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Psalm 118 verse 6

The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid

Are you afraid of anything? I am petrified of heights and I am also afraid of snakes, sharks and dentists!! However, God's Word tells us not to be afraid. Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid. Why not? Because "God has been gracious to you". The shepherds were told by the angel not to be afraid. Why not? Because the angel had "good news of great joy". The words 'Fear not', I am told, are recorded in the Bible 366 different times. God has given us a 'Fear not' for every day of the year and one for a leap year!

I wonder, how did you react when you heard Boris' roadmap? Did you consider it 'good news of great joy' or did the thought of having restrictions for another four months fill you with fear?

Fear is part of human nature. Studies confirm that the seven greatest areas of fear are finances, health, career concerns, parenting struggles, family relationships, setting personal goals and death. As you look to the future are you fearful and anxious in any of these areas? Fear can be a destructive force in your life. So how can we overcome our fears? Trust God. Have faith in Him. He won't let you down.

Fear weakens but faith strengthens

Fear imprisons but faith liberates

Fear paralyses but faith empowers

Fear disheartens but faith encourages

Fear can be devastating because it breeds more fear. So how should we deal with fear? We need to trust God and have faith in Him. Psalm 27 reminds us that. 'The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid'. God will help us confront and conquer our fears. When God is the source of our strength we can face our worse fears and overcome them. We need to move from fear to faith. Fear is a tool of the enemy to distract us away from God. Fear is a powerful emotion. Fear wants to steal our joy.

Boris has given us dates in his roadmap but he was quick to say the Government will be guided by data rather than dates. So, the future is uncertain for us but not for God. He has the master plan. He is still in control. Our comfort through this time of uncertainty is God's unfailing, faithful love for us. Proverbs 3 verse 5-6

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths'.

Do you remember this song from Youth Praise many years ago? It was an encouragement to me then but the words are just as relevant today.

I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see
Yet One stands near to be my guide, He'll show the way to me

Chorus

I know who holds the future
And He'll guide me with His hand,
With God things just don't happen
Everything by Him is planned
So as I face tomorrow
With it's problems large and small
I'll trust the God of miracles
Give to Him my all

I do not know how many days of life are mine to spend
But one who knows and cares for me will keep me to the end

I do not know the course ahead what joys and griefs are there
But One is near who fully knows, I'll trust His loving care

Diane Maple



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