

Be Not Afraid

By Matt Tullos

A scriptural reading on fear

#1: Be not afraid!

#2: Be strong and courageous.

#1: Stand for truth.

#2: Be strong in the Lord.

#1: In times of wars and rumors of war.

#2: Look to the skies.

#1: Remember how the story ends.

#2: God tells us that there is an incredible inheritance.

#1: Because we earned it?

#2: No.

#1: It's because we have a Father who quiets our minds at midnight as He sings us to sleep.

#2: And the lyrics are directed through the ages.

#1: They are in words that we can grasp.

#2: He whispers to our souls. "Fear not. Fear not. Fear not."

#1: And if you stop long enough you can hear His voice.

#2: "Fear not.

#1: Fear not.

#2: Fear not."

#1: "I have overcome the world. (*John 16:33*)

#2: Fear not, I am with you. (*Jeremiah 46:28*)

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#1: Fear not, you can't optically see me but I'm Emmanuel. God with us. (*Matthew 1:23*)

#2: Fear not, I am Jehovah Jirah, the God who is there.

#1: Fear not, you believe in God? Believe in me. (*John 14:1*)

#2: Fear not. You received the Spirit of Sonship, not fear. (*Roman 8:15*)

#1: Fear not. You'll go through floods and fires, but I will be right there with you. (*Isaiah 43:2*)

#2: Fear not. In the end I'll give you a crown of life.

#1: Fear not. When you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I'm there. (*Psalms 23*)

#2: So the message here is simple concerning temporary stuff.

#1: Don't fear.

#2: Because outside of God's plan, it's **all** temporary stuff.

#1: "Who can snatch us from the grip of Christ and the power of God's love.

#2: Do you think jail will? Or financial disaster?

#1: Do you think hunger will?

#2: Or wars or depression or lawsuits or car trouble or death threats or termites or market crashes or terrorism or headlines?

#1: Like it says in God's word: 'We, as God-followers, live on the edge every day of our lives.

#2: Some might even say that we're dead men walking.'

#1: "But no!

#2: In every single place, time, situation and calamity we are more than champions through Christ who lavished us with His love.

#1: There's no doubt in my mind that life can't,

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#2: death can't,

#1: angels can't,

#2: demons can't,

#1: then can't, now can't,

#2: later can't,

#1: strength can't,

#2: mountains can't,

#1: caves can't,

#2: streams can't,

#1: oceans can't.

#2: Not anything.

#1: Not everything.

Both: Nothing can take us away from the love of God in Jesus."

Based on Romans 8:35-39 (author's paraphrase)