

Do Not Be Afraid

“Don’t be afraid,” Jesus tells us this over and over. Not only does Jesus tell us not to fear, but angels do too. Why do God and God’s messengers continually have to reassure us people? It’s because following Jesus and walking a path of discipleship occasionally gets scary. God pushes us out of our comfort zones, asking us to do new tasks, to see new things and — most scary of all — to look inside ourselves, change our ways of life and change our hearts.

Fear keeps many of us from growing as disciples of Christ. If we let fear dictate our lives, we’d probably never read a lesson in front of the congregation, never visit a severely injured church member, never stand up against injustice, never reach out to the suffering. All these things can be scary at first.



In the same way, fear is a key barrier to generous financial giving. We fear we won’t have enough if we give generously. We fear God won’t provide enough for all our wants and needs.

Fear is a normal part of our faith life. It helps us move beyond our perceived limits. We grow best by facing fear — and then moving beyond it. When fear paralyzes us, we stay where we are and do not grow.

If we want to learn to give generously, we need to serve in situations where we experience a little fear, someplace outside of our comfort zone. As we learn to trust God in small situations, we will trust God with our finances, too.

So as we head into the fall and “stewardship season,” let us hear the words of Jesus reassuring us: “Do not be afraid.”

*- Gleaned from an article by Rob Blezard
Stewardship of Life Institute*



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