

# G:Love - Christmas Full Of Fear

Focused Living

If you can't relate with fear, then you won't relate to Christmas because the whole Christmas story is set against the back-drop of fear. Fear is the most common emotion to describe the hearts and minds of that first Christmas. Put yourself in the sandals of the following folks and list 2-3 things each of them had to fear in life according to what they were experiencing in their context. How can you identify. What are your 3 greatest fears as you head into the New Year?



Zacharias (Luke 1:11-20)

Mary (Luke 1:26-30)

Joseph (Matt 1:18-20)

Shepherds (Luke 2:9-10)

Herod (Matt 2:3)

Community (Matt 2:3)

Fear continues to dominate both the Christmas story and our lives 2000 years later after the first Christmas. Men harbor many fears and most of them come out during this time of year. Fear of failure, uncertain future, intimacy, guilt, and broken relationships. Financial fears, business pressures, deadlines, job security, and debt. Fears related to health issues, life changes, aging, and transitions. Even fear of disappointing God! All of these weigh down and trouble our hearts. Somehow all the vacations, decoration, food, parties, gatherings, activities, busyness, money, gifts, shopping and football games only numb our fears and delay the impact...for a while. It is no wonder counseling loads peak during this season as men finally face a year's worth of accumulated fear. God nailed it! We are a fearful bunch as we often forget the depth of our Father's sovereign grace, power and wisdom which He has towards us.

But note how God deals with our fears. "***Do not be afraid***; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy... for today... there has been ***born for you a Savior***, who is Christ the ***Lord***." (Luke 2:10-11) God didn't send a present, program, party or philosophy. He sent a Person! God overcomes our fear by coming Himself! Love in the flesh. The only antivenom to the poison of fear is His constant love as our Father. His wise and powerful control destroys our panic. His consistent care stills our concerns. His unchanging faithfulness evaporates our fright. His determined presence with us (Emanuel- *God with us*) destroys our distress. "*I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken*" (Psalm 16:8)! "*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear.*" What do **I John 4:18** and **John 14:25-27** teach about destroying our fears? Have you applied these truths to your life situation?



How does God communicate the depth of His love for you at Christmas and how does this love absolutely destroy fear? Fear is not a feeling though it is associated with deep emotions. Fear is your choice to focus on the circumstances rather than the character of God. How did Peter experience fear when he chose to focus on circumstances rather than the character of Christ in Matt 14:26-31? What about you?

**TAG TEAM** What truth from today will you hold in your heart in order to combat the fears in your life? What is your greatest fear as you head into Christmas and the New Year? Will you accept the challenge to teach this lesson to a family member or friend before Christmas? Who? When? Where?

An  
angel  
of the Lord  
said to them,  
**“Do not be afraid**  
for behold, I bring you  
good news of great joy  
which will be for all the people;  
for today in the city of David there  
has been born for you a Savior, who is  
**Christ  
the Lord.**

Luke 2:10-11