

“Facing Fear”

GHMA 1/27/2026

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) — 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (NKJV - Sound Mind)

Psalms 34:4 (NLT) — 4 I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears.

I. Today I want to draw our attention to a subject you don't often hear talked about among Christian leaders, Pastors and Missionaries...

A. The topic is “Fear”

B. We don't often talk about the reality that men and women of faith can also struggle with fear and anxiety.

1. We can't afford to be fearful or admit that we, at times, are battling fear because it's a sign of weakness.

2. But I would suggest that you can't overcome fear until you face it head on.

A. We Pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders carry a unique kind of responsibility —

3. caring for souls, leading communities, and often serving in spiritually and emotionally demanding contexts.

4. Despite our faith and calling, we are still human and face very real fears.

II. Here are some of the most common fears we Christian leaders face... See if you identify with one or more.

A. 1. Fear of Failure

- **Leaders often fear not living up to God's calling or the expectations of others.**

We worry about not producing enough fruit, not growing our church or ministry, or disappointing God and those who trust us.

B. 2. Fear of Burnout or Spiritual Dryness

- **Have you ever gone through a season where you felt distant from the Lord;**
- **The fear of losing your passion or connection with God amid the demands of ministry is a real one for some.**

The constant giving — emotionally, spiritually, and physically — can lead to exhaustion and a sense of emptiness.

C. 3. Fear of Rejection or Criticism

- **Leaders live under public scrutiny.**

The fear of being misunderstood, gossiped about, or criticized for decisions can weigh heavily, especially when you have to balance truth and love.

D. 4. Fear of Financial Insecurity

- **Missionaries and pastors often rely on donations or modest church salaries.**

Financial instability can bring stress — particularly for those with families — despite their trust in God's provision.

E. 5. Fear of Moral or Spiritual Failure

- **Falling into sin or temptation is a deep fear.**

The damage moral failure can cause to the church's witness and the personal shame attached to it make this a constant battle in prayer.

F. 6. Fear for Their Families

- **Ministry life can put strain on marriages and children.**

Many leaders worry that their families will feel neglected or resent the church because of the time and emotional energy ministry demands.

G. 7. Fear of Persecution or Cultural Opposition

- **Especially for missionaries serving in restricted or hostile contexts.**

The fear of being rejected, attacked, or even imprisoned for their faith is very real.

H. 8. **Fear of Loneliness or Isolation**

- **Leadership can be isolating.**
Many pastors and missionaries struggle with not having safe spaces to share their struggles without being judged or misunderstood.
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I. 9. **Fear of Ineffectiveness**

- **“Am I really making a difference?”**
Especially in long seasons without visible fruit, leaders fear that their work might not be fulfilling God’s purposes.
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J. 10. **Fear of Losing Vision or Calling**

- **Over time, leaders may doubt whether they are still called to the same ministry.**
The fear of drifting from God’s will or not discerning His leading clearly can cause much anxiety.
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III. **There are three Greek words in the New Testament translated “FEAR” - Each word describes a different kind of fear.**

K. Greek word “**Eulabeia**” (yoo-lab'-i-ah) –

1. **This means to show reverence and utmost respect, we often call this Godly fear**

Hebrews 12:28 (NLT) — 28 Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with **holy fear and awe**.

L. Greek word **Phobeo** (fo-beh-o) –

2. **This is to be seized with fear, struck, paralyze**

Luke 1:30 (NLT) — 30 “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God!

