

(John 10:10) .. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(John 15:11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

(John 16:22) Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

(John 16:24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

(1 Peter 1:6-8) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, [7] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, [8] whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

(John 14:26-27) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, .. He will .. bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

(John 16:33) These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

(John 20:21) .. "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

(Philippians 4:4-7) Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! [5] Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. [6] Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; [7] and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:11-13) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: [12] I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. [13] I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(Hebrews 4:14-16) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Matthew 9:36) But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

(1 John 4:19) We love Him because He first loved us.

(Hebrews 13:5) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Who Holds The Rope?

I will never leave you nor forsake you. --Hebrews 13:5

Some years ago I read an account that went something like this:

A group of scientists and botanists were exploring remote regions of the Alps in search of new species of flowers. One day they noticed through binoculars just such a flower. But it lay deep in a ravine with cliffs on both sides. To get the flower someone had to be lowered over the cliff on a rope.

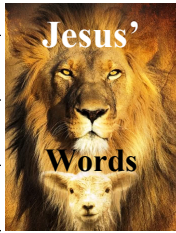
A curious young boy was watching nearby, and the scientists told him they would pay him well if he would agree to be lowered over the cliff to retrieve the flower below. The boy took one long look down the steep, dizzy depths and said, "I'll be back in a minute." A short time later he returned, followed by a gray-haired man. Approaching the botanist, the boy said, "I'll go over that cliff and get that flower for you if this man holds the rope. He's my dad."



Oh, that God might give us the faith of that boy! Have you learned to trust the Lord like that, my friend? If anyone else holds the rope, I dare not go. But since Jesus is holding me fast, I can never doubt. Are you willing to say, "If my Father holds the rope, I shall not fear"? --M. R. De Haan

*He holds my hand, this wonderful Savior,
And He is mine;
So why should I fear when I know He's so
near,
And I know that His hand holds mine? --
Smith*

Fear fades when we trust our Father.



On Contentment



(Matthew 25:41) "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

(Matthew 25:46) And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

In Luke 11:5-8, 27-28, 37-54 there are 8 contrasts between the sheep and the goats (which are all initially assumed to be God's people). These contrasts regard:

1. Prayer,
2. Scripture
3. Depth, [last time]

4. _____, verse 43, 14:7-11

(Proverbs 16:18) Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

(Proverbs 29:25) The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

(Genesis 12:12-13) ... when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and

they will kill me, ... [13] Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me ..."

(Exodus 32:22-24) So Aaron said, "... You know the people, that they are set on evil. [23] For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; ...' [24] And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out."

(1 Samuel 15:24) Then Saul said ...I, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

(Matthew 26:69-70) Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." [70] But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

(John 3:2) This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; ..."

(John 12:42) Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

(Revelation 21:8) But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

(Matthew 27:24) When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, ... he took water and washed his hands ... saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. ..."

(Matthew 10:28) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

(1 John 4:18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, ...

(John 12:43) for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

(John 5:41) "I do not receive honor from men.

(John 5:44) How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

(Matthew 6:2) Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do ..., that they may have glory from men. ...



Set free from the fear of man

5. _____, verse 44

(Numbers 19:11) 'He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days.

(Matthew 23:27-28) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. [28] Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

(John 10:11) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

(John 10:28) And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.