

We Will Not Fear

November 4th, 2012

We will not fear . . .

Psalm 46:2

The Stress Disorder

Rock Beneath our Feet

Believing the Record

And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knows that he saith true, that you might believe.

John 19:35

He that believes not God hath made Him a liar; because he believes not the record that God gave of His Son.

1 John 5:10

For the Record

(I, John), who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw . . . I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:2,9

I, John . . . was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:9

Martyria - Mar-tour-eeya

The Record. That which bears testimony, that which bears legal record and witness in a case. The evidence which establishes firm confidence in right judgment. The Bible. Jesus Christ. The Cross. The Resurrection. The Ascension. The Church. The Martyr's Blood.

I, John . . . was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the **Martyria** of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:9

If we receive the **Martyria** of men, the **Martyria** of God is greater: for this is the **Martyria** of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believes on the Son of God hath the **Martyria** in himself: he that believes not God has made him a liar; because he believes not the **Martyria** that God gave of his Son. And this is the **Martyria**, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:9-11

Therefore, We Will Not Fear

The Preposterous Statement

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psalm 46:2

The Promise Behind the Preposterous Statement

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psalm 46:1-2

The Preposterous Statement

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Hebrews 13:6

The Promise Behind the Preposterous Statement

He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5

He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **So that we may boldly say**, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Hebrews 13:6

The Key Operation of Faith

Choosing to Believe the Record

The Key Operation of Fear

Calling God a Liar - Choosing to not Believe the Record - (a.k.a. - Believing the Lie)

He that believes not God has made Him a liar; because he believes not the record that God gave of His Son.

1 John 5:10

The Lie

God is not trustworthy

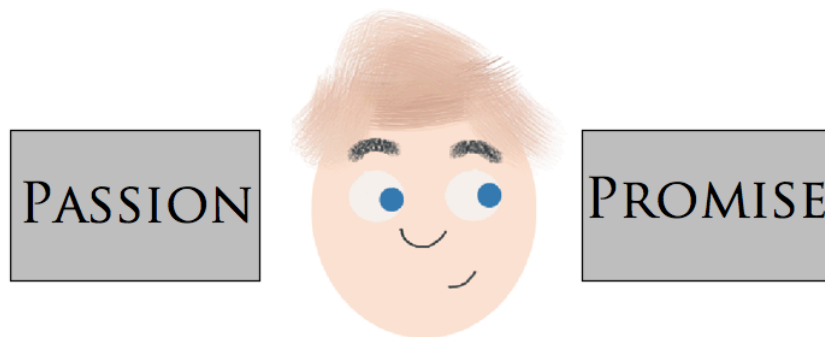
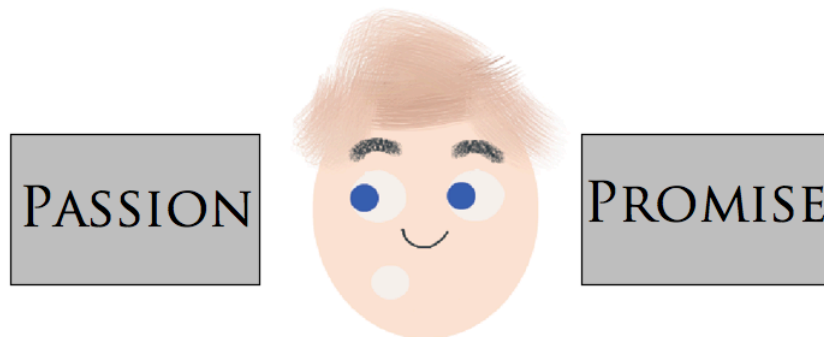
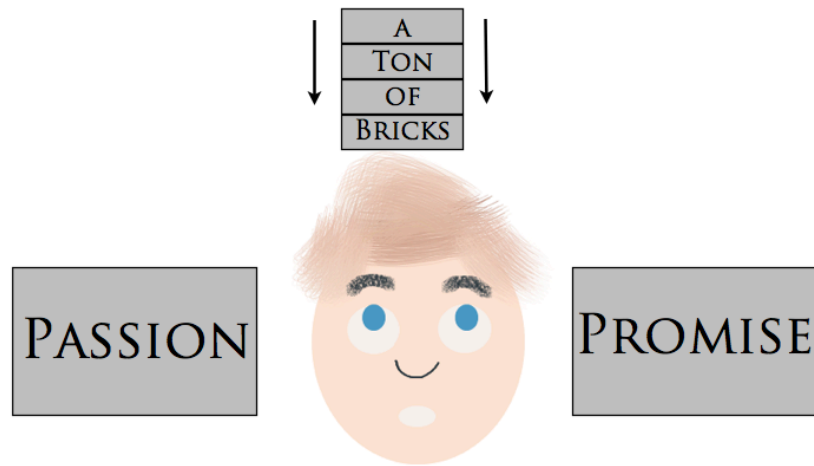
The Downward Spiral into the Solace of Sin

If God is not trustworthy, then . . .

