

Facing Fear of the Unknown in Light of God's Sovereignty Ann Lowrey Forster

Scripture

"The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? ... Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord."

Psalm 27:1 and 14

Devotion

All sorts of things scare us, don't they? Smaller things like bad dreams or serious things like a loved one's illness. But, it is actually the unknown that can be scariest of all. I know it is for me. Even truly terrifying situations are somehow better when I have all the details. When we know what to expect, we can make ourselves believe that we are the ones in control. But that's not true - even when we know every one of the details, we are not in control. The Bible tells us over and over again who is in control. God is sovereign. Sovereign is a big word but it means just that - that God is the one in control. He reigns over the earth - over the sparrows and the flowers and everything that happens to us.

And God's sovereignty is such great news for our fear of the unknown. God knows we will be afraid and He says he will be with us in that fear. So, what are we supposed to do when we are afraid? Well, we should do what David does in Psalm 27. We should preach to our own hearts. Do you ever talk to yourself about God? Does that sound a bit crazy? King David, the slayer of giants and the man after God's own heart, was quite the self-talker. In the Psalms, he talks to his own soul all the time. What should we say? Well, here is the really good news. We don't talk to ourselves about us - or about the unknowns of which we are afraid. David talks to his own soul about God, because David knows he can trust in Him.

Our God is so good. We can be courageous in the face of the unknown - not because of our own strength, but because of the fact that God is sovereign and God is good. What is better than a King who is in control? Only a King who is in control and who has promised to do what is good and right. That is what you and I have! Now, let's get in the habit of reminding ourselves of it every time are afraid. Be courageous, O my soul, for God is Sovereign!



Questions

3-5-yr-olds

What is something you're afraid of? What can you tell yourself in that fear?

1st-3rd graders

How does the fact that God is on your side make you feel more courageous?

4th-6th graders

How do God's omniscience (the fact that he knows everything) and His omnibenevolence (the fact that He is always good) make his Sovereignty so comforting?

Prayer

High King of Heaven, we confess that we are often afraid. We are especially afraid when we do not know what will happen. But you always know. You have never been surprised. We ask that you would calm our fears and teach us to talk to ourselves about your goodness and your sovereignty. We love you and we praise you for giving us courage and for always having us in your hands.

Suggested Hymns

"The Perfect Wisdom of Our God" (Getty)

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #251

"Though Troubles Assail Us" #95

"Under the Care of My God, the Almighty" #84