Be Fearless

It's Time to Finish #3 - Pastor Gary Combs - November 15, 2026 - Zechariah 8:9-17

INTRO: Wouldn't it be wonderful if God used our church family to help many more people find what Jason found? A place to belong, a people to love them, and most importantly, a Savior who can change their lives forever!

Need: But here's the challenge. **Whenever God calls us to take a step of faith, fear often gets in the way.**

What if I make a commitment and my financial circumstances change? What if I don't have enough? What if I invite someone and they say no? What if I want to step up to serve, but I don't feel qualified?

We all have fears about the future. We wonder whether we'll have enough time, enough resources, enough ability, or enough strength to do what God is calling us to do. And sometimes, those fears can keep us from taking the very steps of faith that God is calling us to take.

Trans: But here's the good news: God doesn't call us to be fearless because we know what tomorrow holds.

He calls us to be fearless because we know the One who holds tomorrow!

Today, we're continuing our series It's Time to Finish with a message entitled **"Be Fearless."**

We're returning to the book of Zechariah, where God's people were being called to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. They had experienced hardship, opposition, and discouragement. They had good reasons to be concerned.

Yet in the midst of their uncertainty, the LORD spoke through His prophet Zechariah and twice told them, "Fear not!"

Why? Because God had given them every reason to trust Him and continue the work He had called them to do. And I believe He wants us to hear that same call to courageous faith today!

BODY: In Zechariah 8, the LORD called His people to be fearless as they continued rebuilding the temple. We can be fearless in finishing the work God has called us to do. How can we be fearless in finishing the work God has called us to do? The text gives us **three reasons** we can be fearless in finishing the work God has called us to do.

Read text: Zechariah 8:9-17 (ESV) 9 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. 10 For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor. 11 But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts. 12 For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. 13 And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong." 14 For thus says the Lord of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, 15 so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. 16 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; 17 do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord."

THREE REASONS WE CAN BE FEARLESS:

1. Because God is faithful to keep His promises.

EXP: (9-13) God reminds the returning exiles of their former hardships and promises a future of peace and blessing. The repeated command, "Let your hands be strong" (vv. 9, 13), frames this section, with "fear not" (vv. 13, 15) being the emphasis. Their courage rests upon God's faithfulness, not their circumstances.

"**LORD of hosts**" (9,11,14 - 5x) (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, *Yahweh Tseva'ót*) - I AM, LORD of Heaven's Armies. Why does Zechariah keep using this title? Because God's people were weak, discouraged, and uncertain about their future. Yet the LORD was reminding them of who He is! The God who commands the armies of heaven was telling this little band of returning exiles to be strong and fearless!

"**Let your hands be strong**" (9, 13 - 2x) (חָזַק, *ḥāzaq*) - subjunctive. Be strong; here the emphasis is on being courageous, being firm and resolute, not fearful.



"**Mouth of the prophets**" (9) (נָבִיא, *nāḇî'*) - a prophet. Of Haggai and Zechariah 520 BC.

"**That the foundation … was laid**" (9) (יָסַד, *yāsaḏ*) - to found, fix, establish, lay foundation

"**That the temple might be built**" (9) (בָּנָה, *bānâ*) - to build, rebuild, establish, cause to continue

"**Before those days**" (10) (פָּנִים, *pānîm*) - beforetime. In previous days, they were under God's judgment, which He described with **3 details:**

(1) "**No wage for man or beast**" (10) (שָׂכָר, *śāḵār*) - wages; reward, pay. Economic problems.

(2) "**Neither was there any safety from the foe**" (10) (שָׁלוֹם, *šālôm*) - peace, safety. Crime problems.

(3) "**Against his neighbor**" (10) (שָׁלַח, *šālaḥ*) - to send; to direct. God sent this. Social unrest.

"**But now I will not deal**" (11) - God promised to deal differently with them now. He gives **4 farming pictures** to describe the promise He is bringing about:

(1) "**Sowing of peace**" (12) (שָׁלוֹם, *šālôm*) - peace, rest. God will sow peace where there was unrest.

