

In God I have put my trust;
I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?

Psalm 56:11

The Coming Persecution

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Let me share some uncomfortable truths deliberately forgotten today in our land of apathy and opulence.

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Because persecution, like spiritual fruit, is an outward sign of living and abiding in Christ in obedience.

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If so, how do we prepare ourselves for persecution?

How to Prepare for Persecution

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1. Fear God and Not Man

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2. Expect Persecution as a Christian, Embrace it

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How to Prepare for Persecution

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4. Be an Example of Christ Even During Persecution

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5. Love Your Enemies (no matter how hard that is)

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6. Endure Suffering and Persecution with Patience

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7. Keep Eternity in View
8. Remember to Worship Him, Come What May

How to Prepare for Persecution

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9. Hide God's Word in Your Heart (Memorize it!)

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10. Fellowship with Other Christians

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9. Hide God's Word in Your Heart (Memorize it!)

10. Fellowship with Other Christians

11. Love One Another

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12. Get Serious About God Today!

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7. Keep Eternity in View

Fear God and Not Man

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Psalm 56

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Psalm 56

The Circles in Our Life

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David's Great Mistake

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Psalm 56

The Circles in Our Life

David's Great Mistake

David was alone, desperate, and afraid.

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The Circles in Our Life

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David was alone, desperate, and afraid.

Psalm 56 was written while David was in Gath.

Fear God and Not Man

Psalm 56

The Circles in Our Life

David's Great Mistake

David was alone, desperate, and afraid.

Psalm 56 was written while David was in Gath.

And Psalm 34 was written after David's escape from the Philistine king in Gath.

Fear God and Not Man

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Problem and Solution

Fear God and Not Man

Problem and Solution

Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; fighting all day he oppresses me. My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

Psalm 56:1-2

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Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Psalm 56:3

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Trust means “to be confident, secure, and without fear. It expresses the feeling of safety and security that is felt when one can rely on someone or something else.”

Fear God and Not Man

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David Livingstone – January 14, 1856

Fear God and Not Man

David Livingstone – January 14, 1856

“Felt much turmoil of spirit in prospect of having all my plans for the welfare of this great region and this teeming population knocked on the head by savages tomorrow. But I read that Jesus said: ‘All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, and lo I Am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.’”

Fear God and Not Man

“I will not cross (escape) furtively (secretly) tonight
as I intended.

Should such a man as I flee?

Nay verily, I shall take observations for latitude and
longitude tonight though they be the last.

I feel quite calm now, thank God.”

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His physical situation did not change.
The threat and danger was still there.

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longitude tonight though they be the last.

I feel quite calm now, thank God.”

His physical situation did not change.

The threat and danger was still there.

But he changed by having faith in Jesus' promises.

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Problem and Solution

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Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Psalm 56:3

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Psalm 56:3

It is not enough to just have faith.

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It is not enough to just have faith.
That faith must be put into practice.

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Problem and Solution

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

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It is not enough to just have faith.

That faith must be put into practice.

And faith must be exercised to be true faith.

Keep Eternity in View

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Life is more than what we see and feel.

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There is the true reality that lasts forever with God,
when this temporal reality ceases to be.

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And the true, “abundant life” Jesus promised is
reserved for those who physically exist in this
temporal reality that is passing away, yet live and
abide in the reality that lasts forever.

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This is called living by faith.

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This is called living by faith.

And it takes concrete action on our part to do.

Keep Eternity in View

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2 Kings 6:14-15

Keep Eternity in View

Therefore he (king of Syria) sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God (Elisha) arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

2 Kings 6:14-15

Keep Eternity in View

So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

2 Kings 6:16-17

Keep Eternity in View

So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.

And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:16-17

Keep Eternity in View

2 Kings 19:15-16

Keep Eternity in View

Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said:

“O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.”

2 Kings 19:15-16

Keep Eternity in View

“Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men’s hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone.”

2 Kings 19:17-19

Keep Eternity in View

Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying,
“Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Because you
have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of
Assyria, I have heard.”

2 Kings 19:20

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“Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Because you
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2 Kings 19:20

And after 14 verses of God speaking to His children,
the following happened...

Keep Eternity in View

And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

2 Kings 19:35-36

Keep Eternity in View

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Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

In God (I will praise His word),
in God I have put my trust; I will not fear.

What can flesh do to me?

Psalm 56:3-4

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Present:

Future:

Future:

Past:

Future:

Conclusion:

Psalm 56:3-4

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Present: Whenever I am afraid,
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Conclusion: What can flesh do to me?

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Present: Whenever I am afraid,
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Conclusion: **What can flesh do to me?**

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Keep Eternity in View

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When fear is brought into (subject to) the presence of God, it dissolves right before our eyes, just like it did with David.

