

FEARLESS

-Ryan Parsns-

What is more inspiring than a small child who, terrified by the circumstances around him, immediately finds comfort in the arms of his mother. More amazing than that is the instant transformation in that child from paralyzing fear to courage to face the fear and rebuke it.

In trying to assuage the fears of his disciples, Jesus tells them:

Matthew 10:29-33

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. **32** So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, **33** but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

This is encouraging! Jesus' disciples don't have to live in fear. Why? Because God loves and values them. Jesus is revealing that the heart of God is such that it loves each person who has been created in His image. As a result, it is the intent of the Lord to protect rather than destroy.

How does this happen? John tells us:

1 John 4

16 *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*

Therefore, in Him, we can live life in faith; hopeful and fearless because His love kicks our fear to the curb. Moreover, when we are in His arms, we can look fear in the eye and reject it.

Since fear is no longer an issue for God's children, what will our fearless lives of faith look like?