with us.

1. God is Present

Right out of the gate, God is reminding Israel, and us too, that He is present with His people all of the time. It is God Himself that gathered them together as His servants. In spite of their failures, disobedience and rebellious nature, God is the One who chose them. He could have cast them away, but He didn't. His great mercy and amazing grace made the difference. Here's [Isaiah 41:9](#), which is the verse that immediately precedes our text for today.

...you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"...

[Isaiah 41:9](#) (ESV)

Because of God's covenant-keeping ways, He will always be present. Scripture states that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Here's [Deuteronomy 31:8](#).

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

[Deut 31:8](#) (ESV)

The last time our grandson Oliver visited, he and I went to the park. For his safety, I held his hand as we crossed the street. Just my presence was an assurance to Oliver that I was with him and protecting him. Likewise, all of those who are in Christ, who are in God's family as His sons and daughters, should find it an assurance that He is our protection. He upholds us, strengthens us, and helps us. Here's what [Isaiah 41:13](#) says about that.

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." [Isaiah 41:13](#) (ESV)

Church, that's gold! That's who Jesus is for all who trust Him as Lord and Savior. He's right here with us all of the time. We don't have to fear that He will leave us. Why is that true? Remember, after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit came to guide, guard, and counsel. He indwells all believers. That's who God in Christ is for us. He promised that He is present all of the time, no matter what. Jesus reiterated this in His Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. Here's [Matthew 28:19-20](#).

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

[Matt 28:19-20](#) (ESV)

My dad always said "Sharing the love of Christ is what life is all about." With Christ's presence, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit empowers every believer to be His ambassador and representative. Sharing with others the love, grace and mercy found in Jesus should be our joy and delight. In fact, Scripture states that in His presence there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore at His right hand ([Psalm 16:11](#)).

The truth is that God's presence in Christ is closer than the air is to our skin. Jesus' presence always means He works with us, through us, for us, and in spite of us. When our thoughts are inappropriate, He is still our Advocate. When our words are harsh, He is still our Friend. When our actions are repulsive, He is still our Good Shepherd. Now, don't get me wrong. The Lord doesn't condone sin; neither does He condemn those God is calling to Himself. His presence is continuous because He never changes. He's the same yesterday, today and forever ([Hebrews 13:8](#)). So, even on our worst day, there's no reason to question if God in Christ is present with us. Here's [Psalm 73:21-23](#).

²¹ When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, ²² I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. ²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. [Psalms 73:21-23](#) (ESV)

What a great assurance! What a great promise! As believers in Christ, we can count on Him to be with us; He will strengthen, help and uphold us by His presence. But do we believe it? If we don't, we're probably depending upon the presence of earthly things, such as our health, wealth, and prosperity to uphold us instead of the Lord. If we do believe it, indeed there is fullness of joy as we trust in Him. When a person trusts that God is ever-present, there is surely to be a revelation of His power.

2. God is Powerful

The word that theologians use to indicate God's power is "omnipotence". This means that God has very great and unlimited authority and power over all things. In fact, Scripture states that Jesus Christ holds all things together ([Colossians 1:17](#)). He is powerful; He is God. Christ is the image of the invisible God ([Colossians 1:15](#)). He rules and reigns over everything. He upholds the entire universe because of His power. Here's [Hebrews 1:3](#).

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. [Heb 1:3](#) (ESV)

Let me ask a question. Since Jesus upholds the universe by His power, does He not uphold you and me? Consider this: The same power that created the universe, parted the Red Sea, and resurrects the dead, is the same power that upholds you and me. In fact, in the text for today, we should find assurance in the promises of the omnipotent God. He assures us that He upholds His people with His righteous right hand. Here's [Psalm 89:13](#).

You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand. [Psalms 89:13](#) (ESV)

Power, authority, and strength are all indicative of God's right hand. To be at His right hand is a place of honor. For example, Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father ([Colossians 3:1](#)). When all of the nations are gathered before Him, the Lord Jesus will separate the people one from another. The sheep, all of those He saved, will be on His right hand and the goats, the unsaved, on His left ([Matthew 25:33](#)). If you're in Christ, you're seated with Him in the heavenly

places at God's right hand ([Ephesians 2:6](#)). Only by God's powerful grace and mercy is any of this true.

A great example of God's power in strengthening, helping and upholding His people is displayed in the account of Jesus calming the storm ([Mark 4:35-41](#)). Pastor Dan preached on this a few weeks ago. The disciples were afraid of perishing as their boat was rocked by the wind and waves. And there was Jesus asleep, as if He didn't care. We, too, can be fearful when the storms of life rock our boat. We're afraid and wonder if God really cares. We doubt; our faith is weak. As Pastor Dan said, "Turn to the truth." The truth is that the Lord Jesus is always there; He is always with us and for us.

Unlike the disciples, we can't visually see, physically touch, or audibly hear Jesus. Even though we can't do any of those things, the effects of His power are evident. For example, we see His power in the marvels of creation. You know what I'm talking about if you've ever been to Niagara Falls. There's nothing quite like seeing the falls and hearing the thundering sound of water flowing over the falls. Or maybe you've visited the Grand Canyon and viewed firsthand the canyon's indescribable beauty and overwhelming grandeur. On this earth, there's nothing quite like these two (2) spectacles of God's handiwork.

