



# Word Study | May 30, 2021

## We Believe...Faith Replaces Fear

### **Text—Romans 8:12-17...**

*12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*

### **Welcome**

Fear is a common human experience. People fear all kinds of things. Some fear is well founded; at other times fear is a result of the unknown. But fear is universal. We'll be talking about fear today, and the Christian response to that fear. Fear can be met with faith and trust in God, which may ultimately lead to faith overcoming fear. The bottom line, though, is that God is with us, knows our fears and anxieties, and makes provision for us at all times because our heavenly Father has power over all.

### **Praying the Passage...**

Gracious God, we give you praise and thanks for the gifts of this day. We commit all that has and/or will take place to your care and keeping. Lord there are moments in our days when we are faced with fear. You have reminded us that we did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall into fear, but the spirit of adoption. Remind us today that we are indeed your adopted children and need not fear the unknown. Release us from the grip of fear and take us to a deeper place of faith, reminding us that we are free to be your children.

Romans 8:12-17 gives a secure bridge for Christ-Followers to move from fear to faith, chaos to confidence, anxiety to assurance. From a biblical point of view, faith is confidence in God. This faith comes to us in two ways. To begin with, it is rooted in the presence of Christ within us.

*•Share together about the kinds of things that frighten you and/or bring you anxiety. Please keep in mind that everyone has some kind of fear about something.*

*•How does your faith in God help you meet these fears?*

Some people have suggested that having fears and anxieties is wrong. Some have erroneously equated these emotions to a lack of faith. Nothing could be further from the truth. Fear is a normal response to certain life experiences. The important response, however, is a faith-filled response.

*•How would you help or counsel an anxious and fearful friend to see that God is invested in meeting those issues?*

Secondly, we have been given the presence of the Holy Spirit to help us move from fear to deeper faith. Read verse 14.

*•What does it mean to be “led by the Spirit”?*

The response to living in a world of fear is to move toward a faith filled lifestyle. We’re called to see faith as the bedrock inspiration for our lives. To discover how we are freed for faith, read Romans 8:15-17. Purpose, perspective, destiny, and relationships are four specific behaviors that Christ-Followers can use to face fear.

*•When we face certain fears in our lives, how can knowing our purpose and destiny inform our response to fear?*

*•People talk about keeping a perspective on things when certain challenges arise in life. What do you think that means?*

*•How do the relationships that we cultivate help us deal with our fears?*

Read Romans 8:12-17 again, paying close attention to verses 15-17. Note that “Abba” is the Aramaic word for Father. The deeper meaning here is much more intimate than Father—more like Daddy. It’s difficult to overstate the intimacy implied here.

*•How is it helpful to image our relationship with God as that intimate?*

The memory verse for this week is John 3:16—“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

*•Take some time to commit this verse to memory. As you move through the week and encounter various fears, use this verse as a response to anything which causes you fear.*

### **Closing Prayer...**

Gracious God, meet me in all that I experience. In my joy and celebration and in my fear and trembling remind me that you indeed are my Abba, Father, my “heavenly daddy.” I give you my heart as a response to you calling me your child, an heir with Christ to all you have promised. In Jesus’ name. Amen.