



LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935**

**Volume 13
2026**

Number 35

September 20,

THE STORM OF FEAR

As we bring this series of writings on "The Storms of Life" to a close, it seems appropriate to think of fear. It was the disciples fear that caused Jesus to calm the storm. Fear not. God says that more times than anything else in the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation we hear that command. From Abraham to John on Patmos we hear that exhortation. It is spoken by the mouth of prophets, apostles, martyrs and Jesus.

"Fear not" God said to Abraham, Israel, Moses and David. It was said to Daniel, to Jerusalem and to the disciples. It was told to the women at the sepulcher. Zacharias, Mary, Simon and Paul also heard those words. It was said under all kinds of conditions and circumstances. It is the word God speaks to believers, "Fear Not".

The frequency with which the Bible tells us not to fear tells us that fear is the great spoiler and enemy of our lives. Yet, so many of us are like little 5 year old Johnny. Little Johnny was in the kitchen as his mother was making supper. She asked him to go into the pantry and get her a can of tomato soup, but he didn't want to go in alone. "It's dark in there and I'm scared." She asked again, and he persisted. Finally she said, "It's OK, Jesus will be in there with you." Johnny walked hesitantly to the door and slowly opened it. He peeked inside, saw it was dark, and started to leave when all at once an idea came, and he said; "Jesus, if you're in there, would you hand me that can of tomato soup?"

Fear is our greatest adversary. There is an ancient legend of a man driving one day toward a certain city. He was stopped by an old woman asking for a ride. He took her up beside him and they drove down the road. As he looked at her he became frightened

and asked, "Who are you?" The old woman replied that she was Cholera. He ordered the old woman to get out and walk. Yet, she persuaded him to take her. She promised not to kill more than five people in the city. She even gave him a special dagger, the only weapon that could kill her and told him that she would meet him in 2 days and he could stab her if she broke her promise. In the city, 120 people died of cholera. The enraged man went to look for her, and meeting her raised his dagger to kill her. She stopped him saying she had kept her agreement, and killed only 5 people. Fear, she said, killed the others.

This ancient legend is a true parable of life. Disease kills its thousands, fear kills its tens of thousands. The greatest miseries of humanity come from the dread of trouble rather than from the presence of trouble. From the cradle to the grave fear casts its shadow. Fear betrays a man's spirit and breaks down his defense. It disarms him in the battle and makes him unfit for the work of life. Fear is what adds terror to the dying bed of a man. Fear in the form of worry is the greatest, most harmful, most senseless, most useless and most universal of all sins.

When we think about it, what is sadder than fear? Here we are, created in the image of God, made for dominion over the world. Created with the intellect of an angel with an immortal soul. Yet, even with all

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Blessed Are The Peacemakers

For The Pantry. . .

September 20 – Plastic Cutlery or
Paper Plates



September 13, 2026
\$ 2,859.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

The Storm of Fear – Continued from page 1

of that, we are the victim and slave of a thousand fears.

Banishing fear from our lives would be the greatest blessing ever given to the human family. The great remedy for fear, the only remedy for fear, is what is offered to us in the Bible. That remedy is complete trust and confidence in God. The casting of all our care upon the Lord. That's the way Peter put it in I Peter 5:7 when he wrote, "casting all your care upon Him for he careth for you". You see, a large percentage of the things we dread never happen. If a man or woman kept a register of fears for 25 or more years, most of them do not come to pass. Yet, many people are miserable all of their lives, harassed and suffering, waiting for something disastrous and unpleasant to happen.

We must remember that fear and worry are useless. Whether the things we dread come to pass or not, our fear of them in advance can in no way hold them back or diminish their power. There is nothing so useless as fear. That is what Jesus emphasizes about the folly of worry. To be sure, I think there is almost a dry humor in what he says on the subject in the Sermon on the Mount. "Which of

you, by worrying about it, can add one cubit to his stature?" He also said every day has enough troubles of its own without borrowing trouble from tomorrow. You cannot cross a bridge before you get to it.

When we are afraid, God hears our cries of distress and empowers and delivers us. He does not do so by removing the evil or danger. He does it by showing us His face. He does it by walking by our side. That was what he did with Paul and his thorn in the flesh. He told Paul "my grace is sufficient for you".

Remember that night Jesus was with the disciples in the boat in that storm. The storm raged and Jesus slept in the back of the boat. The disciples were afraid, they knew life was over, they knew the ship would sink. They woke Jesus and asked if he cared that they perished, Jesus stilled the tempest and calmed their fears.

He then gave them a sermon they never forgot. A sermon timely and practical for us. "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith". Whatever storm is blowing in our life, Jesus can and will calm that storm if we are willing to surrender our stubborn will to His will and live His kind of life.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



"IF I CAN HAVE IMMUNITY, HERE'S WHAT I DID TODAY."



MAKE YOUR PLANS TO BE HERE!

December 6, 2026

We will be having a covered dish luncheon following the morning worship.



Ponder This. . .

A baby starts off crawling, then toddling and finally walking.

A recession or a period of prosperity does not happen overnight, but it is a gradual thing leading into one or the other.

A war does not start overnight, but things begin to happen that finally lead to it.

Likewise, one does not become an alcoholic until they take that first drink, and one day they find themselves far from the pathway of Christian service.

No person ever became a backslider who did not miss his or her first service from the Lord's house. It is very easily discerned by those who have the interest of every member of the church at heart when members "take the first step" by being absent from worship, that it won't be long, too many times, before that member has actually fallen away.

Don't take that "first step". Make your plans to be in Bible Study and Worship on the Lord's Day. Every Lord's Day. You will be refreshed, the Lord will be pleased, and you will be an encouragement to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

-selected



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh,
Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,
LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate,
Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Leslie Adams** (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Norma Cortez** (Manny Ortiz mother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Pat & William Ford** (cousins to Martha Bradshaw) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Doug "Goob" Milford** (cousin of Amanda Molloy) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **Harold Wiggins** (Stephen Wiggins father) **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw,
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

* * * * *



Make your plans to join us on **Wednesday, September 30, 2026** when we will meet at 6:00 for our fellowship meal and followed by singing at 7:00 p.m.

If you don't want to come and share the meal, **PLEASE** plan to come and join us for the singing.

Communion Preparation - September

Larry & Melonia Molloy



Across The Preacher's Desk

The doorbell rings. Oh no! It's some of the church folks coming to see why it's been so long since I've attended church services. Yes, come in. Won't you have a cup of coffee? We engage briefly in small talk.

Yes. I know it's been a while since I've been...I've had quite a bit of sickness...we worshipped with another congregation several times...once out at the lake we had a devotional-just the family...we have to work hard to make a living...one of the members hurt my feelings...there are hypocrites in the church.

Well, good-by. I'll plan to see you before long if nothing happens. Okay. Good night. That takes care of that! My visitors seemed satisfied with my explanations so I guess everything is o.k.

You know, though, the thought does nag me some. What am I doing with my life? Why haven't I learned to love the church more? I know that someday I will die and then meet God in the judgment. Who am I kidding anyway? Those visitors from the church were nice and gentle, but they still know I am negligent and weak. I am not really fooling the church, or my family, or friends or my God. I have been cold, weak and indifferent. Unchristian. I am not kidding anybody, not even myself. Oh Lord, have mercy on my soul and help me to do better.

it's something to think about.....thp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
Will you?**