

***COMING BACK STRONGER* FROM FEAR**

Isaiah 43:1-7

- **August 29, 2025 is the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, a time that brought lots of fear to people's lives.**
- **Fear is one of life's greatest struggles for many people.**
- ***What are some of the "fears" that I've struggled with in my life?***
- **The Lord wants us to obtain victory over demoralizing *fears* because they: 1) emotionally traumatize us, 2) make us vulnerable to the Devil's attack, 3) keep us from living by God's will, 4) keep us stuck in our lives; and because He wants us to live by faith rather than by fear.**
- **To "come back stronger" in our lives we're going to have to learn how to grapple with and overcome our fears (Isaiah 43:1-7).**
- ***What does the Lord want us to know when we're dealing with the most fearful situations in our lives?***

When Going Through Fearful Times We Can Be Assured Of:

THE LORD'S <u>PASSION</u> FOR US (Isaiah 43:1, 4)

- The Lord - *"Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. <u>I have called you by name; you are Mine</u>. . . . you are precious to Me. <u>You are honored, and I love you</u>."* (Isaiah 43:1, 4)
- **The Lord wants us to know that we are *Claimed by* Him.**
    - **We know we are special to the Lord because He has: 1) Created us (Genesis 2:7, Psalm 139:13-18), 2) Redeemed us (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13-14) and 3) Selected us (Ephesians 1:4) to be members of His family.**
- **The Lord wants us to know that we are *Loved by Him*.**
    - **When we go through trials and sorrow we sometimes perceive that God doesn't love us or care about us.**

    - The Lord - *"You are precious to Me. You are honored, and I love you."* (Isaiah 43:4)
    - **To overcome our fears and troubles we must believe the Lord really loves us and cares about us and that He will come to our aid when we need Him.**
    - David - *"Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You (God) are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me."* (Psalm 23:4)
    - **Sometimes when going through troubles we feel like we've been abandoned by the Lord.**
    - *"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."* (Romans 8:35-37)
    - **When we understand how much the Lord loves us we will be able to overcome our biggest fears.**
- ***What do I need to do to respond to the love and calling of the Lord?***

When Going Through Fearful Times We Can Be Assured Of:

THE LORD'S <u>PRESENCE</u> WITH US (Isaiah 43:2-3)

- The Lord - *"<u>When you go through deep waters, I will be with you</u>. 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. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."* (Isaiah 43:2-3)
- **The Lord's words remind us that *Great Problems* are a part of life.**
    - Jesus – *"In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)
- **The Lord's words remind us that *His Presence* is a promise for our lives.**
    - Jesus – *"I will be with you always."* (Matthew 28:20b)
    - *"God has said, 'I will never leave you; I will never forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5)
    - **We experience God's presence in powerful ways as we worship and serve Him personally and collectively.**
    - **Journaling our experiences of God's presence and provision as we go through great difficulties strengthens and brings peace to our hearts.**
- ***What do I need to do to better experience and appreciate God's presence in my life?***

When Going Through Fearful Times We Can Be Assured Of:

THE LORD'S PURPOSES FOR US

- The Lord - *"Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. I will say to the north and south, 'Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. Bring all who claim Me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.'"* (Isaiah 43:5-7)
- **The Lord's words remind us that He is in the *Restoring* business.**
    - **God is constantly at work restoring to us individually and collectively what we've lost through adversity (Job 42:10, 12).**
- **The Lord's words remind us that He is in the *Transforming* business.**
    - **The Lord is always working to make us more like Jesus (Ephesians 4:13), and sometimes uses adversity to accomplish that purpose.**
    - *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us – they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation."* (Romans 5:3-4)
    - **The Lord is able to turn around our troubles and our tragedies and use them for our good and His glory.**
- *"'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'"* (Jeremiah 29:11)
- ***What is the Lord doing in my life through this fearful time I'm going through?***

- **We are able to know of God's passion, presence and purposes for our lives when we determine to live by FAITH rather than by Fear.**
- The Lord - *"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)
- **We conquer fear by putting our FAITH in the Lord's presence, power, provision, protection and promises.**
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***