

# Delivered From Seven Fears

#0315

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 2, 1956

Now this evening, I want to share some meditations with you from the 34<sup>th</sup> Psalm. I've been getting a great blessing out of the early verses in this Psalm, and I know you all will tonight.

"I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD..." Psalm 34:1–2.

It's all right to boast if we boast in the Lord.

"...the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:2–4.

That's the verse that I'd like to study tonight:

"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:4.

Did you ever have any fears? Were you ever afraid of anything? I hardly think there would be anybody in the world that could truthfully say, "I never was afraid of anything."

But David said:

"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from *all* my fears" Psalm 34:4.

All of them. And I got to thinking about this the other day when I was chopping with the axe. You know, the axe is a good companion for thought, and I began to think about the different fears. And finally, I stopped for a few minutes, and I got out my little notebook that I carry around in my pocket, took out my pencil, and I listed down a few fears and some texts to go with them. And as I say, I want to share those meditations and some others with you tonight.

"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:4.

First, this thought:

"...He...delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:4.

What does that word “delivered” suggest about fears? That fears are what kind of things? Desirable or undesirable? They’re undesirable. Also, what’s their nature? They hold people in what? In captivity.

But David said:

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and...” Psalm 34:4.

Did what?

“...delivered me from all my fears” Psalm 34:4.

In other words, there were some fears that had David down. They had a stranglehold on him. He was in chains. He was in bondage. But he cried to the Lord, and the Lord did what? Delivered him from what? Most of them? Almost all? How many? All.

I like that little word “all.” A little word, but oh, how much it means. You know, you can’t get outside of “all.” Can you? If you can find anything outside of “all,” then it wasn’t all. How many fears did David have left when he wrote this psalm? Didn’t have any. Wouldn’t you like to be like that? There may be somebody here like that. Could be. I hope that every one of you, when you go out that door this evening, will be able to say with David:

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from *all* my fears” Psalm 34:4.

“I’m not afraid of anything.”

Well now, you can make your own list. I’ve listed seven things tonight, and I’m starting out with a very elementary fear, a fear of the dark. Can you ever remember when you were afraid of the dark? I won’t call for a show of hands on that—afraid of the dark. Well now, it’s not so easy as you might sometimes think to get over that fear. After all, the reason that people are afraid of the dark, whether they’re this high or so on up is why? They can’t see what’s in there.

Sometimes we’re more afraid of what we can see than what we can’t see. But at any rate, the reason that little folks are afraid of the dark is that they can’t see what’s there. And sometimes, big folks are afraid of the dark. I’ve even heard of people that had to keep a lamp burning all night in their room because they were what? Afraid of the dark, afraid of the dark.

But David said that he sought the Lord, and God heard him and did what? Delivered him from all his fears. I wonder if David had any problem along this line. I think so. Let’s turn over here to the fourth Psalm and the eighth verse. Here’s a nice one. Here’s what David said when the dark came, and here is what every little child and big child can say when darkness seems to bring fear:

“I will both lay me down in peace, and...” Psalm 4:8.

Toss on the bed? What? Sleep.

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou,  
LORD, only makest me dwell in safety” Psalm 4:8.

Years ago, I heard of a little girl who was afraid of the dark, and her mother taught her to say this little verse, this very one I’ve just read. And she said that to herself, and the Lord helped her go to sleep. I think that’s better than a sleeping pill. Don’t you? Yes.

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou,  
LORD, only makest me dwell in safety” Psalm 4:8.

With that is the 127<sup>th</sup> Psalm and the second verse:

“...So He giveth His beloved sleep” Psalm 127:2.

We don’t have to be afraid of the dark. We can go to sleep. In fact, that’s what the dark is for, isn’t it? Why sure.

Proverbs 3:24, this is really a nice one. If you don’t have it on your string of pearls, you’ll want to put it on tonight:

“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou  
shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet” Proverbs 3:24.

Isn’t that good? Not be afraid, no. You won’t have to keep a lamp burning all night, no.

“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou  
shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet” Proverbs 3:24.

