



Freedom In Christ Church

Newsletter

You Are the Boat

Pastor Dane Pogue

So many of us deal with various troubles and trials in our lives. Fear, worry, panic and anxiety may sometimes grip us and put us in a chokehold. I believe that mental battles can be worse than physical battles. With a physical battle, you can see the problem with your eyes and then figure out a solution. On the other hand, when it comes to battles of the mind, they can be dark and confusing. Fear opens the door to the enemy and when the enemy gets access to your mind, he will always escalate the level of fear and worry until it becomes panic or anxiety. When your mind is in a state of fear or worry, you lose touch with reality and allow the thoughts of fear and worry to pile up until they create an insurmountable problem in your mind. You see this huge problem through the eyes of defeat and sometimes it may leave you feeling helpless. When you feel helpless, panic and anxiety set in. A great many of you reading this may be able to relate to these symptoms, maybe you feel like they have taken hold of your life, and you want your life back. There is a way out, and there is a path to freedom!

I learned a very tough yet valuable lesson some years ago, when I went to Rhema Bible Training Center for two years. They were undoubtedly two of the best years of my life. While I was out there, it was like heaven on earth. Every day I would get up and go to morning prayer with a group of Christian friends and then I would sit and be saturated with the Word of God for three hours. On Tuesday through Thursday I would attend prayer school and I also went to church with 3000 people three times a week. We like to call it the "Rhema bubble". I was constantly being encouraged and uplifted by other people or other things like worship, or an emotional service. Anytime a problem arose, and I began to fear or worry, I could just go to prayer group, school, prayer school, or church, and there I would be encouraged and motivated to go on. Well, two incredible years came and went, just like that. I came back home so excited and motivated from my experience at Rhema. I found myself working a full-time job again and ready to help out at church wherever I could. Just two days after I returned to doing tree work,

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a tree fell, and it landed on me. I dislocated my shoulder and needed surgery on my leg, which kept me out of work for a while. I knew I was going to be fine, and in the beginning I was strong. I looked at it as a physical battle and saw what I needed to do to recover, but in the following days something started happening in me...thoughts of worry, fear and doubt started creeping into my mind and I was in a weak vulnerable state. So, I just laid there and dwelled on these thoughts. The thoughts ranged from fear from my physical well-being, to doubting my self-worth, to fear of losing important relationships and even to spiritual paranoia. All of these things tormented me day and night. They formed together and presented me a problem that I thought I could not overcome. This is when I began to panic. I did not have the luxury of being able to go to class at Rhema the next day, and I could not go to prayer school to receive some fresh revelation. It was just me, God, and my Bible. I was outside of the "Rhema Bubble." I was in a boat, on the lake, in the midst of the storm that I thought I thought for sure was going to kill me.

Now, what caused me to fear and worry could be different from what you may deal with on a daily basis in your life. You may worry about how you're going to pay the bills, you may have fear for your own safety, or for the safety of your loved ones. You may worry that you aren't capable of completing the task in front of you. You may worry that your marriage is falling apart, or that you may lose your job or a number of things that we encounter in this life. We may even have the tremendous fear that something bad is going to happen. Fear and worry are the two cruelest tricks of the devil. Mainly because they alter your reality. What is reality? GOD'S WORD IS REALITY! When I was in the middle of this storm, I noticed a pattern in my actions that reminded me of a portion of Scripture. This is it. Mark 4:35-40. As evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake". So, they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed) but soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with His head on a cushion. The disciples woke Him shouting "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" When Jesus woke up, He rebuked the winds and said to the water, "Peace, be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then He asked them, "Why were you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Before we look into the story, I want to explain that when we are attacked and consumed by worrying fear, that is our storm. Storms can also be physical circumstances, but fear starts with a thought in your mind. Fear is the opposite of faith, and without faith, it's impossible to overcome any circumstance that poses against itself against us. When we allow ourselves to remain in fear during a storm,

