

## Facing Fear, Trusting God!

### Introduction

Everyone knows what its like to be afraid. We all have things that we're afraid of - many kids are afraid of the dark. For some of you it may be fear of storms, a fear of heights, traveling in airplanes, or dogs.

Fear of failure causes many people to never start, or try anything that is not completely safe. Fear of rejection makes us afraid to do anything that could draw criticism or give someone a chance to laugh at us.

One summer night during a severe thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small son into bed. She was about to turn the light off when he asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" Smiling, the mother gave him a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence followed. At last it was broken by a shaky voice saying, "The big sissy!"

In the second letter from Paul to Timothy, Paul challenged Timothy to stir up the gift that was in him seeing that he was a part of a legacy of faith that had been in his grandmother and his mother. They had a faith that was real and had passed down from one generation to another. They had a faith that was without hypocrisy, a sincere faith that sustained them. It is one thing to profess to have faith, but it is altogether another to live out that faith.

Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear is faith in reverse. Zig Ziglar says: FEAR is: False Evidence Appearing Real.

Paul told Timothy, **"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."**

This week our kids got to think about life as a roller coaster ride. Are you the type who races to the front of

the line to get on the wildest roller coaster in the park? Or are you the one who has to be coaxed and begged to even think about getting on the kiddie rides? Either way, that ride is over in minutes. However, the roller coaster of life is a very different story.

In the Bible, the life of Paul had more twists and turns, ups and downs, and loop-the-loops than any roller coaster. Yet, regardless of his circumstances, Paul was able to face fear by trusting God. And now he encourages Timothy to do the same thing.

### Full Speed Into a 180° Turn

- Paul (also known as Saul of Tarsus) bore down on Damascus fully convinced that those who followed this Jesus were a threat to all he knew to be right. (Acts 9:1-2)
- A sudden stop and blinding light turned Paul in an entirely different direction, one that changed Paul into one of the most vocal advocates of the gospel. (Acts 9:3-19)

### The Ride of a Lifetime

- Paul recounted the things he faced as a preacher of the gospel. (2 Corinthians 11:22-33)
- Paul knew the source of his strength. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

### Fellow Passengers

- Paul's desire was to set the kind of example that, if anyone followed him, they would ultimately be following Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:1)
  - Yet Paul recognized that He was a sinner saved by grace. (1 Timothy 1:12-17)
1. Move from fear to confidence by resting in God's power.

□ It's the power that saved us. (vs. 8)

☐ It's the power that overcame death. (vs. 10)

“death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”

2. Move from fear to confidence by living in God's love. (1 Jn. 4:16-21)

☐ Love reminds me that I am unconditionally accepted by God. (vs. 16-19)

☐ Love prevents me from reacting toward people with fear. (vs. 20-21)

3. Move from fear to confidence by exercising self-control.

☐ Evaluate your fears.

– Is it based on something that is true or false?

– Is it something that I can do something about?

– Is it worth the time and energy that I am putting into it?

### **Are You on Board?**

• Paul wrote to the Romans words that still speak to hearts that need Christ today. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10,13)

• If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, are you trusting in the promises He has made to help you live for Him? (VBS Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7)

### **Conclusion**

If you were giving an account of your life today, the way Paul did in 2 Corinthians, would you be able to tell others what Jesus has meant to you? This week we have a great opportunity to share what we know about Jesus with kids and their families. Let's pray together the promise found in 2 Timothy 1:7 and trust God for the spirit of power, love, and sound judgment.