

# Living Beyond Fear

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What do you do when unexpected circumstances send your life spiraling out of control? How can Christians effectively deal with tragic situations such as illness, bankruptcy, divorce, and death—circumstances that “come upon you?” You’re trying to do everything “right,” but you wonder, “Does God really care?” and “What if...?” In this workshop, you’ll discover how to live beyond your circumstances and find stability in the midst of a storm. Key points include:

1. It’s not your job to understand WHY; it’s your job to know WHO.  
*Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*
2. It’s okay to ask God questions as long as those questions are focused on getting to know God better.  
*Refer to Psalm 10, 44, 74, 77*
3. Seeking God is more important than seeking answers.
4. Fear is a product of our thoughts. It’s a “shadow”—something that is not real.  
*Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*
5. We overcome fear with faith.
6. We have powerful spiritual weapons. *2 Corinthians 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*
7. We develop our faith by:
  - a. Magnifying the Lord. *Psalm 34:3 Magnify the Lord with me. Let us exalt His name together.*
  - b. Using the defensive weapons God provides. *Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.*
  - c. Saying the truth of Scripture aloud (using the sword of the Spirit): *Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death... Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God...*
  - d. Taking our thoughts captive. *2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
8. Sometimes, our desires (for healing, comfort, solutions) can become an idol.
9. God will not allow anything to occur that He can’t turn around for our benefit and His glory.  
*Romans 8:28-29 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers & sisters.*

## RESOURCES

God’s Word is the ultimate source of wisdom and comfort. In addition, two Bible studies I found very helpful: Priscilla Shirer’s study of Jonah, *Navigating a Life Interrupted*, Jennifer Rothchild’s *Missing Pieces*.

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