

Lesson 8: Reasonable or Unreasonable Fear

Dorothy Thompson:

The most destructive element in the human mind is fear. Fear creates aggressiveness.

James F. Byrnes:

Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem to be more afraid of life than death

Marcus Aurelius:

If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.

■ *Unknown.*

It has been said that our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, but only empties today of its strength.

-- *Charles Haddon Spurgeon.*

Psalm 46

Psa. 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

Psa. 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psa. 46:3 *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled, *Though* the mountains shake with its swelling.

Rom. 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to **fear**, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

1John 4:18 There is no **fear** in love; but perfect love casts out **fear**, because **fear** involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Words & Music: Martin Luther, 1529, (score); translated from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge, 1853.

This song has been called "the greatest hymn of the greatest man of the greatest period of German history" and the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation."

In 1720 a remarkable revival began in a town in Moravia. Jesuits opposed it, and the meetings were prohibited. Those who still assembled were seized and imprisoned in stables and cellars. At David Nitschmann's house, where a hundred and fifty persons gathered, the police broke in and seized the books. Not dismayed, the congregation struck up the stanzas of Luther's hymn,

*"And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us."*

Twenty heads of families were for this sent to jail, including Nitschmann, who was treated with special severity. He finally escaped, fled to the Moravians at Herrnhut, became a bishop, and afterwards joined the Wesleys in 1735 in their expedition to Savannah, Georgia.