



Spiritual Transformation – Week 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Fearless is a six-week series that will show us how to live confident, strong, and bold amidst perilous times. In the first message of the new series entitled, *Fearless*, we will learn how to have our hope firmly planted in the love of Christ and His return.

Discussion Questions

Living during a time where negative events occur all around us, both locally and globally, can lead us to become fearful and give into other fleshly emotions that God does not want us to experience.

Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Although there may be negative things happening in our personal lives, in our loved ones’ lives, or in the world, we must focus on the good and godly things.

- What are some circumstances in your life that have made you fearful? How can this fear hurt us?

Even during dangerous, unpleasant, or perilous circumstances, we can remain spiritually strong and confident. **James 1:2 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.”**

- When we focus on our circumstances or events going on around us, we can become anxious and fearful. Do you find that you focus more on negative events and circumstances or on positive and uplifting things?

As believers, we have the tools to focus on the love of Christ and His return, even amidst bleak times.

Three Keys to Spiritual Transformation

1. **Faithfulness to Christ.** It is the Church - we who are Christians - that can help others be confident during dangerous times. Our work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope will not only uplift and empower us but also those around us.
 - How have you helped someone to be less anxious or fearful during a dangerous or negative situation?

2. **Openness to Christ.** God chose us before we even knew Him. When we realize how much God loves us, we open our hearts fully to let Him live inside of us.
3. **Passion for people.** **Matthew 5:16** says, “**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**” This is a great reminder that people observe our actions more than they listen to the words we say.
 - What are some actions you can take to show the love of Christ to others?

What Does This Spiritual Transformation Look Like?

In 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, the Thessalonians are commended for both sharing the Gospel and living it out. Here are three ways they were spiritually transformed:

1. **They turned from something.** There may be some behaviors or habits that you need to turn from. Biblical belief produces change.
 - Are there any behaviors or habits that you need to turn away from? How can we partner with you in prayer?
2. **They turned to God.** We must commit our lives to God. We must remember to fully depend on Him. We should have a deep, ongoing relationship with our Savior. We shouldn't call on Him only in times of distress or trouble.
 - What are some steps you can take today to cultivate and deepen your relationship with God?
3. **Their life was characterized by an expectant waiting for Jesus to return.** As believers we have more than what we see and experience through our senses to focus on. We have something even greater to look forward to! **2 Corinthians 4:18** says, “**while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**” This scripture reminds us that although we can live an abundant life here on earth, our final destination is more important than what we do and have here on earth. We must long for the day Jesus returns, and be ready for when He comes..
 - What are some ways that you can remind yourself to focus on the eternal more than focusing on the temporary?

Life Challenge

We must be spiritually transformed in order to live boldly and confidently during tremulous times. Although we may be experiencing trying times on a personal or broader level, we have the confidence and love through Christ to live in love, boldness, and anticipation of His return. This week when you find yourself focusing on the negative or dangerous situations going on, remind yourself to focus on our Lord and Savior. Speak the Word out loud and declare, “**You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**” **1 John 4:4**

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for choosing us before we were even born. Fill us with Your Spirit and love that we may walk in peace and confidence during trying times. Remind us that You are for us and not against us. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.