



Fear, skedaddle!

Psalm 56:3 *When I am afraid, I will trust in you.*

1. Value of fear

▼ **Reverence for the divine**

Deuteronomy 6:13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

▼ **Regard for decrees**

Romans 13:3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

▼ **Respect for danger**

Amos 3:8 The lion has roared—who will not fear?

2. Validity of fear?

▼ **The sinner's fears are valid**

▶ **Afraid of frightening foes!**

Psalm 33:17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.

▶ **Afraid of failure and futility!**

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

▶ **Afraid of the future!**

Psalm 37:37 Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace. 38 But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.

▶ **Afraid of fatality!**

Hebrews 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

▼ **The saint's fears are vicious but vain**

▶ **Afraid of frightening foes?**

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

▶ **Afraid of failure and futility?**

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

▶ **Afraid of the future?**

Psalm 37:37 Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace. 38 But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.

▶ **Afraid of fatality?**

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

3. Viciousness of fear

▼ **Fear comes and confronts you**

Job 4:14 Fear and trembling seized me and made all my bones shake. 15 A spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body stood on end. 16 It stopped, but I could not tell what it was.

▼ **Fear can convince you and compromise your confidence in Christ**

Matthew 8:25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" 26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

▼ **Fear can consume you and cripple you**

Psalm 55:5 Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.

4. Victory over fear

▼ **Cooperate with God's plan**

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

▼ **Consume and confess God's promises with praise**

Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Hebrews 13:5 God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

▼ **Come into God's presence and cover yourself in God's protection**

Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

▼ **Call on God's power**

Psalm 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.