



“Grace means courage. When God says, ‘Fear not,’ his aim is not that you would just calm down and experience a relative absence of fear. He does not say, ‘Don’t be afraid. Everything will turn out ok. So you can relax.’ Instead he says, ‘Don’t be afraid. I am with you. So be strong and courageous.’ Do you hear the difference? The deep waters have not gone away. The opposite of fear is fearlessness. Fearlessness is active and enduring. It carries on constructively in the midst of stressful things that don’t feel good at all. Courage means more than freedom from anxious feelings.”

David Powlison

“The simple fact that the wicked live in fear should not be missed. The first, and most fundamental, consequence of sin to human emotions was the introduction of fear (Gen.3:10)... There is, in every human, ‘a certain terrifying expectation of judgment’ (Heb. 10:27)...(The wicked flee when no one is pursuing) pictures a man with a defiled conscience. His imagination runs wild with paranoia. His sin hounds him (Num. 32:23) and he ever wonders when, and how, it will catch up with him. Like the Arameans in Elisha’s day, he flees when there is no tangible threat (2 Kings 7:5-7). Indeed this very experience was promised by God to be reality for the disobedient (Lev. 26:17, 36). ‘A man who is laden with the guilt of human blood will be a fugitive until death; let no one support him’ (v.17). Every sound in the night becomes his undoing. Every look is interpreted as having sinister motives. Every potentiality becomes a probability.”

John Kitchen