

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

“FEAR NOT” (NEW YEAR 2025)

BIBLE STUDY TEXT:

- “¹But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. ²When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. ⁴Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. ⁵Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; ⁷Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. ⁸Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. ⁹Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. ¹⁰Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. ¹¹I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. ¹²I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God. ¹³Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?” (Isa 43:1-13)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!** The title of this Bible Study – “Fear Not” is found in our text, Isaiah 43:1, 5.
- B. Isaiah 43 reveals that the Israelites were facing fearful times during their captivity in Babylon.** Isaiah wrote to encourage them and to let them know that God has not forgotten them and that God is still in control of His world. Isaiah reassured the people that God would redeem them and restore their understanding of themselves as children of God.
- C. God commands us to “Fear Not” which means that we are not to allow anxiety, terrible things or fretfulness to rule our lives or take root in our hearts.** We are not to be people of panic. We are to be people of faith and have complete trust in God as we live and represent Him while on earth.
- D. Do not allow the failures, sins, grudges, and bad relationships of 2024 to hinder you in the New Year 2025.**

1. Confess Your Sins

- “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isa 43:25).
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
- “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb 10:17).

2. Jesus said, “Love Your Enemies” (Matt 5:43-48)

E. I Am the New Year

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires. All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, “Behold, I make all things new” (Source: Unknown).

We will study four aspects of “Fear Not” as we begin the New Year in and for God. He is still in control in spite of our circumstances and situations – Good or Bad.

I. GOD IS OUR CREATOR (vv. 1, 7)

- God is the sole Creator of everything in the universe.

A. **God is the One and Only Creator. No one Created Him.**

God has always existed and will always exist. God is from everlasting to everlasting (Ps 90:2).

B. **God Created and Formed Us** (vv. 1, 7)

“God took the dust of the ground, breathed into it the Spirit of Life and it became a living human being.” – J. Vernon McGhee

- “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen 2:7).
- “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Ps 139:14).

II. GOD REDEEMED US AND IS THE ONLY SAVIOR (vv. 1, 3, 11-14)

- Redeem means to buy back; to save someone from bondage; to rescue; the saving work of Christ which is Salvation.

A. God Redeemed us with the Precious Blood of His Son Jesus Christ (vv. 1, 14)

- “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt 26:28).
- “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph 1:7).

B. We Were Purchased With a Price

The required price for the redemption of our sins was the life of Jesus Christ which was poured out for us at Calvary and the price was paid in full.

- “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:5).
- “¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Cor 6:19-20).

C. Jesus Christ is the Only Savior (vv. 3, 11-13)

1. Christ is the only means by which we can have our sins forgiven and heaven is our eternal home (John 3:16, 36; 14:6; 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43; Rom 3:22; 10:9; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Tim 2:5).

2. **God will not share His Glory with Another Person**

God created us for His Glory (v. 7)

- “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images” (Isa 42:8).
- “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor 10:31).

D. We are the Sheep of His Pasture

Just as God knows every star by name (Ps 147:4; Isa 40:26), He knows us by name, as we are His children – The Sheep of His Pasture. He purchased us with the precious blood of His Son Jesus Christ, therefore, He can declare us as His own and call us by name (Isa 43:1).

The Lord knows who are His Children (Believers):

- “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim 2:19).
- “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (John 10:14).

III. **GOD IS PRESENT WITH US** (vv. 2, 5)

A. As God's children, we should always keep in mind that God is with us, in every situation. He has promised: "I will be with thee" (v. 2).

○ **A Heartening Presence**

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you..." (Isa 43:2).

An exceedingly nervous man was once sentenced to twenty-four hours' imprisonment in the dungeon of an old prison. Full of fear he sank to the floor. His brain throbbed as with fever, and mocking voices seemed to sound. He felt terror would drive him mad. Suddenly, overhead, he heard the prison chaplain's voice calling his name. "Are you there?" he gasped. "Yes, and I am going to stay till you come out." "God bless you," he said; "I do not mind it at all now, with you there." "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee" (J. R. Miller, D. D.).

B. These verses do not mean that Believers will not experience troubles, struggles, trials, persecutions, burdens and tribulations. The point is that God will be with you during the terrible times.

1. God promised to never leave us nor forsake us

- "And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed" (Deut 31:8).
- "The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us" (1 King 8:57).
- "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb 13:5).

2. Faithfulness to Christ leads to persecution from this ungodly world

- "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12).

3. Carry all of your burdens, struggles and difficult situations to the Lord because He cares for you.

- "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet 5:7).

IV. **GOD LOVES US** (v. 4)

A. God loves us Unconditionally and Sacrificially

He sent His Son to die for while we were still sinners.

- "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).

B. God loves us Unceasingly and Faithfully

His love endures forever and is faithful and merciful.

- “²² It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” (Lam 3:22-23).

C. God’s love is eternally trustworthy – He is Unchanging

- “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Heb 13:8).

D. God’s love is inseparable – Nothing can separate us from the Love of God

“³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:38-39).

E. God’s love is personal – He calls us His children and adopted us into His family

- “⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will” (Eph 1:4-5).

F. God’s love is provisory – God meets our needs and satisfies our souls

- “Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's” (Ps 103:5).
- “For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness” (Ps 107:9).
- “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:19).
- **God’s love is not based on our goodness, worthiness or ability to reciprocate. Instead, God loves us because He is loving and loves us.**
- “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. Live each and every day of the New Year for Christ.

- Thank Him – Praise Him – Love Him – Obey Him – Share Him with others (Soul-Winning).

B. No matter what you are going through – God is with you.

C. Continue your daily and Christian commitments: Read the Bible, Pray for yourself and others, fellowshiping with the Saints (attending church), and Love One Another.

D. Trust God with your life. Recognize your need for God. The only One that can help you have a faithful New Year is God.

E. Live in anticipation of Christ's return. Do you have a deepening longing for Christ to return and establish His Kingdom? 2025 could be the year of Christ's Return. Are you Ready?

MEMORY VERSE:

"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jer 29:11).

What is the true meaning of Jeremiah 29:11?

Christians facing difficult situations today can take comfort in Jeremiah 29:11 knowing that it is not a promise to immediately rescue us from hardship or suffering, but rather a promise that God has a plan for our lives and regardless of our current situation, He can work through it to prosper us and give us a hope ...

CONCLUSION:

A. Scriptural Prayer for the New Year:

"²⁴ The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace" (Num 6:24-26).

B. Jesus Paid It All

Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).