- I must labor to save myself . . . for I cannot be fully confident that God will do the saving work
- I must defend myself . . . for I cannot be fully confident that God will take up my cause and protect me
- I must sustain myself . . . for I cannot be fully confident that God will supply my needs
- I must gratify myself . . . for I cannot be fully confident that God will bring me life, joy, and happiness
- I must heal myself . . . for I cannot be fully confident that God either desires or is able to make me whole
- I must make a name for myself . . . for I cannot be fully confident that God will labor to establish my legacy and glory

Passion vs. Promise

The Soul's Defining Moment



Are You Calling God a Liar?

Thou shalt not be afraid

Psalm 91:5

Satan's Least Favorite Psalm

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. **Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.** He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. **Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day; Nor for the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor for the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.** Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; **there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:**

the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

Psalm 91

A German physician was wont to speak of (the 91st Psalm) as the best preservative in times of cholera, and in truth, it is a heavenly medicine against plague and pest. **He who can live in its spirit will be fearless**, even if once again London should become a lazar-house, and the grave be gorged with carcasses.

Charles Spurgeon

Contemplating the Record

Should the Believer Fear?

The LORD is their light and their salvation; so whom shall they fear?

the LORD is the strength of their life; so, of whom shall they be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

Though a host should encamp against them, their heart shall not fear:

though war should rise against them, they remain confident in their God. (Psalm 27:3)

Because God will never leave them or forsake them (Hebrews 13:5)

He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him (Hebrews 7:25)

and He ever lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25)

God is their refuge and strength, a very present help in their trouble.

Therefore, they will not fear, though the earth be removed,

and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea (Psalm 46:1-2)

And no weapon that is formed against them shall prosper; and every tongue

that shall rise against them in judgment God shall condemn. (Isaiah 54:17)

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6)

The Jewish Mind on Preservation

He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you. In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword. You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, And you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes. You shall laugh at destruction and famine, And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field, And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you. You shall know that your tent is in peace; You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss. You shall also know that your descendants shall be many, And your offspring like the grass of the earth. You shall come to the grave at a full age, As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.

Eliphaz the Temanite

Job 5:19-26

All the Men Must Come Up

Go forth, wholly trusting your God

The Christian Mind on Preservation

Lord Craven lived in London when that sad calamity, the plague, raged. His house was in that part of the town called Craven Buildings. On the plague growing epidemic, his Lordship, to avoid the danger, resolved to go to his seat in the country. His coach and six were accordingly at the door, his baggage put up, and all things in readiness for the journey. As he was walking through his hall with his hat on, his cane under his arm, and putting on his gloves, in order to step into his carriage, he overheard his black servant, who served him as postillion, saying to another servant. "I

suppose, by my Lord's quitting London to avoid the plague, that his God lives in the country, and not in town." The poor black servant said this in the simplicity of his heart, as really believing a plurality of gods. The speech, however, struck Lord Craven very sensibly, and made him pause. "My God, "thought he, "lives everywhere, and can preserve me in town as well as in the country. I will even stay where I am. The ignorance of that black servant has just now preached to me a very useful sermon. Lord, pardon this unbelief, and that distrust of thy providence, which made me think of running from thy hand." He immediately ordered his horses to be taken from the coach, and the baggage to be taken in. He continued in London, was remarkably useful among his sick neighbors, and never caught the infection.

Whitecross's Anecdotes

The Fearless Legends of Yesteryear

- Hudson Taylor - "I'm called to China!"
- Rees Howells - "Not one person will die from the plague who finds shelter on our land."
- C.T. Studd - "God will be my strength!"
- Amy Carmichael - "Knowing all the risks, I'm going!"

The First Turn

To the Hiding Place called God

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

There is a faith . . . whereby a man doth betake himself unto God for shelter, for protection as to his habitation; when other men do run one this

way, another that way, to their hiding places: in the time of a plague for a man then to betake himself to God, as to his habitation, I think this is the faith here spoken of in this 91st Psalm

William Bridge

Thou Shalt Not Be Afraid

Thou shalt not be afraid

Psalm 91:5

Not only do the pious stand safe, they are not even touched with fear.

Musculus

The Body of Christ in Hostile Territory

Then they sought to take him: but **no man laid hands on him**, because his hour was not yet come . . . These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and **no man laid hands on him**; for his hour was not yet come . . . Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, **and so passed by** . . . Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him . . . Therefore they sought again to take him: but **he escaped out of their hand** . . . Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should show it, that they might take him.

John 7:30; 8:20; 8:59; 10:31; 10:39; 11:57

But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another,

"No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." **But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.**

However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

Acts 28:3-6

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will . . . take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Mark 16:17-18

Living as Immortals in Mortal Bodies

What should we expect of our dying bodies?

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:22-23

The world looks and acts the same, almost as if nothing has changed since the Cross. This is the first great test of the Christian.

Those that believe are the hunted, despised, hated, persecuted, tempted, buffeted, tried to the uttermost, imprisoned, tortured, falsely accused, slandered, etc.

