

Be Unafraid

Learn that the opposite of fear is not courage, but faith.

Learn to trust God; to believe wholly on His Word.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

Psalms 118:6-9 - ⁶ The Lord *is* on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
⁷ The Lord is for me among those who help me; Therefore, I shall see *my desire* on those who hate me. ⁸ *It is* better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. ⁹ *It is* better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

Be Graceful

You are you by grace. You are saved by grace and maintained by grace.

Your heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, only God has changed it and is still changing it.

1 Corinthians 15:10 - ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

Learn to be graceful to yourself. Stop beating yourself up.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to

us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Make sure you give grace.

If you err, err on the side of grace and not judgment.

John 8:11 - ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Look for Joy

To look for joy is to choose to live in a place of joy.

Isaiah 12:1-3 - And in that day you will say: "O Lord, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. ² Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, he Lord, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' " ³ Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 61:10 - I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

Romans 14:17 - ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Be Content

Contentment keeps me from sin and heartache.

Proverbs 15:16 - ¹⁶ Better *is* a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure with trouble.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 - ⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

Learn what is truly important in this life.

Philippians 4:11 - ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

Be Open to Others

We were never meant to be alone in this life

Psalms 122:1 - I was glad when they said to me, “let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Proverbs 15:17 - ¹⁷ Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.

Proverbs 17:17 - ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Share your story. Do not worry if someone rejects you for your humanity, frailty or past mistakes. Someone needs to know the true you.

2 Corinthians 12:9 - ⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Don't be So Serious

2 Corinthians 6:10 - ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

If you have Jesus, you have everything.

It is good to laugh at yourself and not take yourself so seriously, even when you are the pastor.

Proverbs 17:22 - ²² A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

Proverbs 15:13-17 - ¹³ A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. ¹⁴ The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools' feeds on foolishness. ¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted *are* evil, but he who is of a merry heart *has* a continual feast.

Champion the Gifts of Others

2 Timothy 1:6 - ⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1 Peter 4:10-11 - ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Samuel 18:1-3 - Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the ^[a]soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ² Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. ³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 20:30-32 - ³⁰ Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious *woman*! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?" ³¹ For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." ³² And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" ³³ Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.