

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

— the LifeWord —

with Michael Green



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Dear Friends:

FEAR FACTOR

"I'm afraid", it's something we are hearing more each day and hearts are failing because of fear.

Stand in the grocery line, wait in the school carpool or listen to talk radio and you'll hear it with frightening regularity. Folks are fearful and, truthfully, after a steady diet of escalating lament and the accompanying horror stories, it's not hard to join the chorus.

Today, FDR's *"Nothing to fear but fear itself"* speech rings a bit hollow as we realize there are some mind boggling messes out there that will require more than a pep talk.

We now know that the Congressional Bailout histrionics of a few weeks ago was nothing more than a rock dropped in a bucket of water and the same nitwits, who bear much of the original responsibility, are still in charge of the decisions and dispersion of your money. I listen to them and have *"Sunday School Memory Verse"* flashbacks, *"presuming themselves to be wise they become fools"*. The exponential increase in fear is just one of the byproducts of living in *"Fooldom"*.

The economic giants are falling and all of the arrows on the graphs are pointing downward. Even the historically safe Blue Chips are now black and very blue.

There's more... almost 30% of us have given up the fancy five dollar coffee in the last month and outrageous insurance costs, if you can get insurance, have forced many dinner menus to feature innovative ways to serve beanie weenies. Don't get me started on the energy games that are played with you and me as the pawns.

We are way out of balance and many things have contributed to this predicament. Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor, made an interesting observation in 1787, *"A democracy will continue to exist up until the voters discover they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury."* With this mad mindset left unchecked, the result is clear, *"every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy which is always followed by dictatorship"*.

Admittedly, I have grave concerns over our spiraling dive into an abyss and natural man will continue to make the wrong moves to find his way out. Historians

have proved that democratic societies rarely last more than 200 years as they unravel from the inside out. If this is so, we are on borrowed time.

Most will dance around the fear pole but I think it is high time that we, as people of faith, people of prayer, people who love God and people who love our country to not be fearful or ashamed to say, *"Hey! Wake Up! This is the Way, Walk in it!"*

Real faith is not frivolous or foolish. It is fully grounded in God's Word for His People. Nations and businesses must remember, *"Honor God and His people and things will look up!"* To the swine minded, these pearls are not appreciated but to those that will hear, receive and act on it, it is life, power and blessing. Even, as our boys used to say, in the *"worstest"* of times.

Ground yourself in prayer and in the Word. Get the river flowing with faith stories that will edify and motivate. Check out the last few chapters of Genesis. Joseph would laugh at our worries but he would still tell you how he walked in favor while famine was all around. Start there and go on to Daniel and those Three Hebrew boys. Revisit the lady who kept pouring out oil and meal provision when all hope was lost or the kid whose lunch turned into a buffet for ten thousand. Build your faith while making the prudent decisions for you and your family. It will fight the fear.

In the classic Broadway play, Miss Anna was teaching the children of Siam about dealing with their fears, *"Whenever I feel afraid, I whistle a happy tune."* Cute, but not very helpful.

I prefer David's stance as the Philistines were breathing down his neck, *"But when I am afraid, I put my trust in You. O God, I praise your Word, I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?"* (PS 56: 3-4/NLT).

I have decided I will not walk in the fear that permeates and I don't plan on playing dead.

Come on ya'll, lets Rock! (Capital R for the faint hearted). We have an opportunity to shine. The stage is set and we get to be players in the Big Finale! Bigger than a Wall Street resurrection or a Blue Chip recovery, the Biggest Comeback is on the way. It's that trumpet sounding, grave bursting day of rejoicing that will put all of these *"today fears"* in grand, triumphant perspective.

Michael

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