

Mastering Our Fears

The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression that took place during the 1930s. The timing of it varied across nations; however, in most countries it started in 1929.

The depression originated in the United States after a fall in stock prices that began around Sept, 4, 1929, and became worldwide news with the stock market crash of Oct. 29, 1929 – known as Black Tuesday.

The Great Depression had devastating effects in countries both rich and poor. Personal income, tax revenue, profits and prices dropped, while international trade plunged by more than 50 percent. Unemployment in the United States rose to 25 percent.

The depression began to turn around with the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president in 1933. In his inaugural address, FDR lifted the spirit of America with these words: “Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”

With the rise of terrorism – including the atrocities of ISIS – in our world today, concern for the safety of our families and the population at large is a natural emotion. But the Bible has something to say about fear.

God says, “Fear not” (Isaiah 41:10); in other words, don’t fear anything.

Writing on that subject, Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of the Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, said in his book *Turning Point*: “The Christian has no fear that faith cannot cancel (Luke 8:25). Fear paralyzes. It stops us in our tracks and halts the advance of the kingdom of God into the kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of light into the kingdom of darkness (Colossians 1:12-14).”



In fact, Dr. Jeremiah said, Satan uses fear as a tool. “Satan wants nothing more than to paralyze God’s saints – to halt their progress in holiness and to stop the spread of the gospel. If you are paralyzed by fear, ask God to deliver you. Say, ‘Lord, I’m afraid! Deliver me from evil. Deliver me from all my fears.’”

Dr. Jeremiah is right on point. As believers, we must remember that power, love and the mind of Christ advance the kingdom of God; fear turns advance into retreat.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).