

# Do Not FEAR!

## Introduction

Good morning everyone, this is now our seventh message which is being recorded during this lockdown period. Praise God we are now at level 4 which allows one to have fewer restrictions especially that we can exercise in a non-communal way likes gyms and sports clubs, but we can go and have a jog or as I have, go out for a walk!

I just want to encourage everyone who is hearing today's message that we focus less on the world news which is depressing but rather start listening and reading the Good News every day! I promise you it will change your life.

## God is in control don't worry

As I explained last week, God speaks to me each week and I am sure He speaks to you too, and each week, He gives me a topic to speak on. If I look back specifically at last week's message about "Don't worry" I realise now that God was speaking to me!

Many of you do not know this yet but I did not have a good end to my week this past week because late Thursday evening we were called into a meeting with DXC Technology, to be told that they had decided to end/cancelled the South African Airways contract and so all of us working on this account would become redundant at DXC Technology and they will be returning all of us to SAA, a bankrupt airline to be retrenched by them in the next few weeks.

How legal this is I do not know and that is for the unions, SAA and DXC to sort out but as of this message I am preaching I will be retrenched.

As you can imagine this has thrown my family and me into a lot of turmoil and uncertainty and we could start to panic, fear and worry BUT God has been faithfully working in our lives for the past year proving Himself worthy of our faith and trust in Him and we are content and are completely clam in this storm.

## The Storm

And so today's message comes for what God has been saying to me these past few weeks of the coronavirus lockdown, and why we can be confident in the middle of a storm to say God is in control and to rest in Him.

What storm are you facing at this time, are you also facing retrenchment, loss of income, health challenges, what is your storm. God is in control and He will rescue you if you will put your faith in Him.

God is so faithful that He told me earlier in this year that I would go through a storm/trail this year and that He would bring me through the storm.

I thought maybe it would be a health challenge or something else but never dreaming that the real challenge would be that I would lose my job of over 38 and a half years! That was a real shock! And a major storm!

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The most amazing thing is that when the whole coronavirus started getting much worse and the government put us in lockdown, God gave me **2 Timothy 1:7** as an anchor to hold on to.

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**2 Timothy 1:7** says *“7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

### God has not given us a spirit of FEAR

The first truth from this passage of scripture is that FEAR does NOT come from God! God HAS NOT given us a spirit of FEAR. So, Fear must have another source other than God, and that source of fear has always been Satan.

And Satan knows that when you worry, and fear is the opposite to faith! Just like faith can make the impossible possible just so fear can make the thing you fear a reality for you!

What you fear and apply your mind too will eventually happen or come over you. Did you know that is exactly what Job said in **Job 3:25** *“25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.”* . What he, Job feared came upon him!”

Job feared that his children would die without an offering for their sins and that is exactly what happened, Satan killed his children and everything he had in a day! Satan took away his livestock, so he ultimately did not have a sacrifice.

So what are you fearing, what are you worrying about? Eventually, all your fear and worrying will bring that thing that you fear upon your life! Rather put your faith and trust in God!

The second truth in this passage of scripture is that if you don't have fear you will have power, you will have love and you will have a sound mind.

The first thing that disappears when people are in fear is that they lose their power. I have seen strong people become weak in the face of danger, when fear comes upon them, in the army, I have seen big men crumble in fear for their lives in a battle and they can't do anything but worry about dying!

The second thing when someone is acting in fear, that they lose their love for others and they lose their focus on God and put it on other things like themselves, their family, their money and possessions, on their interests instead of those around them.

The third thing is that you lose control, or as the Bible says a sound mind, you have an unsound mind and you do stupid things out of the fear that is driving you. You might remember at the start of the coronavirus lockdown when we had a few days to prepare, people bought everything they could find, whether they needed it or not.

Sadly many who smoke never thought of buying extra cigarettes, which was a good thing in the end, but they were so focused on buying other things they forgot to buy the thing they were addicted to!

People chase after food, money, clothing and act insane because fear has gripped them when God clearly says that we must not worry (**Matthew 6:25-34**) and we must have a sound mind (**2 Timothy 1:7**) they act oppositely.

We are not making fun of anyone, but it is interesting to note this actually happened just a few weeks ago. Some households bought so much toilet paper and hand sanitiser they forgot to buy some very essential things because they acted irrationally and out of fear.

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Also, **Romans 12:2** says we must not be conformed to the world system because it will change our focus off God on to the problem. After all, this is the only way to know what God's perfect will is.

