

TRUSTING AN UNKNOWN FUTURE TO A GOD WHO IS NOT UNKNOWN

ser4066 Where Is God When I'm Afraid, Pt 3

August 15, 2021 E & L

i. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. It was interesting listening to Semaj last week as he spoke about his fears, or should I say, the things that he and his generation fear.

1. Pulling a Bruce Lee every time he walked into a dark room. ([show photo - Bruce Lee w/ Semaj' face](#))



STRANGE WHAT PEOPLE

FEAR. My wife grew up the daughter of a funeral

director. Her father owned Farnelli Funeral Home; it is now owned and operated by her brother, Donald Farnelli. ([show](#)



[photo](#)) When we were dating, people would say the strangest things to me. Like, "You've got to be weird to live at funeral home; those people are strange!" (Most of them were girls interested in

me//LOL!// and jealous of Sheryl. The first part is wishful thinking, the second part is fact.) The reality is that those comments all came from a position of fear and misunderstanding.

2. Semaj also spoke of the fear of financing an education and looming school loans, keeping honor roll status and remaining grade-eligible to be president of his class.

3. Every generation has its fears. Those who are raising children are concerned about school curriculum, particularly if you are a Christian and live in a blue state where a transgendered and the LGBTQ curriculum is promoted and taught, without parental consent.

THE BIBLE TELLS US woe to those who call right wrong and wrong right.

Isaiah 5: 20 (NKJV)

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;

The ***New Century Version*** puts it this way:

How terrible it will be for people who call good things bad
and bad things good,
who think darkness is light
and light is darkness.

As parents, we live in an age that does exactly that—right is wrong and wrong is right.

ILLUSTRATION: We have a church member who, for two years, has fought the educational system. This school system that has removed him from his teaching position discredited

his legacy of 20 years of exceptional teaching, because he refused to support the LGBTQ curriculum promoted by the school system in which he works.

I cannot count the number of times I have been on the phone with this man praying together about his situation and his fear of the loss of income and whether he would be able to provide for his family.

These are genuine fears that any person in his position would have no matter how righteous or Christian that person may be. But I'm thrilled to tell you that although they have removed his job, they have been unable to remove his pay. God is clear. Hear the words of King David:

“I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed (descendants) begging bread.” *Psalm 37:25*

4. If you are a parent with teenagers, you fear that your child could be a victim of vaping or drugs. We had a pastor in the area who oversaw a growing ministry. One day he stood up in the pulpit and said, “I am resigning and moving to another state to support my daughter who has become a heroin addict. It's a matter of life and death for our family.” And he was gone in 30 days. It can happen to any of us. No one is beyond the claws of the enemy. It's only by the grace of God that each day we live in victory. That is the reality of life.

THAT IS WHY THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY CHURCH HAS A CHAIN BREAKERS MINISTRY. Most people

I meet who are entangled in addiction are bright people with promise and potential. Watch the reality show *Intervention* (Season 5, Episode 9), the story of our own Angelina Moore-Johnson. She is the picture-perfect illustration of one of God's children, born with *value, purpose, promise, and potential*, caught in the claws of addiction who today is living a life of victory.

Yes, life is filled with fears for parents with teenagers and young adults. So, what is the answer? To whom do we look to ease our fears? The answer is coming. It is on the way!

5. If you are an aging senior adult then you also live with fears. Things don't work the way they used to. Lol!

- a. Will I be able to hear, see, walk, chew my food, and the list goes on?
- b. Will I have sufficient money to live in a world of inflation?
- c. When I'm unable to care for myself will there be someone to care for me?
- d. I hear so many awful stories about children who take advantage of their parents. Will my children do the same?

ABOUT ONCE A MONTH I check in on our eldest seniors. I'll call Joe Abraham (98) who's in Vineland Veterans Home and Mildred Keeys (103). Mildred will say to me, "I'm not quite as mobile as I used to be. You know I don't have any bones left." It makes me laugh because she wouldn't be going anywhere if she didn't have any bones, but I know what she means.



SPEAKING OF BONES, let me answer the question so many of you asked last week, “Pastor, what happened to your wrist?” (**show photo**) The answer will tie into today's message, “Trusting an

Unknown Future to a God Who is Not Unknown.”

