

# TIMES SQUARE ■ CHURCH

"A GREAT MULTITUDE OF ALL NATIONS AND KINDREDS AND PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES" (REV. 7:9).

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## LIVING IN FEAR WHERE NO FEAR IS

by Carter Conlon

I believe as you read this message today, you will not be disappointed; the Lord is going to minister to you. I want to address those who have been and still are living in the grip and torment of fear. Living in fear is paralyzing. You become so gripped by its hold you are no longer able to function as a normal human being. But you do not have to live in fear if you are a Christian, because there is no fear where you are. There is no fear in Christ. Hallelujah!

### ■ THE POWER TO REASON COMES FROM GOD

*"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God. There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them. Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad" (Psalm 53:1–6, KJV).*

I believe David could be looking back and reflecting on his past. We have all heard of how the fool has "reasoned" in his heart there is no God. This is an incredible statement,

but I believe it is more complex than it appears on the surface. When we hear someone say, "There is no God," we automatically think of someone who simply does not believe in God, and therefore makes this kind of declaration. When in reality this kind of person is actually arguing with the reasoning power God gave them in the first place. It is an amazing thought when you ponder it.

What if your child walked into your house one day and said, "I don't believe you exist. Regardless of whether or not you say you are my parent, I simply believe you are just a figment of my imagination, and you do not exist in my estimation." You could look in dismay at the child and try to convince him and say, "Am I not the one who gave you life? Where did the roof over your head come from? How did you get the clothes you are wearing? Did you just suddenly materialize and exist?" Imagine that child still continuing to deny your existence. If you met some friends while you were with this child in the mall, you would have to introduce your son or daughter as "the fool" who does not believe you even exist. How hurtful it must be then for God, when He looks down at those whom He created and hears them declare, "There is no God." You just have to read the book of Romans to know God does exist. "From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

*Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead" (Romans 1:20–22 NLT ).* It is amazing to me. People can look up and watch a beautiful sunset or sunrise, and this simple testimony alone shouts to the world God is alive! Yet, in the midst of all this incredible beauty, there are still men and women who run around saying there is no God. How foolish!

David said in Psalm 8:3–4: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" When David observed the vastness of God's universe and the magnificence of His creation, he knew God was able to perform the supernatural. He was convinced of God's existence and His power by just observing the majesty of the heavens. David was humbled that God would even think about him, being so small and insignificant.

Have you considered how special you are to God? Have you considered He could quite easily fold up the whole world and start over again and recreate it? But He doesn't. Why not? It is because He is mindful of you. He gave you the breath of life; He loves you with an everlasting love; you were created from His heart. The very thought of losing you for all of eternity pains the heart of God.

undeniable evidence that they have been born again by the Spirit of God.

You are wise to allow the Holy Spirit to set in order your thinking about Jesus Christ and what He has called you to be. You could live no greater life than to be yielded to the purposes of God. Do not be afraid of living for Him; let the Holy Spirit begin to change you today. If you have a true heart, you will be astounded at the power of God available to you. An explosion of knowledge will come into your mind and God will give you the power to overcome all of your enemies.

#### ■ GOD SEEKS THOSE WHO WILL LIVE FOR HIM

I believe God is looking to see if there are any true seekers of Himself. He is looking down from heaven to see if there are any who are willing to be conformed to His image and willing to walk with Him in this evil generation. *“God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God”* (Psalm 53:2). *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him”* (2 Chronicles 16:9).

**When you magnify your enemies above the greatness of God, you are saying in your heart, “There is no God.”**

Many people in the church of Jesus Christ have played games for far too long. Sadly, we are living in a generation of those whose hearts are not right with God, and they will not make it through the coming difficult days. Yet God says He is looking for those who understand who

He is and are willing to turn from their iniquity. He will turn to them and show Himself strong on their behalf. My cry is, “Oh, God, have a testimony in this last hour, especially in a time when people all around are foolish enough to say there is no God.”

