The title of my short message this morning is “fear not”.

It has been said that there are 365 “fear nots” in the Bible. One for every day of the year.

What is a “fear not”? One of those knots that you get in your shoes and you have to use a fork or something to get it out??? No…

It’s God encouraging us not to fear (be afraid of something or some one) that mankind sometimes allows themselves to be afraid of…

* Fearing what people think of you…
* Fear of not having enough money…
* Public speaking, flying, being far from home, or spiders…
* Fear of failure or rejection… Losing a loved one…
* Disease or pain… Death… or worse, running out of toilet paper…

We long for more of God’s peace in the midst of the storms that stress our lives! Amen?

Isn’t it comforting to know that God doesn’t want us to go a single day without hearing his word of comfort: “Fear not!”

Thank God because we need to be reminded to “Fear not” and trust God everyday.

But what happens as soon as we put God’s Word down and turn on the news? Fear often returns…

For those that didn’t know the goal of the media is to hype/sensationalizing/blow new things out of proportion for us every day!

“Fear” is actually spoken of over 500 times in the KJV.

In addition to the “Fear nots”, perhaps more importantly, the Bible teaches us the importance of “Fearing the Lord,” which means to have a heightened sense of awe, reverence and respect for God and His Word that saves, washes, cleanses us and transforms our lives.

Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!

Jesus taught in Matthew 10:28

That His followers should posses the right kind of fear (reverance & respect) for God alone.

Why? because God alone loves you, died to rescue you from hell, and fills the believer with His Holy Spirit to restore the image of Christ that was marred by sin.

Joshua 1:9

God will protect you! If you trust Him. But trusting in Him does not reveal PANIC in our lives.

Trusting = Calm, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Lets look at some verses encouraging us not to fear/worry or not to be anxious Matthew 10:29-30

Therefore, if one is a follower of Christ, this kind of thing makes no sense!

Perhaps God is allowing us to see these folks so we know who needs a saving relationship with Him.

Let’s read Psalm 23 together

A Fear Not Prayer

The Psalms are the Bible’s great soul book, meant to train us to respond to all of life’s situations and difficulties through prayer and trust in the Lord.

One example of this is found in Psalm 56:3-4 David has been seized by the Philistines and he starts to become afraid, but instead he sets his vision on Elohim, his Lord and Savior…

When I am afraid,

I will trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise,

In God I trust; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?

God transforms the believer from fearful, to fearless!

Is fear attacking you right now?

What threat or trouble are you facing that is too big for God to handle?

Watch and pray with David…

Close your eyes and repeat; “When I am afraid of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I will trust in you, O Lord.”

When we trust in God for our provision, protection and purpose in life, others will want to know this Great and Mighty God that you serve.

Let’s say Isaiah 41:10 together and close in prayer