But there's one special evidence of God's power that makes Niagara Falls seem like a dripping faucet and the Grand Canyon like a ditch. What's the evidence? It's the power displayed when God saves a human being through His plan of salvation found exclusively in Christ. Even though the world makes a mockery of people being saved from their sin by faith in Jesus' blood and righteous, the Bible unequivocally states that it is the power of God. Here's [1 Corinthians 1:18](#).

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

[1 Cor 1:18](#) (ESV)

What about you? Are you perishing and hell-bound? Or are you being saved by the power of God? Have you put your faith in Christ that the power in His blood shed on the cross avails for you? If you haven't, today is the day of salvation. Today is the day of repentance, which means turning from sin and turning to the cross. The upholding power of God's righteous right hand is found in the power of the cross.

As I mentioned earlier, God is closer to us than the air is to our skin. God upholds the believer in Christ through thick and thin. His right hand is strong and mighty. If you're in Christ, you're in His grip. He's got a hold of you. No one or nothing can snatch you out of His hand ([John 10:28-29](#)). That's a truth that assures us that the almighty and powerful God who made all things is also the God who is personal.

3. God is Personal

Notice that in the text ([Isaiah 41:10](#)), God speaks in the first person. For example, He says "I am with you; I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." All of this wording of "I am" and "I will" is personally directed

toward those He came to save, the believers in Christ. It's a personal assurance that God is with us and for us. He cares.

God is personal. He didn't create the heavens and the earth, wind it up like a top, start it spinning, and then walk away. He didn't create you and me, then go off and leave us on our own. No, He's the God who is personal and close, not far away and uncaring. He condescended from His glory to be with us in the messiness of this world. Even though we humans are a mess, Jesus came to save all who would receive Him and believe on His name ([John 1:12](#)). Otherwise, there wouldn't be any need for the Lord Jesus to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sin.

If you're in Christ, here's what that means for you. You have a personal relationship with Him as a member of His family. You've been adopted as a son or daughter of the Living God. You've been redeemed by His blood and forgiven of sin - past, present and future. That's the Lord who is personal and He knows you. In fact, He knows you better than you know yourself. You belong to Him. Here's [Psalm 24:1](#) and [Psalm 50:10-11](#).

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...
[Psalms 24:1](#) (ESV)

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.
[Psalms 50:10-11](#) (ESV)

The heavens and the earth belong to God. That means everything is His, from the inconceivably small atom to the incomprehensibly large galaxy. As John Young reminded us last week in his sermon: "There is not one square inch in all of creation where Jesus doesn't rightly say "Mine". That includes all of us. That means that since the cattle on a thousand hills belong to God, then so do you.

If you've put your trust in Jesus, think about what that means for you personally: He's your God, your Savior, your Lord, your Friend, your heavenly Father, your elder Brother, your Advocate, your Mediator, your Intercessor, your Rock, your Redeemer, and your Refuge. You're at peace with Him; He's at peace with you. You belong to Him. You're not your own; you were bought with a high price, the precious blood of Christ ([1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#) and [1 Peter 1:19](#)).

Indeed you're not your own. Jesus is the Husband. You and me, the church, are His bride. In fact, the marriage between one man and one woman is probably the best example in all of creation of the personal nature of God. In Christ, husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her ([Ephesians 5:25](#)). That's personal. God in Christ really is the only way the marriage of one man and one woman is strengthened and helped. That's because it's upheld by God's righteous and strong right hand.

My parents were married for 73 years. My dad and mom are now absent from the body and at home with Lord ([2 Corinthians 5:8](#)). In spite of their fears and failures, for a little over seven decades they believed God was their strength and refuge in times of trouble ([Psalm 46:1](#)). They had the assurance that God was their helper; He would keep their going out and their coming in

from this time forth and forever more ([Psalm 121:8](#)). Their lives were and are being upheld by God's righteous and strong right hand. Nothing can be better than that.

Conclusion

Whether we'd like to admit it or not, we all deal with fear in varying degrees all of our life. What are you most afraid of; what am I most afraid of? If we're in Christ, God really is saying in essence: "I love you. You belong to Me. You're My son or daughter. Nothing or no one can change that." Those promises are tried, true, and trustworthy. That's who Jesus is for us. In fact, Scripture tells us the following about God's promises in [2 Corinthians 1:20](#).

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
[2 Cor 1:20](#) (ESV)

Here's a final comment in the form of an exhortation, an encouragement and a rebuke. Here's the exhortation: No matter what, trust in God's promises; keep trusting that He'll strengthen you, help you and uphold you with His righteous right hand. Here's the encouragement: God's promises never fail; there's no need to fear; God is with us. Finally, here's the rebuke. Just as Jesus rebuked His disciples in the boat after He calmed the storm, He rebukes us: "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ([Mark 4:40](#))

Remember, God wants us to trust Him. He will strengthen, help, and uphold those He loves, those He has called out of the darkness into His marvelous light ([1 Peter 2:9](#)). Therefore, we don't have to be fearful or dismayed about anything, including fear itself. God is with us; He loves His people. Here's a final verse I'd like to leave us with: [Joshua 1:9](#).

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.
[Josh 1:9](#) (ESV)