Let there be irrefutable evidence in you that there is a God who must be reckoned with. Your life must be a compelling testimony to those around you who say there is no God. When they witness how God has brought you through your trials, they will be confronted with the reality that Jesus Christ is alive. He is supernatural and will triumph over all your enemies. People should not have to fear the future if they are in Christ.

#### ■ LIVING IN FEAR, WHERE NO FEAR IS

David says, *“There were they in great fear, where no fear was; for God has scattered the bones of him that encamps against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God has despised them”* (Psalm 53:5). Think of it for a moment. I believe King David could have been looking back and remembering the day he walked into the military camp of Israel. He had been sent there by his father to visit his brothers. He remembered the Philistine giant, Goliath, taunting Israel’s army day after day, challenging them to give him a man to fight. *“If there is a man among you that can defeat me, then we will be your servants forever. But if not, then you will be our servants forever”* (1 Samuel 17:8–11). Saul and all the armies of Israel were standing around trembling with fear, unable to fight.

You see it is the devil’s camp which is supposed to be the one that trembles, but here are the people of God quaking in fear. David arrived at the camp with the faith to believe God,

and challenged God’s people saying, *“Is there not a cause?” “Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied”* (1 Samuel 17:45).

**You can sit on the hillside and listen to the voice of your condemner for the rest of your life, or you can stand up and say there is a God...**

We, too, are living in a generation with giants on every side. We are in a foolish position when we magnify the power of our enemies above the power of our God. He is more powerful than any struggle or fear you will ever have to face. Sin no longer has power and dominion over you. You were created to be a living testimony of the reality of Christ’s triumph over the powers of hell and death. When you magnify your enemies above the greatness of God, you are saying in your heart, “There is no God.”

What do you say about God? You have a choice! You can sit on the hillside and listen to the voice of your condemner for the rest of your life or you can stand up and say that there is a God, and He’s bigger than everything that comes against you. He’s bigger than your struggle, your fears, your past, your concept of yourself and your future. He is able to create and recreate you according to His word. He will use you to honor and glorify His name. The battle is not yours; the battle is the Lord’s. This is an hour when God is calling the young, the weak, and the insignificant who finally say, “We are no longer going to encamp among the trembling. We are going to get up and fight this fight of faith for the honor and glory of God. We are not



Yet, this is the ultimate tragedy of the fool, who one day will finally realize the loss of God's immeasurable love.

**Today you find churches like shopping malls, where whoever creates the most palatable Christ is getting the crowds.**

We only have a dim concept of what hell is really like. The Bible declares it to be a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, a place of burning and torment. I have often wondered what the source of that torment is. I believe, in measure, it comes from having stood before God and finally understanding the depth of His incredible mercy, compassion, love, and knowing you have rejected Him. What torment! And yet, because of foolishness in the human heart, man has pushed God's love and life away, not just for time, but for eternity.

### ■ THE FOOL CREATES HIS OWN GOD

The fool has said there is no God and has therefore created his own standard of right and wrong. Have you ever noticed there are those who want to create their own god? In his thinking, this person fashions a god who will not hold him accountable for his willful sins and wrong actions. An example of this is Aaron, the brother of Moses. Moses was on the Mount about to bring the revelation of who God is to his generation. He was just a few days away from returning to the people, but Aaron got impatient. Instead of having faith in God, he was busy collecting earrings and jewelry from the people. He threw this collection of gold into a fire, then smelted and fashioned it into the form of a calf. How stupid can people be? Fashioning a cow, and saying, "These are the gods who brought you out of Egypt, O Israel.

Let us hold a party now to our cow, and let us worship this thing. This is the kind of god we want to serve."

Today you find churches like shopping malls, where whoever creates the most palatable Christ is getting the crowds. These are for people who pass through churches and say, "Well, that's not quite the Christ I'd like to serve." So they move on to another church and inquire, "What kind of Christ do you have here? What have you fashioned? Oh, that's nice, I like this Christ. He does not ask you to go to the mission field; He tolerates your sin. He does not request or require separation from the world, or repentance from wrong, or restitution for past things that can be restored. No, this Christ just accepts everybody just the way they are! Yes, I like this Christ."

