

FEAR NOT

ADVENT 2023

Trusting God One Promise at a Time

A Prominent Advent Theme

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ADVENT 2023

A Prominent Advent Theme

Luke 1:11-13

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son."

A Prominent Advent Theme

Luke 1:30-31

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”

A Prominent Advent Theme

Matthew 1:20-21

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.”

A Prominent Advent Theme

Luke 2:9-11

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

The GOOD AND BAD of Fear

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Good fear protects us from danger and prevents us from hurting ourselves.

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The GOOD AND BAD of Fear

Good fear protects us from danger and prevents us from hurting ourselves.

Bad fear paralyzes us from doing what we ought to do and provokes us to do what we ought not to do.

The GOOD AND BAD of Fear

“Fear has created more practicing heretics than bad theology ever has, for it makes us live as though we serve a limited, finite, partially-present, semi-competent God.”

- John Ortberg

The BREEDING GROUND of Fear

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It's always dangerous to complain about what God has given us.

It's always difficult to make good decisions with a bad attitude.

It's always disheartening to focus on what we can do rather than on what God can do.

The HIGH COST of Fear

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Living in fear undermines our relationships. (14:2a)

Living in fear leads to unproductive thinking. (14:2b)

Living in fear is an assault on God's character. (14:3-11)

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Living in fear limits the progress God has for us.
(14:11-12a)

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The HIGH COST of Fear

Living in fear limits the progress God has for us.
(14:11-12a)

Living in fear distances us from our children.
(14:12b)

A Permanent Life Theme



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The Rich Young Ruler vs. the Suffering Servant

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A Permanent Life Theme

The Rich Young Ruler vs. the Suffering Servant

One made a choice to cling to his comfort, and he lost out. One made a choice to lose out, and now he now enjoys perfect comfort.

*The antidote to living in fear is to trust
God one promise at a time.*



A Permanent Life Theme

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

- Charles Wesley

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