the very thing we fear the most will become reality to us and defeat us, but I have great news! We have the choice, and the power within us, to avoid that from ever happening! To illustrate my point pertaining to Mark 4:35-40. I want to compare us to the boat; you are the boat, the disciples are your mind, and just like Jesus was on the boat then, He is in you now. And we already know that the storm represents those thoughts of fear and worry that rise themselves up against the reality of God's Word. in this situation we see that God's Word was this: "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." Jesus Himself said with the authority of the God the Father, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake" because Jesus said it, the reality was that they were going to cross to the other side of the lake, no matter what it looked like. Sure enough though, a storm came, that began to make it look like everybody was going to die, just like we do in our minds the disciples began to fear and worry. They began to scramble around trying to find a way out, but the waves kept crashing. They worried and panicked until they thought for sure that they were going to die; that became their reality. Notice they said "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" They had already made up their minds that they were goners. At least they went to Jesus...some people don't even do that much. When I was in the middle of my storm, I did the same thing: I scrambled around my house worried, panicked, and looking for Jesus to rescue me. Just like the disciples, even though I found Jesus in forms of worship music or listening to a sermon, I still thought I was doomed. Notice that even after the disciples woke Jesus up, they still thought they were going to die. We then see that Jesus spoke to the storm and demanded it to leave. I saw something in the scripture that popped out at me, even though the disciples ran to Jesus, He wasn't very happy that they did it in fear. See that Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

This revelation came to me when I was actually ministering to another person who was dealing with the same exact type of thing. My spiritual eyes were open, and I understood. GOD'S WORD IS MY REALITY! Jesus said to the disciples "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." God's word says to us today that no condemnation awaits us. Romans 8:1, **We are set free from the power of sin that leads us from death.** Romans 8:2, **We are new persons.** 2 Cor 5:17, **We are made right with God.** 2 Cor 5:21, **We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.** Eph 3:6, **We can come boldly and confidently into God's presence** Eph 3:12, **We are made complete in Christ.** Col 2:10, **We are set free from our sinful nature.** Col 2:11, **We have eternal glory.** 2 Tim 2:10 **By Jesus' 39 stripes we are healed.** 1 Peter 2:24. **We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.** Romans 8:32. **We have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind** 2 Tim 1:7, **God will supply all of our needs**

according to his riches and glory. Phil 4:19, We can do all things through Christ you strengthen us. Phil 4:13. and many more. Glory to God! Hallelujah!

Why could Jesus say so boldly that they were going to the other side of the lake? Because He was on board that boat! You are the boat! Jesus is onboard your boat! He is in you! Nothing can happen to a boat that has Jesus on it! Isaiah 54:17 says that No weapon formed against you shall prosper. No weapon or storm formed against you shall prosper unless you allow it to do so. In this new covenant that we have with Jesus Christ, He has given you the keys to the boat, and the rudder that steers the boat is your tongue. James 3:45 says, and a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the captain chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. You see, once you accepted Jesus into your heart, he guarantees you everything in His Word. He just wants you to use your mouth, which is the rudder, to speak His words, and to steer your way through the seas of life no matter how fierce the storm is. Simply because you have Jesus on your boat gives you the ability to use His Words to speak to the storm. You no longer have to weather the storm, you can speak to the storm and as soon as you do that, then the reality of God's Word becomes reality to you and that when you look up, and you realize that the storm is gone. Praise God we cannot be defeated!!

Remember, thoughts and feelings are temporary, they come and go, they are not reality. GOD'S WORD IS REALITY! God's Word never changes. Never try to fight thoughts with thoughts. You must fight thoughts by verbally speaking God's Word to the storm. Now this is the fight of faith, no matter how bad the storm gets or what crazy thought comes into your mind, or how worried you feel, you have the fire power within you to speak to any storm and demand it to leave in Jesus name. Don't be discouraged. This must become a lifestyle for you. It must become a part of who you are for it to work. Don't give up. Keep fighting. Don't just try to speak to the storm, speak to it with authority. Do it over and over and over, for the rest of your life, no matter how many storms you face. I promise that your quality of life will increase. In Jesus name, you will cross to the other side of the lake. Amen.



