

Message Reminders and Review: Read Psalm 46 & 47.

1. We are going to experience fearful things. God will permit it.
Denying our fears is only to deceive ourselves.
Justifying our fears is to remain in unbelief.
Confessing our fears, committing our concerns to God in prayer, rejoicing in God's nearness and thanking Him for His handling of our concerns is the way to experience peace that passes understanding. [Psalms 56:3; Psalms 46:1-2; Philippians 4:4-7]
2. The context of *Psalms 46, 47* and *48* is the victory that God gave Judah over the Assyrian threat found in *2 Kings 18* and *19*.
3. The message of *Psalms 46*:
 - a. God is our refuge and strength. We will not fear.
 - b. God is with us. He is our security.
 - c. God is God. He will be exalted in all the earth.
4. A couple of interesting contrasts found in *Psalms 46* and *Psalms 47*:
 - a. *Psalms 46:10-11*: Be still and know that God is God.
Psalms 47:1-2: Clap your hands and shout to God with loud songs of joy.
 - i. The Spirit and activity of God determines those times.
 - b. *Psalms 46:2*: God is our refuge and strength – we will not fear.
Psalms 47:2: God is a great King over all the earth – He is to be feared.
 - i. Because God is our refuge and strength, we don't fear anything but Him.

Questions for meditation from Sunday's message:

1. Franklin D Roosevelt said "*the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*" FDR wasn't preaching a sermon, but he was intending to motivate the American people.
 - a. How is fear paralyzing? How does fear negatively influence people?
 - b. What are the physiological and psychological results of fear in your life? (pacing, fidgeting, eating, working, sleeping, sickness, irritability, etc...)
 - c. Is fear the only thing we have to fear?
2. Because God is our refuge and strength, we have nothing to fear. Because God is a great king over all the earth, He is to be feared.
 - a. What does it mean to fear God?
 - b. How does fearing God resolve all other fears?
 - c. How do we increase our fear of God and, consequently, reduce all our other fears?
3. *Psalms 46* tells us to be still and know that God is God. *Psalms 47* tells us to clap our hands and sing loud songs to God.
 - a. When have those times been yours in practical experience (silence & shouting)?