3. **This can be a healthy fear; after all, it is the one that keeps you from jumping from out in front of oncoming , etc.**

4. **You’ve never done it, but you are still afraid.**

5. It caused Mary to fear the angel, but the angel knew that Phobeo would kick in when he appeared.

M. Greek word Deilia (day-lee-ah) - timidity, cowardice (This is the one to avoid!)

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) — 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

IV. How can “Deilia”/fear affect you?

N. It can cause you to do things you are not proud of....

1. Genesis 20:1-20 Abraham “lies” to the king to out of fear
2. Matt 26:69-75 Peter denies Christ three times out of fear

O. People have done things to others out of fear throughout history.

3. Deut 2:4 God warned the children of Israel that Esau’s people, the Edomites, could hurt them out of fear

P. Fear not only causes you to do things you wouldn’t ordinarily do... It will also KEEP YOU FROM STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

4. In Shakespeare’s play “Julius Caesar” Act 3 ,scene 2 “Cowards die many times before their deaths, but the valiant taste death but once.”
5. Have you ever been too afraid to do something, and wished that you had done it later? This is one of those many deaths.
6. Each time you quit believing for something because it got too serious, dragged out too long, ---- fear gets involved, and later you realize that you just died one of those many deaths, and missed a chance to prove yourself valiant.

Q. Deilia/Fear is not of God, it is destructive.

1. To be fearful and always dreading that which has terror can cause panic with great anxiety.
2. This kind of Fear is devastating and can have lasting results.

3. It can paralyze an individual and cause one to be helpless.
4. Fear can stop the flow of God's power leading one to a wrong belief system.
5. The only antidote for this kind of fear is found in intimacy with God that grows your faith.
6. **FAITH CONQUERS FEAR**

V. **The spirit of fear can oppress an individual.**

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) — 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

R. Paul refers to fear as a spirit...

1. ...it is a spiritual power and force that we need to bind and command in the name of Jesus.

Matthew 18:18 (NKJV) — 18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

2. We need to take authority over spiritual forces and be delivered and set free from the oppressive powers of the enemy.
3. You must not be passive when oppression comes your way
4. Since the inception of time Satan has been going around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.
5. Satan is the accuser of the brethren;
6. he is a liar, and the father of lies.
7. Deception is his game and he plays it well
8. If Satan can get you to live in fear, he knows that he has won a battle.

S. Listen to what Solomon teaches in Proverbs

Proverbs 1:33 (NLT) — 33 But all who listen to me **will live in peace**, untroubled by fear of harm."

Proverbs 1:33 (NKJV) — 33 But whoever listens to me **will dwell safely**, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

T. This is a powerful scripture, knowing that if we dwell in His presence, we can be free from fear.

9. If we listen to Him... How do we listen to Him
10. By taking heed to the word of God
11. By reading, meditating, memorizing, speaking forth the word of God
12. Remember the instruction God gave Joshua before He led the children of Israel into the Promise Land

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) — 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

13. The Hebrew word translated “meditate” is hâgâh, haw-gaw´; a prim. root [comp. 1901]; to murmur (in pleasure or anger); by impl. to ponder:—imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, **roar**, × sore, speak, study, talk, utter.

U. Fear involves TORMENT.

14. The Greek word translated torment defines “torment” as to beat with the fist, harass
15. This is the enemies plan... to do all he can to keep you bound in fear in order to beat you with his fist... to harass and torment you
16. The bible tells us:

1 John 4:18 (NLT) — 18 Such love has no fear, because **perfect love expels all fear**. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

17. **perfect love cast out fear.**
18. **The word tells us that there is no fear in love.**
19. **So, we allow His love to be shed abroad in our heart, with His presence in us fear will no longer have a place to reside.**

Psalm 34:4 (NKJV) — 4 I sought the LORD, and He heard me, **And delivered me from all my fears.**

V. Think about the man in the bible who lived among the tombs and would cut himself, here was a man living in torment because of fear.

- 1. Over the years I have known people whose lives were filled with a tormenting spirit, and they were never able to free themselves.**
- 2. You could see it in their face, a very troubling spirit.**
- 3. Fear is a spirit, and one way to overcome is with a positive faith.**

Joshua 1:9 (NLT) — 9 **This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**

- 1. God would never command Joshua to be courageous if he did not have the ability to make that choice.**

Psalm 23:4 (NKJV) — 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

W. David said there is no fear in the valley,

- 1. We will go through some valleys as we serve the Lord.**
- 2. And there is no fear in the shadow of death because the sting of death has been taken away, and the grave holds no victory.**

Isaiah 35:3–4 (NLT) — 3 With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. 4 **Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.”**

VI. Deilia /Fear is not from God;

X. In our text the Apostle Paul tells us that God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

- 1. If fear surrounds you, if you live in fear, if fear is following you, haunting you, remember it is not of God.**

2. God does not put you in bondage, but fear does, it will hold you in bondage.

3. Job said,:

Job 3:25 (NKJV) — 25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.