(2) "**Vine shall give its fruit**" (12) (פְּרִי, *pᵉrî*) - fruit. God will bless them with economic prosperity.

(3) "**Ground shall give its produce**" (12) (יְבוּל, *yᵉḇûl*) - produce, fruit, produce (of the soil); increase

(4) "**Heavens shall give their dew**" (12) (טַל, *ṭal*) - dew. We can plant, but only God can make it rain!

"**Possess all these things**" (12) (נָחַל, *nāḥal*) - to give as a possession; to cause to inherit.

"**Byword**" (13) (קְלָלָה, *qᵉlālâ*) - curse. Your name had become a curse word among the nations.

"**So will I save you**" (13) (יָשַׁע, *yāša*ʿ) - to save, be saved, be delivered; by liberated

"**Blessing**" (13) (בְּרָכָה, *bᵉrāḵâ*) - blessing. Your name will go from a word of cursing to a word of blessing.

"**Fear not**" (13, 15 - 2x) (יָרֵא, *yārēʾ*) - to not be fearful, dreadful, or terrified. This is the primary command. In v.13 it is offered in contrast to being strong.

ARG: **We can fearlessly hold fast because "He who promised is faithful!"**

Hebrews 10:23 (ESV) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

ILL: **In Eastgate's 35-year history,** God has faithfully sustained His church through many seasons of uncertainty. We were portable for 19 years before moving into this movie theater. There were times when we were barely able to pay our bills, times when we almost gave up. But God brought us through. Some of those times left us with a kind of spiritual PTSD. Fear made us doubt and stop dreaming.

BUT NOW… I remember renting this very theater in February 2004, so our members could preview the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. Little did I know that we'd be having church in this very room 7 years later!

APP: Don't let yesterday's fears keep you from trusting God with tomorrow! We've seen His faithfulness for 35 years. And the same LORD of hosts who brought us through those difficult days is still with us today! So don't focus on your fear. Focus on the faithful God who keeps His promises!

2. Because God will accomplish His purposes. *The 2nd reason we can be fearless is…*

EXP: (14-15) God contrasts His former determination to judge Judah with His present purpose to do good. The repeated phrase **"I purposed"** (vv.14,15) emphasized the certainty of His sovereign intentions. His command, **"Fear not"** (vv.13,15), rests upon His unchanging character and His purpose to restore them.

"I purposed" (14, 15 - 2x) (זָמַם, *zāmam*) - to have a thought, devise, plan, consider, purpose.

"To bring disaster" (14) (רָעַע, *rāʿa*ʿ) - to break, shatter

"**Your fathers provoked me to wrath**" (14) (קָצַף, *qāṣaṗ*) - to provoke to wrath or anger. God does not punish unjustly, He judges with perfect accuracy. He judged them with Babylon and 70 years of exile.

"**I did not relent**" (14) (נָחַם, *nāḥam*) - not ease, repent or relent. God did what He warned He would do.

"**Again have I purposed to bring good**" (15) (יָטַב, *yāṭaḇ*) - to be good, be pleasing, be well, be glad

ARG: **What is God's purpose for us? He works to make us like His Son, Jesus!**

Romans 8:28-29 (NLT) 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

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ILL: **Joseph had a dream, but…** his own brothers sold him into slavery. Later he was falsely accused and thrown into prison. For years, it must have seemed that everything was working against him. But God was working behind the scenes to accomplish a greater purpose. Years later, Joseph told his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Gen. 50:20). God's purpose for Joseph was fulfilled.

APP: We don't know everything the future holds. We don't know exactly what God will accomplish through our It's Time commitments, but we know His purpose is to make us more like Jesus and to use us to make disciples of Jesus! That's why the **Generosity Ladder** is in your bulletin. Jesus is generous! And His disciples are called to grow in their generosity too!



So don't let fear of the unknown keep you from obeying what God has made known! We don't have to understand everything God is doing to trust that He is accomplishing His purposes.