We all remember how the media had us all in a frenzy of everything negative around the coronavirus. Now, these things were true and maybe made more for the media hype so that they could sell more newspapers or draw more people to their channel.

More people knew about coronavirus and the symptoms and how many people are dead or infected that were reading their Bible and focusing on God.

**Romans 12:2** *"2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

Through fear, many people have lost their lives or done foolish things but with God, we tend to have a better perspective when we are living for Him and with Him.

You know the greatest comfort for me right now is know God is in control and that He will make a way for me, even though the way forwards look's very bleak.

I could be sitting a total panic on what I am going and not getting any sleep and just worry, worry, worry, but you know I have slept like a baby the past two evenings, I am confident and comfortable in what is happening because I know no matter what, God is in control!

### Faith is the answer

In our current situations, we have to remember what our Bible says and not what the latest newspaper says! And the Bible says that we must fear not, **Isaiah 41:10**

You can go and look that our message verse for Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 was **Isaiah 41:10** – I prayed this verse over everyone not even thinking I would need it in less than 10 hours after I prayed it over our church.

After I go the news about my retrenchments I went back and read the full verse and this is what it says: **Isaiah 41:10** *"10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

God's assuring voice is once again saying it's okay. Do not fear, do not be dismayed or upset I am in control, I will strengthen you and uphold me with His righteous right hand!

What an AWESOME God we serve that He would speak to all of us but specifically to me when I got my bad news, when my world fell a part, He assured me of His help and provision.

And you can be assured of this provision in your own life as you go through a storm, God is there, He is with you and He has strengthened you and holding you up in the storm!

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## Conclusion

I just want to say to everyone who is facing a storm, God never said we will not have storms, trials or tribulations in our life because we are Christian, that is life we will face storms all our life.

However, God does promise to go through the storm with us, He will provide for us, He will strengthen us, He will help us, and He will be holding our hands right through our storms and the fears thrown at us! And He WILL bring us through the storm!

Am I okay with what is happening with my job of 38.5 years? No!

Is it fair what has happened? No

Am I angry? Yes because I feel betrayed and isolated.

Do I have concerns about my family and my future? Yes I have huge concerns

But the truth is I am at peace with whatever happens? And I know God is in control! I cannot explain it to anyone, I have such peace and because of what God has been saying to me through his Word. I am confident and know God is in control and he will carry me and anyone else through any storm we might face in life.

I know God has a plan for me, I know He will make a way for me, where there seems to be now-way, and I know He is in control and He will carry me and you through any storm!

We all have two choices:

Act in fear and worry and have all the stress and concerns on my shoulders

Or I can do what his Word says and come to Him and give Him my cares and burdens in

**Matthew 11:28-30** *"<sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Am I special? No, I am not. God will do for you, exactly the same as He did for me and even more IF YOU WILL TRUST HIM!

God is NO RESEPECTOR of persons, He loves us all the same, but it is how we react and who we choose to put our faith in.

As I close, now in the storm, it is time to Glorify and magnify God and see Him come through and make a way where there seems to be no way!

I am excited and I am confident in my future, my hope is not in DXC Technology, South African Airways or any other institution except God and he will make a way for us all!

What God will do; I do not know but I cannot wait to share the good things He is going to do for me!

Remember to stand on His Word always

See **Isaiah 41:10** / **Jeremiah 29:11-14** / **Matthew 6:24-34** / **Matthew 11:28-30** / **2 Timothy 1:7** / **Hebrews 11:1&6** and more

God bless you all, let us pray!

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Let us pray

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## Scriptures

**Job 3:25** *“<sup>25</sup> For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.”*

**Isaiah 41:8-13** *“<sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. <sup>9</sup> You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its farthest regions, And said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: <sup>10</sup> Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ <sup>11</sup> “Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish. <sup>12</sup> You shall seek them and not find them—Those who contended with you. Those who war against you Shall be as nothing, As a non-existent thing. <sup>13</sup> For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’”*

**Jeremiah 29:11-14** *“<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.”*

**Matthew 6:22-34** *“<sup>19</sup> Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup> The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. <sup>25</sup> Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? <sup>28</sup> So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*

**Romans 12:1-2** *“<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

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**2 Corinthians 8:8-12** “<sup>8</sup>I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; <sup>11</sup>but now you also must complete the doing of *it*; that as *there was* a readiness to desire *it*, so *there also may be* a completion out of what *you* have. <sup>12</sup>For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.”

**Philippians 4:17-19** “<sup>17</sup>*Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.* <sup>18</sup>*Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.* <sup>19</sup>*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* <sup>20</sup>*Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*”