

18 July 2021

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Pastor Gebhardt spoke a message of encouragement that washes over you. Allow God's love, and His Word, to bring comfort to your soul, and victory over fear.

Sermon Notes**Title:** Smothered by fear or ruled by love**Pastor:** Gebhardt Berdt**Key Scripture:** Psalm 23 / 1 John 4:18**1. The Lord is our Shepherd**

In Psalm 23 we see the Lord as our Shepherd. He leads us through valleys, provides for us and protects us. His rod and staff comfort us!

The confidence of the sheep lies in the presence of the shepherd. Sheep look to their shepherd. When the shepherd is near, there is nothing to fear.

Valleys are temporary ... seasons change!

Our Shepherd God anoints our heads with oil in the presence of our enemies, and our cups overflow. God's presence and His anointing make all the difference!

2. Perfect love casts out fear

1 John 4:18 (NKJV)

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

Being afraid is a condition of not understanding that you are loved.

In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, then they realised that they were naked, and they became afraid, and hid from God. (Genesis 1:10).

God asked him, "Who told you that you were naked?"

We need to examine whose voice we are listening to. Who has introduced us to fear? The voice that we listen to will determine our actions and the outcome of our actions.

When Pastor Gebhardt's mom died, the enemy asked him, "Do you still believe that Jesus heals"
He replied: Yes

And when his dad died 7 months later, the enemy asked again, "Do you still believe that Jesus heals."
Once again, he replied: Yes

And when his best friend died recently, the enemy asked the same question.
And again, he replied: Yes

Pastor Gebhardt's response was the same each time, "We still believe that Jesus heals"

Philippians 1:28 (NKJV)

"And not in any way be terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God."

Perfect love casts out fear. Our Heavenly Father loves us. He knows us by name. He even knows how many hairs we have on our head. And our Heavenly Father knows our unique voice, our unique cry for help. He answers us when we pray. We can call on Him.

Romans 5:5 (NIV)

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."

3. Led not driven

We are not a 'driven' people, we are a 'led' people!

The Prince of peace leads us. We are not driven by fear, we are ruled by love!

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

This makes all the difference in how we think, talk and walk!

If we think defeated thoughts, we will talk a defeated talk, and walk a defeated walk.
But if we think victorious thoughts, we will talk a victorious talk, and walk a victorious walk.

Make up your mind and declare; "I am not going to be driven by fear! I am going to be ruled by love!"

Stay in love with Jesus, and in love with His mission!