3. Because God will lead us to walk in His path. *The 3rd reason we can be fearless is…*

EXP: (16-17) God moves from His promises and purposes to His people's responsibility to follow His path. He commands them to speak truth, administer justice, pursue peace, and reject deceit and evil. The courage He calls for isn't merely confidence about the future; it includes the moral courage to follow His Word.

"Things that you shall do" (16) (עָשָׂה, *ʿāśâ*) - to do, work, make. 2 "Dos" and 2 "Don'ts."

"**Speak the truth to one another**" (16) (אֱמֶת, *ʾĕmeṯ*) - truth: as spoken, of testimony and judgment.

"**Render…judgments that are true**" (16) (מִשְׁפָּט, *mišpāṭ*) - judgment, justice; right execution of the law.

"**Do not devise evil in your hearts against one another**" (17) (חָשַׁב, *ḥāšaḇ*) - to think, calculate, invent.

"**Love no false oath**" (17) (שְׁבוּעָה, *šᵉḇûʿâ*) - false oaths or promises.

"**All these things I hate**" (17) (שָׂנֵא, *śānēʾ*) - to hate, utterly. God disdains these things.

ARG: **God is at work in us, making us like Christ, so let us walk** (live) **like it!**

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

ILL: **Peter walked on the water.** Jesus called him to get out of the boat and walk on the water (Matt. 14:28–31). Jesus said, "Come." And Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking toward Jesus. What gave Peter the courage to step out? It wasn't his confidence in his ability to walk on water. It was his confidence in the One who called him! But when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and saw the wind, he became afraid and began to sink. Yet Jesus reached out and caught him.

APP: The safest place to be isn't where we feel most comfortable. It's wherever Jesus is calling us to walk!

We've spent these past weeks asking God, **"Lord, what do You want to do in me and through me?"** Now it's time to respond!

Some of you are being called to reaffirm your original It's Time commitment. Others may be led to increase it. And some of you are making a commitment for the very first time.

Whatever God is leading you to do, follow Him with a sincere and obedient heart. Don't give out of guilt or pressure. Don't make a promise you have no intention of keeping. Remember, God wants your heart before He wants your gift!

Fearless faith isn't just believing that God will lead us. It's trusting Him enough to take the next step of obedience!

CONCLUSION: Remember what the LORD of hosts spoke to returning exiles in Zechariah's day?

He said, "Fear not, but let your hands be strong!"

Why could they be fearless?

1. Because God is faithful to keep His promises.
2. Because God will accomplish His purposes.
3. Because God will lead them to walk in His path.

And church, we serve that same faithful God today!

We've been on this It's Time journey together for a year and a half. We've seen God at work in our church and in people's lives. And today, we're taking another step of faith together.

[HOLD UP COMMITMENT CARD.] In a moment, we're going to give you an opportunity to bring your Commitment Cards forward.

Remember, this is not about equal gifts. It's about every one of us sincerely seeking the Lord and responding faithfully to what He's calling us to do.

And remember why we're doing this!

We're not simply trying to raise money. We're seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ!

But there's one more commitment I want to talk about today.

Maybe you've been listening to this sermon and you realize that you've never surrendered your life to Jesus Christ.

The greatest demonstration of God's faithfulness is that He kept His promise to send a Savior!

Jesus came into this world, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for our sins. He was buried, but on the third day God raised Him from the dead!

And now He offers forgiveness and eternal life to everyone who repents and believes in Him.

You see, we don't give or serve to earn God's favor. We give and serve because we've received His grace!

If you've never trusted Christ, I invite you to make that commitment today. Surrender your life to Him. Receive His forgiveness and new life.

And for those of us who already know Him, I want to ask:

What step of faith is God calling you to take today?

Don't let fear keep you from following Him. Don't let uncertainty about tomorrow keep you from obeying Him today.

Church, let's trust His promises! Let's trust His purposes! And let's follow His path!

IT'S TIME TO BE FEARLESS!

Let's pray.