B. Our Lord taught us to pray, “*Our Father which art in heaven hallowed be Thy name.*”

There are three truths found in the first petition of the Lord's prayer:

1. The first is relationship--our Father.
2. The second is recognition of who our Father is. He is the God of all creation—all *powerful*, all knowing, ever *present*.
3. The third is adoration. Because there is no father like Him in heaven or on earth, because He is holy and there is no guile in Him, and because He loves as no other, desiring only what is best for us, He can be trusted in all things. His interest is in us and for us desiring to give us a hope and a future. I know it sounds crazy.

Why would God be interested in selfish, ego-centered humanity? Could it be that we are made in His image with purpose and value?

When we say, “Our Father which art in heaven” we acknowledge that He is the greater and we are the lesser, and He can be trusted in all things because He sustains all things.

C. You may argue that you don't *see* or *know* this God.

But if you want to, you can. Hear the word of the Lord!

(**BOOK**)

Romans 1:19-20; 17b ... what may be known of God is ^[e]manifest ... for God has shown *it* to them (mankind). ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and ^[g]Godhead, so that [mankind] is without excuse. ... The just shall live by faith.

NOTE! Everyone puts their faith in something, even if it's nothing.

II. (**LOOK**) TRUSTING A GOD WE KNOW

A. I can understand not trusting a God you don't know, but as believers, we are people who know the God who put on flesh, went to a Cross, took upon Himself our sins, so that we could have eternal life.

We are not ignorant of these things. Jesus said to Thomas,

“If you have seen Me you have seen the Father and you know Him because you know Me” *(John 14:9)*.

B. Therefore, if our God says, “all things work for the good of those who love Him, and rejoice in the LORD always again I say rejoice, and in and for all things give thanks,” then that's what we should do regardless of the unknown that is in front of us.



ILLUSTRATION: Let me bring this home. Two years ago, I tried to break up a dog kill. (If Gemma saw something with four legs, to her it meant “kill.” I don't understand the switch, but she had one.) **(show photo & video)**

In so doing, I landed on the sidewalk bracing myself with my left hand. Afterwards it never quite felt right so I decided to go to an orthopedic center to have it checked out. X-rays were taken, and I was told that nothing was broken. The wrist did not get better, so I went back...only to receive the same results.

About a year ago, AJ, our oldest grandson, wanted to take boxing lessons. Carol Watley, whose husband was a

promoter, and attended GCCC before moving to Florida, gave us a lead. ([show photo](#)) So, I would go and watch as AJ took lessons. One day I decided I should box, too, thinking it will help me stay in shape. Now, I had no intention of sparring with anyone; just learn the sport, and exercise to help stay in shape. Well, the more that I took classes the more pain I felt in my wrist, to the point that it was unbearable.

I went from doing pushups on my hands to push-ups on my wrists to not being able to do pushups at all. I decided to get another opinion. Sure enough, the wrist had been broken for two years.



So, follow me. If AJ had not taken up boxing and I had not decided to take classes with him, I would not have gotten another opinion, and never would have known I had a broken wrist. Eventually I would have had a left hand that was practically useless.

C. Along the way there were many divine appointments—the *Word For You Today* and *Proclamation Invitation Cards* were given to many. Grasp this! We either believe all things work for the good of those who love Him or we don't. We either

believe His word is flawless and the way of the Lord is perfect, or we don't. (*Psalm 18:30*)

NOW, HERE'S THE KEY! What we believe is going to directly determine how we live life.

II. (TOOK) IF YOU DON'T TAKE ANYTHING HOME WITH YOU BUT THIS, YOU HAVE TAKEN HOME ALL THAT YOU NEED.

Psalm 27: 1-14 (selected)

Of David.

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked advance against me
to devour^[a] me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

- ⁶ Then my head will be exalted
 above the enemies who surround me;
 at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
 I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- ¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me,
 the LORD will receive me.
- ¹³ I remain confident of this:
 I will see the goodness of the LORD
 in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;

NOTE: “There is power in patience because patience forces us to say, ‘Not my will but Thine be done.’” Damon Dukes (RockLife Church).

be strong and take heart
 and wait for the LORD.

IV. CLOSING/INVITATION

Where do we start in knowing the God who created us in His image and longs for our best? By receiving Him as our personal Lord and Savior. Here's how.

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
 (Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
 (Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser4066, *Trusting An Unknown Future To A God Who Is Not Unknown*, 2093 words (approximately 16.0 minutes) + video clip (15 seconds). Total time: 16:30 minutes.