This is what the Lord says to these god-shoppers: *"What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, Seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you"* (Psalm 50:16–21, NKJV).

Now here is the issue. This is the ultimate dilemma of those who fashion their own god. They think God is just like them. We are living in that kind of generation right now. People are going to churches all over America today, thinking that God is just like they are.

### ■ GOD HAS A STANDARD OF RIGHT AND WRONG

*"Now Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses"* (Numbers 12:1). We see here Aaron had still

not learned his lesson. He had made the golden calf in the absence of Moses and now we find him speaking against God's leader. It is interesting because in the previous chapter of Numbers, Aaron had witnessed a great judgment of God in the wilderness. Yet this event still did not register with him that God would judge all sin. I want to make the suggestion, that Aaron had a propensity in his heart to fashion his own god, a god who would not judge his wrong doing. How does a man who witnessed God's judgment come back to doing what is wrong again? Why does that happen? It is because he had never fully embraced the God of Moses. Neither had he embraced the fear of God as a way of life. He did not reverence God as one who has a standard that will not be violated without dire consequences.

*"Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver: whoever offers praise glorifies me, and to him that orders his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God"* (Psalm 50:22). God says, "I have a standard of right, and I have a standard of wrong." God sets all things into perfect order. When those who are His people come to truth, they embrace the truth. They do not try to mold God into an image of their own making. Rather, they let the Holy Spirit mold them into the image of Christ. Those who are in Christ embrace the changes God brings. For instance, the converted thief stops stealing and begins making an honest living; liars are changed and they start speaking the truth. People who are hard-hearted find the mercy of God, and then extend it to others around them; the selfish become compassionate and give of themselves and their resources to those in need. In Christ there is change and transformation, which is the

going to be found among the fools of this generation who say there is no God. We believe there is a God who can change us and use us. It's time to stand up and say, there is a God, and we know His name."

We see this in 1 Samuel 14, when Jonathan and his armor bearer believed God against tremendous odds. Jonathan did not sit back in unbelief but chose to believe that God could deliver by one or by many. They only took half an acre and it seemed like an insignificant victory, but when that half acre was taken, it sent a shudder right through the ranks of hell. The Bible says an earthquake actually occurred and a trembling went through the whole host. Finally, somebody believed God. They didn't look at their victory as insignificant but mighty through God.

### ■ THERE IS A GOD!

In Psalm 53:6, David ends his reflection with a cry: *"Oh, that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad."*

Oh, that this kind of faith would arise in the hearts of God's people today. David finishes this psalm with a shout and an exclamation. He said, *"When God brings back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice and Israel shall be glad."* David saw it by faith through the Spirit. He saw Israel rising again. He saw the people of God standing up time and again through the course of history, saying: "There is a God, and I'm not living in fear where no fear is! I'm going to stand up and be counted for Him. I'm going to face my deepest fears, and God

is going to be honored through my life. Hallelujah!"

Now the choice is yours. You can sit there, do nothing, and end up being a fool by saying there is no God. You can say in your heart, "My enemies are too big for me." Or you can choose to rise in the midst of your battle and say, "God, I am going to believe you for this situation." Those around you need people like you who will stand up in faith.

As you believe God, you will begin to experience the supernatural life of Jesus Christ. He will give you compassion. He will give you words. He will begin to use you. Not everybody is going to preach to thousands, but you will have the compassion to speak to one or two or three. The gifting of the Holy Spirit will begin to flow through you and you will realize that this is a supernatural kingdom, and the power and glory all belong to God.

If you will rise up today and face your giant, God will be glorified through you. I have known the victory that I have spoken of in this message. God will give you supernatural victories and I want to encourage you to stand up in your situation and say, "I will not fear. There is a God. There is a God!"

Carter Conlon  
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Carter Conlon is senior pastor of Times Square Church, where he has been on the pastoral staff since 1994.

### TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Prayer Meeting	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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