

**PASTOR DALE'S BLOG:
LEADING BY FAITH IN A TIME OF FEAR**

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love and of power and of a sound mind."
(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)*

One of the most important responsibilities we have as spiritual leaders is to lead by faith in a time of fear. People admire lots of traits in a leader but what people follow in times of fear is courage. This was tough for Timothy as a young leader just like it is tough for us today. It is especially so in this covid season where there is just so much uncertainty and fear. I honestly cannot think of a season when I have more needed to hold-up the shield of faith, against missiles of fear that Satan is trying to land in my heart and those who lead.

I have observed is that those who have let God help them lead by faith in a time of fear have not only helped themselves and others overcome their anxieties; they have, also in a significant way, been able to find and lay hold of incredible opportunities in the middle of the crisis. Giants and a land flowing with milk and honey are usually occupying the same terrain. Dark times exaggerate the power of the light if that light is boldly held up. Hope shines brightest when hope is needed most desperately.

I'm just returning from Encounter Church in Atlanta that has seen their church attendance nearly double and their impact for God multiply exponentially in this season. They miraculously have just obtained their own church facility and are already filling it to overflowing because their faith was ready to meet the challenges of fear in their community. It is a fact that the Lord is always setting a feast in the presence of His enemies!

Here are a few thoughts on how to successfully lead by faith in a time of fear.

1. **Be honest and real with God and allow His grace to strengthen you, as you wrestle with your anxieties and fears before Him in prayer.** Faith is not the absence of fear; it is the discovery of God's presence, love, and power revealed to you in the midst of your fear. Leaders of renown courage all struggled with fear. Paul said he preached with fear and trembling. David said, "My heart and my flesh fail me." But in the midst of these things David found that God was the strength of His heart and Paul found that God's strength was made perfect in his weakness.

Faith doesn't deny the facts or refuse to admit uncertainty. I love what the Bible says about Abraham as he struggled to come to terms with God's promise that he and Sarah would have a child. Scripture says, "*Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being (becoming) fully persuaded that God*

had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” (Romans 4:19-22 NIV)

2. **Continuously challenge, define, and replace the beliefs that create fear with the beliefs that allow faith.** In other words, learn how to “doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs.” The Bible speaks of the transformation that occurs as we deliberately renew our minds (Romans 12:2). At the heart of this is the replacing of belief patterns.

Many Christians have good doctrine but false beliefs. On the one hand, they can quote the Apostles Creed. On the other hand, they can doubt God will ever use them, that they are unworthy or inadequate for what God has called them to do.

We begin to lead by faith as we challenge ourselves and others to identify, replace, and activate a new belief system based squarely on who God says we are. One of the most powerful ways we activate our faith is by choosing a list of biblical declarations that we intentionally speak to ourselves over and over as we face various fears and insecurities.

Below is a great list of declarations by Steve Bauchland that have helped me replace old beliefs and fuel faith during this fearful time.

LEADERSHIP DECLARATIONS

1. **Adaptability:** I will thrive no matter what happens.
2. **Hope:** I believe the future will be better than the present and I have the power to help make it so.
3. **Faith:** I am thankful that God’s promises and my past prayers are working in my life, my family’s lives, my circumstances, and my nation.
4. **Forgiveness:** My intentional forgiveness creates well-being for others and for me.
5. **Long-Term Thinking:** My beliefs and choices are leaving a positive legacy for generations to come.
6. **Joy and Laughter:** I have strength and longevity because I consistently activate joy and laughter in my life.
7. **Solutions:** In every situation I face, I have many options, solutions, and divine ideas. There is always a solution.
8. **Beliefs about Others:** I see people according to their potential, not according to their past.
9. **Soul Prosperity:** My response to something is almost always more important than the something.
10. **Bottom-Lining:** Even if the worst happens, I will be okay.

11. **Training Focus:** My current challenges and frustrations are my training ground for the greater influence I have in the future.
12. **Peace:** Peace is one of my strongest weapons in prayer.
13. **Follow-through with Integrity:** I make commitments with forethought, and I follow through on what I say I will do.
14. **Imagination:** I use my imagination to activate my faith.
15. **Identity:** I am not who my past says I am; I am who God says I am.
16. **Staying Relational:** I will not withdraw my heart from people who disappoint me or that I hear negative information about. This doesn't mean I won't have boundaries.
17. **Forward Movement:** My forward movement in life cause Red Seas to part.
18. **Courage:** I am brave and run at my Goliaths.
19. **Authenticity:** My authenticity connects my heart to people and gives hope to them.
20. **Unique Purpose:** I understand my assignment and giftings, and I know what God has called me to do and not do.
21. **Decision Making:** I am a great decision maker and attach faith to every decision I make.
22. **Loved by God:** I am unconditionally loved by God and worthy to receive love and blessings today.
23. **Valuing Process:** I don't wait for perfection to celebrate myself and be joyful.
24. **Encouraging Others:** I radically encourage others daily.
25. **Spiritual laws:** I honor God's spiritual laws therefore I increase in favor, finance, health, and happiness.

Finally, leading by faith requires not only a change of assumptions and beliefs about life and the world around us, it also must include a willingness to take and create **actions** that cause faith to dominate fear in our lives. The famous John Wayne used to say, "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up your horse anyway."

Leading by faith in a time of fear means leading and inspiring others to lead by brave choices they make in their lives. My mentor, John Wimber used to say, "Faith is spelled R.I.S.K." It is being willing to act in obedience to do something that might be the will of God for you to try, even though you're not sure. People are mistaken if they think they will be able to overcome their fears just by head knowledge. Faith grows by choices and actions. It is why Jesus continually taught that learning and obedience go hand in hand. He said, "teach them to obey all I have taught you." He implied that as you go into all the world, you will experientially know,

"I am with you always even to the end of the world." We conquer our fear by stepping out of the boat in the middle of the storm. When people see courage on display by actions of faith, we will lead people and help show them the way to overcome their fears and fulfill their calling in times of fear.