

THE FEAR OF THE FUTURE

SERIES: THE FEAR FACTOR

PSALM 23:4 KJV

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Levels of Security

Level Green – Low

Level Blue – Guarded

Level Yellow – Elevated

Level Orange – High

Level Red - Severe

Worry is when we take personal responsibility for that which God has already promised to provide.

Worry attempts to control the future.

Concern attempts to improve the future.

MAIN POINTS

SOME EVIL IS FOR...

I. MANAGEMENT.

II. MATURITY.

PIC: The Road to Success – Joey Green

III. MYSTERY.

Isaiah 43:2 KJV - When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Deuteronomy 1:30-31 NLT - 30 The LORD your God is going before you. He will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt. **31** And you saw how the LORD your God cared for you again and again here in the wilderness, just as a father cares for his child. Now he has brought you to this place.'

Isaiah 43:4 CEV – To me, you are very dear, and I love you. That's why I gave up nations and people to rescue you.

Deuteronomy 33:24-25 KJV - 24 And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.
25 Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

THE FEAR OF LONELINESS

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2 TIMOTHY 4:9-21 GNV

- 9 Do your best to come to me soon.
- 10 Demas fell in love with this present world and has deserted me, going off to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.
- 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he can help me in the work.
- 12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.
- 13 When you come, bring my coat that I left in Troas with Carpus; bring the books too, and especially the ones made of parchment.
- 14 Alexander the metalworker did me great harm; the Lord will reward him according to what he has done.
- 15 Be on your guard against him yourself, because he was violently opposed to our message.
- 16 No one stood by me the first time I defended myself; all deserted me. May God not count it against them!
- 17 But the Lord stayed with me and gave me strength, so that I was able to proclaim the full message for all the Gentiles to hear; and I was rescued from being sentenced to death.
- 18 And the Lord will rescue me from all evil and take me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.
- 19 I send greetings to Priscilla and Aquila and to the family of Onesiphorus.
- 20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus in Miletus, because he was sick.
- 21 Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia send their greetings, and so do all the other Christians.

Loneliness is the feeling of being...

- Unwanted
- Unneeded
- Unnecessary

Genesis 2:18 RHE – ...It is not good for man to be alone...

Loneliness is not the absence of faces; it is the absence of fellowship.

MAIN POINTS

I. THE CAUSES OF LONELINESS

- a. Stubbornness (Lk. 15:28)
- b. Sin (Gen. 4:12)
- c. Suffering (Job 7:16)

- d. Self-Pity (1 Kings 19:1-4)
- e. Separation (vs. 9, 21)

Paul is dealing with...

- Rejection (vs. 10, 14)
- Relocation (vs. 9, 21)

Loneliness most often occurs when there is...

Circumstances

Holidays

Affliction

Newness

Graying

Estrangement

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF LONELINESS

- a. It hinders your development

PIC: Dark Ghetto

- b. It heightens your discouragement

III. THE CURE FOR LONELINESS

- a. Reject the pity party. (v. 13)

When you are going through a season of loneliness resist the temptation to do nothing.

- b. Realize that God is with you. (vs. 16-17; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5)

Matthew 28:20 KJV - Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Hebrews 13:5 KJV - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- c. Respond to the needs of others. (v. 17)

The loneliest person in the world is the person who is wrapped up in himself.

Proverbs 18:24 GNV - Some friendships do not last, but some friends are more loyal than brothers.

d. Reach out to a small group. (vs. 11, 21)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 GNV - **9** Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. **10** If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him. **11** If it is cold, two can sleep together and stay warm, but how can you keep warm by yourself? **12** Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.

Isaiah 59:2 NLT - But there is a problem -- your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore

PIC: Homesick for God