

This week Columbia@Crossroads pastor Greg Loewer concludes the sermon series, ***In and Out***. Let's look at how we are being challenged as Christ's disciples to live differently in the world while not becoming a part of it through Greg's sermon "***In Fear, But Not of It***."

1. Seventy-five years ago, in his first inaugural address, Franklin Roosevelt spoke the memorable words "*the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*" In these current days, it often seems that we are surrounded by fears—terrorists, illnesses, stock market swings, wars and rumors of wars.
 - What are the people you know afraid of today?

 - What are you afraid of?
2. The Bible is filled with passages about fear. Think about how many times an angel appeared to people in the Scriptures. For example, see **Luke 1:13, 30 & 2:10**.
 - What is the first thing the angel always says?

 - Why do you think that is the first thing?
3. **Read and Reflect on Isaiah 41:10, 43:1-7, 16-19.** Rest with these passages for a while. Read them a second time slowly. Rest again, to reflect and listen. Read passages a third time, slowly and aloud.
 - Here God speaks through the prophet Isaiah, directly to the people and tells them not to be afraid—not even while bad things are happening, or when you are in pain. When you live in a faulty world with hard jobs and frustrating people and disappointing leadership, how do you put aside fear and remember God?

 - What or who makes it easier?

 - What activity makes it easier for you?

4. What might the following verses say to you about fear?
 - ❑ **Isaiah 26:3-4**

 - ❑ **Jeremiah 29:11**

 - ❑ **John 14:1, 27**

 - ❑ **Genesis 26:24**

 - ❑ **Acts 18:17**

 - ❑ **Acts 27:24**
5. Read **Philippians 4:6-9**.
 - What does the apostle Paul say about fear and worry?

 - What does Paul tell his readers to do instead of fearing?

 - What does Paul assure his readers will happen to their fearful hearts and minds?
6. Recall some time in your life when you have been fearful and your reaction to the fear.
 - When you are afraid, how do you treat those around you (friends, coworkers, family)? Do you lash out? Do you want to run away? Do you want to exclude those people you are afraid of?

 - If God keeps telling us not to be afraid and to trust in Him, how should we treat those around us? How should we react to people we fear?
7. Read **John 16:33**. In this passage, on the evening before his crucifixion, Jesus reassured his disciples, "These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." Invite your IG to pray that the peace of Christ will be with you and that you will remember that He has overcome the world.