



DON'T BE AFRAID JUST BELIEVE

Jesus...told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid! Just believe."
Mark 5:36

DON'T BE AFRAID, JUST BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT REJECTION

SOCIAL PHOBIA - Also known as Social Anxiety Disorder

It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the LORD, you are safe. Proverbs 29:25 (GNB)

IT IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE THE FEAR OF OTHERS WILL...

- **Cause me to be inconsistent in obedience to God.** (Galatians 1:10)
- **Prevent me from sharing my faith.** (John 12:42)
- **Stop me from becoming spiritually mature.** (Ephesians 4:15)
- **If unaddressed, cause me to be rejected by Christ.** (Mark 8:38)

I CAN DO TO GO FROM S.A.D. TO G.L.A.D. WHEN I...

GET THE FOCUS OFF OF MYSELF.

If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored. Luke 14:11 (CEV)

"You'll not likely go wrong if you keep remembering that our Master said, 'You're far happier giving than getting.'" Acts 20:37 (MP)

LEARN WHO TO FEAR

My friends, I can guarantee that you don't need to be afraid of those who kill the body. After that they can't do anything more. ⁵I'll show you the one you should be afraid of. Be afraid of the one who has the power to throw you into hell after killing you. I'm warning you to be afraid of him. Luke 12:4, 5 (GW)

Slaves: obey your masters.... Don't just act earnest in your service only when they are watching. Serve with a sincere heart (even when others aren't watching), fearing the Lord who is always watching! Colossians 3:22 (Voice)

Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security to a man and his family. Proverbs 14:26 (GN)

ACCEPT THE FACTS

FACT 1: I cannot please everyone.

*Our lives are a fragrance presented by Christ to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently... ¹⁶ To those who are perishing we are a fearful smell of death.... But to those who are being saved we are a life-giving perfume... **2 Corinthians 2:15-17 (NLT)***

...it is hard to see how true faith is even possible for you: you are consumed by the approval of other men, longing to look good in their eyes; and yet you disregard the approval of the one true God. John 5:44 (Voice)

FACT 2: Great people suffer rejection.

He was... rejected by men...and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53:3 (ESV)

*Some people say, "Paul's letters are powerful and sound important, but when he is with us, he is weak and the worst speaker you have ever heard." **2 Corinthians 10:01 (ERV)***

FACT 3: My response is more significant than my rejection.

This letter... is written to Jewish Christians scattered among the nations. ² Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. ³ For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything" James 1:1-4 (NLT)

DEPEND ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated...because GOD, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you. Deuteronomy 31:6 (MP)

- **God demonstrated His faithfulness by giving his son**

If He did not spare His own Son, but handed Him over on our account, then don't you think that He will graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32 (Voice)

- **God demonstrates His faithfulness by giving me His focus.**

...before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Ephesians 1:4 (MP)

- **God demonstrated His faithfulness by giving me a family**

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ... Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)