4. Fear gives birth to a lot of things in a person's life.

Y. To live in fear is a snare

5. It's like a bird caught in a net

6. If your life is ruled by fear you will be held captive in the net of life waiting for the grim reaper to arrive, and he will come.

Z. But I have some good news, God can and will deliver us from fear.

Psalm 27:1 (NLT) — 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

Psalm 91 (NLT) — 1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. **2** This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. **3 For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.** **4** He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. **His faithful promises are your armor and protection.** **5** Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. **6** Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. **7** Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. **8** Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished. **9** If you make the LORD your refuge, **if you make the Most High your shelter, 10 no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home.** **11** For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. **12** They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. **13** You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet! **14** The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. **15** When they call on me, **I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. 16 I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation."**

AA. In the book of Matthew Jesus is pleading with Israel concerning the things that would come on that generation. And He said:

Matthew 23:37 (NLT) — 37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.

7. Jesus is standing with arms stretched out pleading with us to come under His divine protection and be free from fear.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) — 10 Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

BB. When God’s word says “fear not,” this command is often directly paired with an assurance that makes it possible:

8. “Fear not, for I am with you.”

9. In Matthews’s gospel chapter fourteen and verse twenty-seven Jesus said, “it is I, be not afraid.”

VII. There is much to be afraid of in this world, and simply setting that fear aside is mere boldness.

A. The only way to be truly fearless is to trust in Him who is greater than all fear.

B. The disciples panicked in the storm because they didn’t fully realize who was in their ship.

1. If they had, they would surely have known that whatever a storm might do to them, it could never overcome Him.

C. So, when we face our own storms and fears, as we all will, we can hear His voice telling us to be of good cheer – not because everything is about to change for the better on the outside, but because He is with us on the inside.

Isaiah 51:7 (NLT) — 7 “Listen to me, you who know right from wrong, you who cherish my law in your hearts. **Do not be afraid of people’s scorn, nor fear their insults.**

D. As Christian Leaders we are commanded not to fear.

VIII. Let’s circle back and address those common fears we leaders may face:

I. 1. Fear of Failure

• **Biblical Encouragement:**

- *“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty. — Zechariah 4:6*
- *“Well done, good and faithful servant.” — Matthew 25:21*

Truth: God measures success by **faithfulness**, not results. The outcome belongs to Him.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Reframe goals around **obedience and faithfulness**, not numbers or visible fruit.
 - Keep a “journal of grace” — write down moments you’ve seen God’s hand in your ministry.
 - Regularly remind yourself: His yoke is easy; **you are a steward, not the Savior.**
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II. **2. Fear of Burnout or Spiritual Dryness**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” — Matthew 11:28*
- *“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” — Isaiah 40:31*

Truth: Ministry is sustained by **being with Christ**, not just working for Him.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Schedule **regular Sabbaths** — nonnegotiable days of rest and delight in God.
 - Develop rhythms of silence, solitude, and worship outside ministry duties.
 - Find accountability with peers who check in on your spiritual and emotional health.
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III. **3. Fear of Rejection or Criticism**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“If God is for us, who can be against us?” — Romans 8:31*
- *“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?” — Galatians 1:10*

Truth: Identity in Christ transforms how we receive both praise and criticism.