Though the Cross Work is “Finished,” the work of “Grace” is in full swing. For that which was purchased must now be brought to this Earth in and through the operation of faith.

The Christian can’t seek ease. We must take the battle to the Enemy. We must prove the great victory of the Cross in this natural realm.

For the human soul is not yet free from the battle of this sinful world, however, it IS freed to finally win the battle with sin in this sinful world. And is thusly bequeathed with all-power and authority (Ephesians 2:6, Luke 10:19, Deut 33:29) to become super-conquering (Romans 8:37), immovable and invincible (Ephesians 6:16, Psalm 91, Luke 10:19, Mark 16:18), fearless (Psalm 27:1,3;46:1-2, Hebrews 7:25;13:5, Isaiah 54:17), and unstoppable (Jeremiah 20:11, Matthew 16:18-19, 1 Samuel 14:6, 1 John 4:4, Romans 8:31).

The human soul, though still engaged in a battle with eternal consequence, is given grace by which to triumph and let not sin reign any longer in its territory.

The human body, like the human soul, is not yet free from the battle with the influences and deadly effects of the natural world. Whereas the Cross did make a way for us to one day don a new and incorruptible body, we still as yet, though believing, don the elder form of our bodies, which are corruptible, always aging, and bent toward decomposition. However, though our bodies may prove weak, unfit, vulnerable, and wholly unsatisfactory for this engagement called the Christian Commission - we have been bequeathed grace for this battle, and therefore, our elder bodies (though far from ideal), are equipped to live triumphantly, ever-faithful, and ever-strong for the purposes of Jesus Christ in the midst of this natural world. And though we fully realize that our current bodies are heading toward the grave, we recognize that they cannot go there until our work is finished here on this earth.

The Current Realities of the Human Soul

Still subject to the pleas of emotion, experience, and the baits of human philosophies. It is at war. Though rescued from the oppressions of sin, it remains in hostile territory, and must exert the authority vested in Jesus Christ in order to function properly in this realm, in this time. We know that temptations will come, but we are to flee from them. We know that the temptations do not come from God. So, our posture is combative and not receptive to the lions, bears, leopards, scorpions, and serpents that seeks to destroy our souls.

The Current Realities of the Human Body

The spiritual side of man and the physical side of man are slightly different in how they appropriate the Cross Work. Whereas, the spiritual man is born again, made new, and completely refurbished by the power of rescuing grace, the outer body of that man is still the elder version. It is still exposed to the outside world (which is still ruled by the principle of sin and a downward physical pull towards deterioration), it is still beneath the tyranny of natural law (which states that all things head towards death and decomposition). The outward body of a man is noted in the Bible to be changed at the second coming of Christ and not at the first. But the first coming of Christ offers us a grace over the power of sin

Thusly we are equipped with a supernatural power to accomplish that to which we are called, in this body, in the time span we are allotted by God. If we need physical strength for our task, it is available to us. If we need physical health for our task, we will certainly get it. If we need to defy death for a season, we will defy death for a season.

The Paul Mentality

Though . . . they seek to kill me, deadly poison is injected into my body, they stone me, they scourge me, I'm shipwrecked, they imprison me, and a thousand fall at my side and ten thousand at my right hand . . .

I am untouchable, immovable, unshakeable, fearless, and utterly unstoppable in the midst of this enemy territory. My inner man is made

new and infused with the New Wine of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, but this New Life is borne about in this Old Dying Body amidst an Old Dying World. And yet I march forth with supernatural energy that defies my physical weakness, living with fearless abandon, tireless unction, scaling cliffs of impossibility with all the nonchalance of a soul wholly KEPT by the power of Almighty Grace.

Touch Me Not!

We read of a stag that roamed about in the greatest security, by reason of its having a label on its neck, "*Touch me not, I belong to Caesar*": thus the true servants of God are always safe, even among lions, bears, serpents, fire, water, thunder, and tempests; for all creatures know and reverence the shadow of God.

Bellarmino

Touch Me Not, I Belong to Jesus!

Are You Calling God a Liar?

- Should you fear an untimely death?
- Should you fear the prospect of unbearable pain?
- Should you fear tribulation, trials, and suffering?

What Does the Record Say?

- Should you fear an untimely death?

Believe the Record:

Your life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3), nothing shall in any wise hurt you (Luke 10:19). No man shall lay hands on (John 7:30). The Christ-life is preserved until the Day (John 13:1).

- Should you fear the prospect of unbearable pain?

Believe the Record:

You will not be tested beyond what you can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). You have grace for help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). His grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9), and therefore, there is no such thing as “unbearable” in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

- Should you fear tribulation, trials, and suffering?

Believe the Record:

It’s in infirmities that the glory of Christ rests on you (2 Corinthians 12:9)
It’s in tribulations, trials, and sufferings that you are given a greater grace (a greater comfort and power) to greatly rejoice, with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:6-8). It’s through false accusation that you are given grace to leap for joy and be exceeding glad (Matthew 5:11-12). The more trials - the more joy, the more leaping, and the more songs come forth out of the believer (the entire New Testament).