The Essence of Growth

Leah Hockenberry

I Am the Teacup

He carefully and meticulously molded the teacup, paying close attention to every detail. With soft and considerate hands, he shaped the tiny teacup. The potter exuded so much pride and affection for his craft. All in his time, he was finished and satisfied with his one of a kind work of art. The potter loved this teacup as he did all he's ever created. He gifted the teacup. Sadly, it was mishandled. The teacup began to crack here and there. Eventually the cracks began to leak and the teacup became empty. The teacup was discarded, there was no use for a teacup that could not hold tea. In a pile of rubbish, the walking by potter spotted his work, laying amongst the garbage. He quickly scooped up his teacup and right away got to work. He sanded the old, chipped polish, oh so gently. Patched and repaired all of the cracks. Then he painted and polished the teacup to look as if new. The teacup now has a permanent place with the potter. He is the only one who can see and know its true value for he made it with his own hands. The potter keeps the teacup filled to the top and fresh daily. I am home. Isaiah 64:8



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Kidz Korner

Children and Youth Programs at Freedom in Christ Church: teaching faith, healing, courage, relationships, and experiences. Many years ago, Pastor John shared with me the burning passion in his heart to create a children's program that would be first class in every aspect, but most importantly one that would introduce our children to a relationship with God that leads to life changing experiences with Him. Pastor John wanted our children to receive from children's church something far greater than flashing lights, cool decorations, presentations, and prizes. He wanted them to have firsthand experiences with the presence of God, and to teach them how to be so close to God that they carry with them His very presence everywhere they go. Allow me to explain this philosophy. God can seem so far away in so many people's lives, especially in challenging times such as the ones in which we are currently living. For so many people, the idea of God seems like a far-off fairy tale, or that He is some kind of unattainable mystical being. Our world has created a culture and society that indoctrinates us to believe that God either does not exist or that He has abandoned us long ago. The truth is, we the human race, by and large, have abandoned Him. This abandonment of our Creator Father and His Son Jesus Christ has been the main contributing factor to the darkness, sin, and misery our planet is currently experiencing. At Freedom in Christ Church we are determined to teach our children that a relationship with our Heavenly Father was provided to us by Jesus, and is right at our finger tips. We carry the torch of our founding pastor, George Pogue Sr. by teaching our children the power of faith. Faith opens the door to salvation, healing, redemption, and a real and tangible relationship with God. Faith conquers fear, moves mountains, and helps to maintain and grow our personal relationship with God. We believe wholeheartedly, and are backed by scripture and firsthand experience, the reality and power of the Holy Spirit. One touch from God can change your life forever. Where the institution of religion fails, the tangible presence of God pushes us deeper into an intimate and personal relationship with His very Spirit and provides a lifetime of lived experiences with God Himself that become anchors in our fight of faith. These experiences with God birthed out of a relationship with Him become the fuel to our light that shines brightly in this dark world. Religion is a man-made system that provides rules without relationship. However, we fully know and understand that rules without relationship equals rebellion. In all levels of our children's program our incredible teachers and supporters teach our children how to pray, how to