- **Practical Steps:**

- Anchor yourself daily in your identity as a **beloved child**, not as a performer.
 - When criticized, ask: **Is there truth I can learn, and what should I release to God?**
 - Keep a few trusted friends who can speak truth in love to you.
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IV. **4. Fear of Financial Insecurity**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” — **Philippians 4:19***
- *“Seek first His kingdom... and all these things will be given to you as well.” — **Matthew 6:33***

Truth: God’s provision often flows through unexpected paths — He is faithful.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Practice gratitude and stewardship — track God’s past provisions.
 - Develop healthy financial boundaries and seek wise counsel if needed.
 - Pray specifically over financial needs, and share transparently with partners.
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V. **5. Fear of Moral or Spiritual Failure**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) — 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- — **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- *“Create in me a pure heart, O God.” — **Psalm 51:10***

Truth: Holiness is pursued through daily dependence, not human strength.

- **Practical Steps:**
- Establish strong **accountability relationships** — not just professional, but spiritual.
- Build rhythms of confession, Scripture meditation, and spiritual direction.

- Address unhealthy stress patterns early before they become vulnerabilities.
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VI. **6. Fear for Their Families**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” — Joshua 24:15*
- *“He who manages his own household well...” — 1 Timothy 3:4–5*

Truth: Ministry begins at home — your family is not a distraction from your calling.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Set **clear family boundaries** — protect evenings, vacations, and shared worship. Make your family Priority One – First Church
 - Pray with and for your family regularly.
 - Invite your spouse and children into ministry in ways that bring joy, not pressure.
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VII. **7. Fear of Persecution or Cultural Opposition**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” — John 16:33*
- *“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.” — Matthew 5:10*

Truth: Suffering is not abandonment — it is often the mark of genuine witness.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Immerse in stories of persecuted believers — let their faith strengthen yours.
 - Build intercessory communities to pray specifically for courage.
 - Remember, **the kingdom advances through both suffering and faithfulness.**
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VIII. **8. Fear of Loneliness or Isolation**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“A friend loves at all times.” — Proverbs 17:17*

- *“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.” — Psalm 27:10*

Truth: God provides companionship through His presence and His people.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Cultivate a network of fellow pastors, missionaries, or mentors.
 - Be transparent with trusted peers about your struggles.
 - Schedule intentional relational time not tied to ministry agenda.
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IX. **9. Fear of Ineffectiveness**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow.” — 1 Corinthians 3:7*
- *“Do not grow weary in doing good.” — Galatians 6:9*

Truth: Kingdom fruit is often invisible for a season — God measures in eternity.

- **Practical Steps:**
 - Set aside time to celebrate small faithfulness’s and unseen obedience.
 - Keep testimonies of transformation to remind you of God’s work.
 - Surrender outcomes to God daily through prayer.
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X. **10. Fear of Losing Vision or Calling**

- **Biblical Encouragement:**
- *“The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.” — Romans 11:29*
- *“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” — Philippians 1:6*

Truth: Your calling is not fragile — God sustains what He starts.

- **Practical Steps:**
- Revisit your **original calling story** — journal what God said and how He confirmed it.
- Seek spiritual retreats for listening prayer and reorientation.

- Let trusted mentors help you discern shifts in season or direction.
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XI. Closing Encouragement

A. Every fear is an invitation to deeper faith.

1. Christian leadership will always include moments of human weakness — but those moments can become holy spaces where God's strength is perfected.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” — 2 Corinthians 12:9

XII. There is one kind of fear that we all need

B. In our spiritual life, fear is also a very healthy thing to have!

1. In fact, having no fear of God has disastrous effects in our lives, and in the effectiveness of the Church.
2. The concept of the Fear of the LORD is found all throughout the Bible,
3. There are approximately 200 passages that teach those who are willing to listen how important this attitude is in our relationship with God.
4. In Deuteronomy 5:29, Moses reveals the heart of God toward His chosen people. Moses has gone to speak with the LORD, and the LORD says to him...

Deuteronomy 5:29 (NKJV) — 29 Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

C. Today let's determine that we will not be driven by the spirit of fear...

5. But rather be led by the fear of the Lord and faith in Him.