

Resurrecting Peace: Living Fearlessly in a Fearful World
Easter Sunday | March 31, 2024

Main Passage: Matthew 28:1-10, NLT

John 20:19, NLT – That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

Emotions and Behaviors which are often fear-based:

Anxiety Anger Hurt Worry Apprehension Judgment (from others, toward others) Doubt
Dread Stress Suspicion Dismay Shame False guilt Unease Distress Timidity Caution
Jealousy Nervousness Fretful Tense Hiding Uncertainty Sleeplessness
Sense of impending doom Despair

How the Resurrection Overcomes Our Three Greatest Fears

1. God overcomes _____

We often pursue meaning through...

- _____
- _____

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, NLT – I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless. So I said, “Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?” After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. ... I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, ICB – After all this, there is only one thing to say: Have reverence for God, and obey his commands, because this is all that we were created for.

2 Corinthians 4:14-15, MSG – One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

2. God overcomes _____

Matthew 27:46, NLT – At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Romans 8:28,35,37-39, NLT – And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ...Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ...No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus or Lord.

Isaiah 43:2, NLT – When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

Matthew 28:20b, NIV – [Jesus said,] "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

3. God overcomes _____

John 20:19-21a, NLT – That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, "Peace be with you."

Philippians 4:6-7, LB – Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.