believe God for their needs, how to speak faith and not doubt, how to enter into and constantly soak in God's presence. Our children are taught the Word of God every service and its value to their lives. Our children are taught how to love their neighbor, no matter their race, beliefs, or faults. We are a people who will love like Jesus loves. Freedom in Christ Church offers children's programs for all ages. We have a nursery available for children ages newborn to 3 that includes a toddler class for children ages 4-5. Sister Darlene Fisher has been the Nursery Director for many years. She has given 100% of her heart and soul to our children. We cannot thank her enough for all of the hard work, time, and love she has poured into the nursery ministry. She and her husband Jay Fisher are pillars of our church body. Sister Darlene has recently stepped down from her position as Nursery Director to pursue other endeavors that the Lord has placed in her heart. Sister Inayah Pogue will be accepting the Nursery Director position. I cannot describe properly how excited Sister Inayah is to take on this challenge and move forward with a spirit of love, faith, and excellence. Sister Lisa Daywalt will continue her amazing work with our 4-5-year old's. In both the nursery and toddler classes, our children will experience an atmosphere of Christ like love and a spirit of excellence. All of our staff will treat and love your children as if they were their own. Both age groups of little ones will be taught the basic fundamentals of knowing and loving God through creative and fun ways designed to keep the children's attention and make a lasting impact. Our nursery, along with all of our children's programs are fully equipped and prepared to implement health and safety procedures to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19. At this time, all staff will be wearing masks, social distancing guidelines will be used, and hand washing and sanitization will be thoroughly implemented. The Sunday morning service provides the amazing Kidz Igniting program for children ages 6-12. This class is run by myself, Pastor Dane Pogue. We use the Kid Nation program for our service. Our children experience a warm and welcoming environment that is structured so that every minute is exciting and inviting. Every Sunday our children are taught the Word of God with the help of a fun and creative keynote presentation on the big screen. Our program includes skits, games, and ticket incentives with opportunities to win prizes every week. We have seen countless children give their lives to God, experience His presence, pray for their friends, have their prayers answered, receive healing, and grow tremendously through this program. We have seen this particular program grow from 5-6 children to 25+ children in a matter of two years. That only means that more children are experiencing the love of God! Our Wednesday night service offers classes for all age groups. Nursery care is available for ages newborn to 5. Kidz Igniting, ages 6-12, use the same Kid Nation program as the Sunday morning class. Our Wednesday night Kidz Igniting program is taught by a team of three teachers. Sister Marsha Williams, Sister Debbie Best, and Randy and Sherry Miller take turns teaching class. All of these

wonderful men and women of God are anointed to teach and are full of love and devotion for our children. Wednesday night's service also features our youth program, Passion Youth Group, ages 13-18. This class is held in the upstairs portion of Pastor John and Sister Leslie's home, which they so graciously converted into a youth group room. I myself run this program. This class offers a smaller setting with a warm and welcoming environment. We have air hockey and foosball tables and a hangout area to relax and fellowship. Every Wednesday we tackle the biggest and most challenging issues we face. We do not hold back teaching the truth in love to our teens. It is my mission to prepare them for the world they are so close to entering. We equip them with solid teaching from the Word of God, and most importantly we teach them how to know God, love God, and experience God. We truly are a family, and I can say first hand that Passion Youth Group has produced wonderful young men and women of God. At Freedom in Christ Church, the children are our priority! Without them, we have nothing. They are the future. We will continue to dedicate all of our available resources, love and attention to each and every one of our children. If you are looking for a church that will love your children, teach them to know God, and help you raise them in a dark and challenging world, then look no further. Come on in and become part of our family!

God Bless, Pastor Dane Pogue



HERE WE ARE

Abba Father,
I'm armored and prepared to fight the good fight!
Your Word is our strength.
Jesus, you are my testimony,
We are here boldly, in your name, as a shining light

So, here we are, ready to stand
So, here we are, hand in hand
No enemy can prevail,

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when the Word is our sword
So here we are, a family, like He planned.

Here we are, searching for hearts that grew cold,
Here we are, sowing His Word in their soul.
Here we are, showing them who they really are
Here we are, building our kingdom forever and ever.

Here we are, serving you Father, because you're worthy and we love you!
Here YOU are in our hearts Jesus. You died for us, and for that we praise, worship
and honor you!

Jeremiah 26:14. As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and
proper to you.

Anonymous FICC member



Upcoming Events

First Friday Fellowship

July 3rd @ 7 PM

**Speakers Darin Bartron
and Cenona Wisocki**

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Picnics

July 26th 10 AM

Aug 30th 10 AM

(Creek baptism)

Pantry of Hope

Alma Walter director

Loose change Sunday

1st Sunday of every month



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**GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-
PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING
OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL
DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK. LUKE 6:38**



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