

Do Not Fear!
-Ryan Parsons-

Tis the Season. Not that season! This time of year, before Thanksgiving and Decking the Halls, there comes a curious time we call Halloween. Spooky decorations, orange lights, and fake cobwebs adorn houses, and people begin to pick out this year's costume. Horror movies hit the "Trending Now" lineup on Netflix, and Walmart stocks its shelves with terrifying plastic junk. What does it all mean? It seems to be the time of year when the world celebrates, or at least acknowledges, fear.

Turn a few pages into your Bible, and you will find that one of the hot topics in scripture is actually fear. Nearly every book discusses it in some form or fashion. So, what does God have to say on the matter?

One of my favorite social media posts shows freeze-frames of people going through a haunted house. Something that constantly occurs in groups is that, when presented with a terrifying scare, the members will latch onto one another. It seems that they derive some comfort from not being alone.

It is no wonder then that God tells his people through the prophet Isaiah in chapter 41:

10 fear not, for I am with you;
 be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
 I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

13 For I, the Lord your God,
 hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,
 I am the one who helps you."

Fear has a way of making mankind do things that are not helpful. Sometimes man is paralyzed. At other times, he takes matters into his own hands and chooses to act in ungodly ways. Moreover, man often latches onto people or things that are not beneficial.

The Bible, however, repeatedly tells us, DON'T DO IT!

Is the world a scary place? Yes! Are there circumstances that are out of our control? Yes! Do our own bad choices sometimes terrify us? Absolutely! But, do we have to live in fear? NO! Why? Because we are not alone!

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." **6** So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper;
 I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"