

# Why God's Love Prevails!

Presented by Pastor Scott Walters on 03/29/20

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Waunakee, WI

Fear is a part of who we are as humans: Angst

The feeling apprehension, anxiety, even dread

Daily: CORONAVIRUS & fear of rejection, failure,  
being alone, yes, death.

Reminded of the situation FDR at his first inaugural in 1933:

*"So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only  
thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless,  
unreasoning, unjustified terror which  
paralyzes needed efforts to convert  
retreat into advance."*

As Christians we respond to fear, with faith in God—

Faith as the antidote to fear is part of the foundation of biblical  
faith –

Isaiah: *"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.*

*Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not  
fear! Here is your God."*

Most of us have experienced the terror of tornado warnings & lightning  
strikes as parents or as children—

Parents offer ways of calming their children – by loving them.

Parents don't stop the thunderstorm just as God doesn't stop  
the things that frighten us and bring us angst.

But in the midst of our anxieties and angst and worries God offers a  
calm if we are open to it.

In whatever we are facing right now, God will sustain you (and me).

More often than not, God brings peace and answers prayers through  
other people – though still miracles happen.

And that is assumed throughout scripture, including Jesus' ministry –  
[Disciple Bible Study – Jesus in the Gospels]

How judgment is based on what we do, not believe.

The more alert you are to a situation, the more you can be God's  
answer to prayer for someone else.

Coming to a Irish pub/restaurant early, have a beer at the bar, was able  
whose wife died 2 days earlier.

to sit next to a fellow

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Did I hear God's voice? No, just open to the situation.

Another way in which "God's Love Prevails" in the Bible and life is

God's redeeming nature:

God can take the pain and difficulties of our lives and makes them signs of our redemption.

This is true of the Hebrew Scriptures (the O.T.) and especially of the life & death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you need proof: take note that the crowning symbol of our faith is an instrument of capital punishment – the cross.

We adorn the front of our churches and even place them on chains around our necks.

Knowing that our God is NOT a god of magic in which some coins or meat can be thrown in and God magically makes our wishes come true – Yes, sometimes miracles do happen.

This ability of God to take the most difficult things we face, even death, and make something beautiful from those circumstances.

**That is the meaning of the Gospel and the resurrection.**

Jesus had some anxieties about himself; about what was going to happen to him. His anxieties were also for others

Weeping for Lazarus and Jerusalem; praying for the disciples; agony in the Garden of Gethsemane; "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me."

The answer to angst is not courage, but love; God's love for you and for me translated into love for the neighbor in need, sitting

alone at the bar.

Ultimately, it is this hope that God is in control of this world and God is with us through everything we face and God goes on that road with us, even when we feel all by ourselves.

And it is our hope that God redeems evil and suffering to make each of us, something beautiful for God.