



Pointes to Ponder

He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. Matthew 8:26 (NASB 95)

Jesus and His disciples were out on the water in a boat following a very busy time where the disciples had witnessed Jesus healing many people including Peter's mother-in-law. Probably exhausted from the busy day, Jesus was asleep. The disciples came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" Jesus asked His followers why they were so afraid that their boat would overturn on account of some wind and waves, especially since He was right there in the boat with them. Certainly, if the Son of God was with them, they would safely get to the other side of the lake.

You and I have Jesus with us in every circumstance we encounter, too, notwithstanding the current Covid-19 event. Furthermore, He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5) So, what are we so afraid of? Contracting the virus? Death? Loss of income? Running out of toilet tissue? Bored children? Fearful children?

How wonderful it is to know that God is purposeful in this event! He really does want to grow our faith and trust in Him. We simply cannot grow without the test. How can we pass the test if we don't take it?

Earlier this week on our Elder video, I encouraged each of us to review Ephesians 4:32 and practice some random calls of kindness. Have we done that? One of the best ways to alleviate fear is to obey. Failure to do as God's Word instructs us is sin. The rest of Ephesians 4:32 addresses forgiveness. When I am fearful, I want my response to be, "Forgive me, Lord, for fearing that anything is stronger than You or outside of Your control."

Do not be afraid! Live in peace! Jesus showed kindness to others and then slept in peace. Be imitators of Him (Ephesians 5:1).

Pastor Phil