

## **SHEPHERDS - Luke 2:8-11**

*In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid**; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

### **I will not be afraid...**

**God \_\_\_\_\_ me.**

*In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. - <sup>17</sup> He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup> Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. <sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. <sup>20</sup> Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.*

*Ephesians 2:12-13; 17-22 (NLT)*

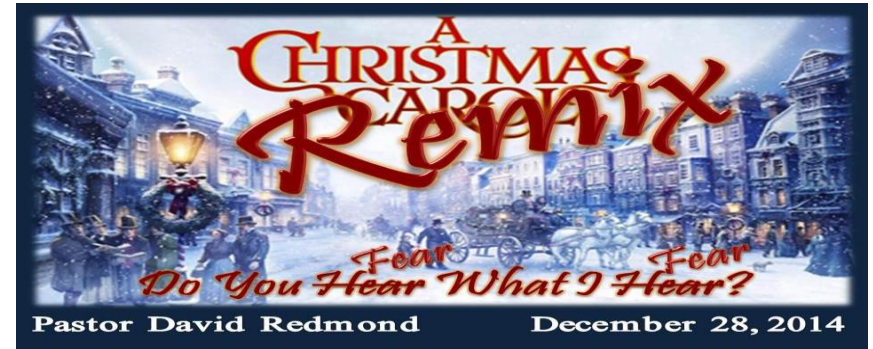
### **A concise declaration of faith:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **is** \_\_\_\_\_! (Romans 10:9-10)

*Beloved...<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God... <sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. <sup>17</sup> By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

*John 4:1a-3a, 4, 17-18 (NAS)*

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**For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. II Timothy 1:7 (NLT)**

### **Observations about fear:**

**The most frequent command in Scripture is “\_\_\_\_\_!”**

- **Fear is \_\_\_\_\_ turned \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Fear feeds on negative \_\_\_\_\_.**

**-Thoughts of not getting what I want.**

**-Thoughts of not losing what I have.**

**-Thoughts of getting what I don't want.**

- **Fear \_\_\_\_\_ what is in my \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Fear is a \_\_\_\_\_ force.**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

## **ZACHARIAS - Luke 1:8-13; 16-17**

Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division,<sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.<sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.<sup>11</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.<sup>12</sup> Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him.<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “**Do not be afraid**, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. -<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.<sup>17</sup> It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

**I will not be afraid...**  
**God \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_.**

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.<sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)*

## **MARY - Luke 1:26-33, 37-38**

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,<sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.<sup>28</sup> And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”<sup>29</sup> But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.<sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid**, Mary; for you have found favor with God.<sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;<sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” -<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**I will not be afraid...**  
**God \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.**

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

*II Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)*

## **JOSEPH - Matthew 1:18-21, 24**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.<sup>20</sup> But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”<sup>24</sup> And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife,<sup>25</sup> but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

**I will not be afraid...**  
**God will \_\_\_\_\_ me.**

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.<sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.” *Matthew 7:24-25 (NLT)*

Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord \*appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”<sup>14</sup> So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. -<sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord \*appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,<sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead.”<sup>21</sup> So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup> ... Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,<sup>23</sup> and came and lived in a city called Nazareth...

*Matthew 2:13-14;19-21:22b-23a*

Fearing people is a dangerous trap,  
but trusting the LORD means safety. *Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)*