

**Grace Is Greater**

**Part 6 of 8**

**Grace Is Greater Than Your Fear**

## **Isaiah 41:10**

Experts tell us that babies are born with two natural fears: the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises. Moms, you can attest to this right? How many times did you unswaddle your newborn and as soon as your baby felt un-secured by a tight wrapping of blankets, their arms shoot out and terror gripped that sweet little face. Or a loud sound startles an otherwise angelic little infant into a raging fit.

A study on fear was conducted on 500 adults of varying ages, backgrounds and lifestyles. The results showed that they shared some 7,000 different fears. This means that they must have learned 6,998 additional fears since birth. That is a lot of fears!

Did you know that when God created mankind, our bodies were designed for faith? Fear was foreign to man until Adam sinned against God. For the first time, Adam knew fear, and he hid from God and said, “I heard Your voice…I was afraid…I hid myself.” (Genesis 3:10) Up until that point, Adam and Eve never knew fear.

Since then, man has been living in the realm of fear—fear of the future, fear of what others might say, fear of failure, fear of diseases, and my personal favorite: fear of flying. I don’t consider myself a very fearful person, at least not with the big things in life. I’m not a huge worrier. I don’t lay awake at night freaked out about all the “what if’s” of life (like Ben does). I tend to be a pretty even-keeled, rational person. Until, that is, you book a trip that requires flying. The sheer mention of me having to surrender all control over to a stranger, and board a metal tube, hurling through the air at 575mph at a height of 35,000 feet, kicks my mind into “fear overdrive.” I’ve heard all the statistics on the safety of flying. I’ve heard it all. I know that it’s more likely that I’ll become a nudist, become president of the United States, die from being hit by a meteorite, win an Oscar or an Olympic medal, drown in my bathtub, or die in a skydiving accident (which for me is pretty much impossible – because #1 I’m not going up in a plane, and #2 I’m certainly not jumping out of one). And yet, regardless of what I know rationally, this irrational fear grips my mind, and my body. I can’t even watch an airplane scene on a movie without feeling the suffocating grip of fear take over. And this fear has not only affected my thoughts, but it seizes my body and prevents me from going places I’ve always dreamt of, or visiting people, or experiencing the world and cultures God created. All because of fear.

You may not be afraid to fly, but everyone experiences fear in one capacity or another. There are big fears you might be very aware of and little ones you may not even realize you have. But, fear, at any size can keep you from becoming what God created you to be. It’s a tool the devil uses to make you miserable and destroy your life. What begins as a thought, then creates emotions that can completely dictate your life. Fear causes you to either stop dead in your tracks, drive you back to where you came from, run into foolish decisions or prevent you from walking out the plan God has designed specifically for you.

But, today I’m here to declare that Grace is greater than your fear!

Our theme verse is **Isaiah 41:10: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”**

As common as fear might be, God not only wants you to be free from your fears, He already defeated your fears at the cross.

Negative, fearful thoughts bombard all of us. They come uninvited, sometimes triggered by the smallest things. For some of us, a word, a look, or encountering a familiar situation can start off a chain of dark thoughts that can escalate out of control and bring us to a fearful, lonely place.

You might be a mom terrified that you won’t be able to protect your child from disease or harm. You may be a husband who struggles with the fear of failure thinking, “My wife and children don’t respect me. As head of my family, I’m a failure.” Maybe you’ve got a dream deep in your heart, but the fear of not meeting others’ expectations prevents you from stepping out. Maybe you’ve worked your whole life to be accepted, you’ve made a mistake or two or 3,000 and you fear that God just can’t overlook your shortcomings.

Today you need an understanding of God’s grace that’s bigger than your fear! Consider the following three truths:

1. **The battle takes place in your mind.**

**(Isa. 53:5)**

**Colossians 2:15** tells us that the devil doesn’t have any real power it says, **“After disarming the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross.”**

**Ephesians 6:12**says, **“This is not a wrestling match against a human opponent. We are wrestling with rulers, authorities, the powers who govern this world of darkness, and spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world.”**

## **The battle is won by realizing that it’s all about Jesus’ obedience.**

**2 Corinthians 10:4–5 says, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”**

**“For as by one man’s [Adam’s] disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s [Jesus’] obedience many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “Any temptation you face will be nothing new. But God is faithful, and He will not let the enemy tempt you beyond what you can handle. But He always provides a way of escape so that you will be able to endure *and keep moving forward*.”**

**Isaiah 53:4-5** **“Jesus bore my diseases and carried my pain. The chastisement for my total well-being and peace fell upon Him and by His stripes I am healed!”**

1. **Rest on the pillars of God’s promises.**

**Isaiah 41:10: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”**

**John 8:32** says**, “You will know the truth, and that truth (that you know) will give you freedom.”**

So, why does God tell us not to fear? What is the basis of his commands in Isaiah 41:10? He gives us five reasons (or pillars) within this verse that support his commands.

1. “For I am with you” — “Do not fear, for I am with you.”
2. “I am your God”— “Do not look anxiously about you (do not be discouraged, intimidated, distressed, distraught, troubled, terrified, anxious, frightened, uneasy, WHY? for I am your God.”
3. “I will strengthen you.”
4. “Surely I will help you.”
5. “Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”