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When fear is brought into (subject to) the presence of God, it dissolves right before our eyes, just like it did with David.

And when it doesn't, it is not because our fear is so large, intimidating, and frightening.

Keep Eternity in View

“What can flesh do to me?”

When fear is brought into (subject to) the presence of God, it dissolves right before our eyes, just like it did with David.

And when it doesn't, it is not because our fear is so large, intimidating, and frightening.

It is because our God is too small.

Fear God and Not Man

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“What can flesh do to me?”

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“What can flesh do to me?”

See Matthew 10:16-31

Fear God and Not Man

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See Matthew 10:16-31

Luke 12:4-7

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to me?”

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to me?”

“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and (limited power) after that have no more that they can do.

But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, (unlimited power) has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”

Luke 12:4-5

Fear God and Not Man

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“What can flesh do to me?”

“Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins?
And not one of them is forgotten before God.
But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
Do not fear therefore; (why) you are of more
value than many sparrows.”

Luke 12:6-7

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Acts 3-5

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to me?”

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“What can flesh do to me?”

All day they twist my words;
All their thoughts are against me for evil.
They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps,
when they lie in wait for my life.

Psalm 56:5-6

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“What can flesh do to me?”

All day they twist my words;

All their thoughts are against me for evil.

They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps,
when they lie in wait for my life.

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Fear God and Not Man

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Psalm 56:7

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Question:

Psalm 56:7

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Question: Shall they escape by iniquity?

Psalm 56:7

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Question: Shall they escape by iniquity?

Psalm 56:7

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Question: Shall they escape by iniquity?

Answer:

Psalm 56:7

Fear God and Not Man

“What can flesh do to You, God?”

Question: Shall they escape by iniquity?

Answer: In anger cast down the peoples, O God!

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Psalm 56:7

Keep Eternity in View

Keep Eternity in View

Psalm 56:8-9

Keep Eternity in View

(Therefore)

Psalm 56:8-9

Keep Eternity in View

You number my wanderings;
(You) put my tears into Your bottle;
are they not in Your book?

(Therefore)

Psalm 56:8-9

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You number my wanderings;
(You) put my tears into Your bottle;
are they not in Your book?

(Therefore)

When I cry out to You,
then my enemies will turn back;
this I know, (how) because God is (what) for me.

Psalm 56:8-9

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Keep Eternity in View

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present:

Future:

Future:

Past:

Future:

Conclusion:

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: This I know, because God is for me,

Future:

Future:

Past:

Future:

Conclusion:

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: This I know, because God is for me,

Future: In God (I will praise His word),

Future:

Past:

Future:

Conclusion:

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: This I know, because God is for me,

Future: In God (I will praise His word),

Future: In the Lord (I will praise His word),

Past:

Future:

Conclusion:

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: This I know, because God is for me,

Future: In God (I will praise His word),

Future: In the Lord (I will praise His word),

Past: In God I have put my trust;

Future:

Conclusion:

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: This I know, because God is for me,
Future: In God (I will praise His word),
Future: In the Lord (I will praise His word),
Past: In God I have put my trust;
Future: I will not be afraid.
Conclusion:

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: This I know, because God is for me,
Future: In God (I will praise His word),
Future: In the Lord (I will praise His word),
Past: In God I have put my trust;
Future: I will not be afraid.
Conclusion: What can man do to me?

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Present: **This I know**, because God is for me,
Future: In God (I will praise His word),
Future: In the Lord (I will praise His word),
Past: In God I have put my trust;
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Conclusion: What can man do to me?

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Faith in action!

Present: **This I know, because God is for me,**
Future: In God (I will praise His word),
Future: In the Lord (I will praise His word),
Past: In God I have put my trust;
Future: I will not be afraid.
Conclusion: **What can man do to me?**

Psalm 56:9b-11

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

What then shall we say to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

Keep Eternity in View

Faith in action!

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Romans 8:31

Keep Eternity in View

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God;
I will render praises to You, (why) for You have
delivered my soul from death.

Have You not kept my feet from falling, (why) that I
may walk before God in the light of the living?

Psalm 56:12-13

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

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Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Are you walking before God so that others can see?

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Are you walking before God so that others can see?

Are you walking before Him in the light of the living?

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Are you walking before God so that others can see?
Are you walking before Him in the light of the living?

Doing so is an expression of faith.

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Are you walking before God so that others can see?
Are you walking before Him in the light of the living?

Doing so is an expression of faith.

Doing so is the exercising of your faith.

Keep Eternity in View

“What can man do to me?”

Are you walking before God so that others can see?
Are you walking before Him in the light of the living?

Doing so is an expression of faith.

Doing so is the exercising of your faith.

And doing so makes you invincible regarding the
fear of man or the fear of the future.

