

A Song the Crowd Saved

Marcus Bales, in his book titled *Speak Confident: A Collection of Stories and Advice on Overcoming Social Anxiety*, tells about a viral video that made its rounds not too long ago.

It featured an autistic boy singing *Let It Go* from the movie *Frozen* at his school's talent show. Not an easy feat for anyone, said Bales, let alone someone with autism.

About 30 seconds into the song, however, it became evident that this young man's nerves were starting to kick in. He began to forget some of the lyrics. This is a treacherous moment for any performer. It's the point at which your imagination creates all kinds of negative thoughts about what will happen next.

Then something surprising happened. The crowd began to sing along. Their participation was soft at first, but it continued to increase in volume as he continued to sing. Then, as the young man with autism sensed the support of the audience, he began to sing with more confidence.

"Before you know it," said Bales, "the whole crowd is singing and clapping along encouraging him to continue. Finally, he finishes the song standing proudly to a roar of applause."

Fear comes from a runaway imagination, although the consequences of failing are usually not as severe as we might imagine. People use a phrase nowadays that is actually quite assuring. The phrase is, "It's all good." In fact, the phrase has gotten so popular that it has been chosen by the National Basketball Association as a slogan.

Some folks trace the origin of the phrase to Rap performers in the 1990s where it is featured in several recordings. I choose to trace it all the way back to the writer of Genesis when he says God looked out on all He had created and declared, "It's (all) good."

If we could just believe – that life is ultimately all good because God is in charge of everything – our lives would be so much less complicated. Fear would no longer be an obstacle. And why is it "all good?"

For the believer, it's because a loving God never takes His eye off of us. He is with us in everything we do, and whether we win or lose, it's all good. We can relax and be at our best, confident that He is in charge. We are not alone.

God Himself promised it: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go* (Joshua 1:9 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter