

Many people find themselves wrestling with a spirit of fear. With so many reports on terrorist organizations like ISIS, school shootings, and violent crime, we can easily retreat for fear. However, we know that God is bigger than anything we could potentially be afraid of. In this study we will re-examine the passage from 1 Peter taught in the message and discuss how we gain confidence in God in the face of paralyzing fear.

What Do You Think?

- What are your biggest fears? Why are they so scary?
- How do events like the recent college shooting in Oregon shape your fears? Are they realistic?

“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?”
1 Peter 3:13 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

- **Read 1 Peter 3:13-14.** In this week’s message we discussed being “zealous” for what is good. When we are doing that, we are not likely to be harmed. How does this help us look at fear realistically and from God’s perspective?
- **Read 1 Peter 3:15-18.** When we stand strong in the face of fear, persecution may ultimately come, but we can always know that God is bigger, and He is in control. Jesus asserted His authority over the sea, sickness, demons, and ultimately death. How does knowing this give you confidence to face fears that *do* come to reality? Examples?

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

- **Read 1 Peter 5:6-10.** Fear cannot be hidden from; it must be fought against. Thinking about the fears discussed earlier in the study, what practical direction do you see in these verses that will help you fight those fears? What are the results and what do they mean for you?

What Will You Do?

- What changes can you make to help diminish the amount of fear you deal with on a daily basis? What can our group do for each other?
- As we near the one-year anniversary of our Reach project, remember our church commitment to “reaching the one.” We are surrounded by people paralyzed with fear that can only be calmed through faith in God. What role can you play in helping bring confidence not only to your own life but also to the people who surround you? What can this group do together to calm fears?
- During your prayer time, focus on praying for things you have expressed fear over, and affirm to God that you know He is bigger. Pray also that we will be able to take this message of hope to as many people as possible. May the world know that our God is bigger!