You know, this darkness that I’ve been speaking of, afraid of the dark, sometimes the unknown future with its darkness of uncertainty is far more of a cause of dread than any physical darkness. But the same type of faith that enables us to go to sleep on our beds at night when all is dark around us, that same type of faith enables us to look into the future with perfect peace and no fear, my friends.

“All dread of the distant future,  
All fears that oppress today;  
Like mists that melt in the sunlight  
Have noiselessly passed away.”  
Author Unknown.

Oh, the joy of resting in Jesus’ arms. Why aren’t we afraid of the dark? Because Jesus is there, Jesus is there. He says, “I’m with you.” How long?

“...Always, even unto the end of the world” Matthew 28:20.

“...I will never leave thee...” Hebrews 13:5.

Is Jesus with us in the dark, friends? Ah, yes. All right.

Number two: the fear of want, the fear of want, the fear that we won't have what we need. Maybe it's money.

“I'm running out of money, and I don't know what in the world I'm going to do. I don't know what I'm going to eat. I don't know what I'm going to wear.”

The fear of want—oh, how many people are scared by that. And what a specter it is. After all, it isn't comfortable to be hungry or cold. The fear of want, that's a little more tangible than this dark business, isn't it? Yes. Did it ever scare you?

Well, look at this 34<sup>th</sup> Psalm, this one we were just quoting our opening text from. Drop down to verses 9 and 10:

“O fear the LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing” Psalm 34:9–10.

Isn't that encouraging? Yes.

“...No want to them that fear Him...” Psalm 34:9.

The people of this world, they want and want and want and want. But the child of the King, the sheep of the Shepherd sing:

“The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want” Psalm 23:1.

Now you know, that word, of course, doesn't mean desire or wish for something. That Old English word “want,” the proper meaning of it in the Bible translation here, is want in the sense of lacking something, not having what we need. Of course, everybody can want all kinds of things that they don't have in the sense of wishing they had them.

But when David says, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want,” he is saying, “I shall not lack anything. There won't be anything I need but what God will supply it. If I need pasture, my Shepherd will lead me into the green fields. If I need drink, my Shepherd will cause me to pass by the still waters. And He'll restore my soul” [a paraphrase of Psalm 23:1–3].

No, there is no want to them that fear Him. So, if we have Jesus, we're delivered from the fear of want.

Number three: the fear of failure. How many people are kept from attempting something for fear they're going to fail—some good thing God wants them to do.

“Oh, no, I couldn’t do that.”

“What’s the matter?”

“Oh, I’m afraid I’d fail.”

How many people *have* attempted something and stopped short of the goal for fear that they were going to fail? Sometimes it’s like that young man that for a certain reward which had been offered, he was attempting to swim across a river. After he got halfway, he thought it was so far he turned around and swam back. It was just as far back as it was on to the other side, but he didn’t think of that.

And let me tell you, my friends, many a man, many a woman that stops halfway on the road to success for fear of failure little realizes that he’s already halfway towards success and that the road back, downhill, is a disappointing road. It may be easy to slip and slide back, but there’s not much happiness, not much success in it. Nevertheless, this fear of failure, this fear of defeat, oh what a terrible torture it can be.

Well, here is the one for that, 2 Corinthians the second chapter and the 14<sup>th</sup> verse. Paul, like David, had sought the Lord, and God had delivered Paul from all his fears. What does he say?

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ...” 2 Corinthians 2:14.

What is triumph? Why it’s just the opposite of failure. Failure’s going down, but triumph is going up. Failure is defeat; triumph is success, glorious victory.

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ...” 2 Corinthians 2:14.

Can you sing that with Paul? Now, if you read Paul’s experience right here in this very book that He’s writing to the Corinthians, you’ll find out that he had a good many what we would call disappointing experiences. He spent a day and a night in the deep, in the sea, been shipwrecked. He’d been in prison many times. He’d been beaten. He’d been stoned, left for dead. His was what men would call a checkered life.

And finally (and it wasn’t too far ahead of him when he wrote this), finally he was to end his days in a cold, damp dark dungeon and then have his head taken off with the executioner’s sword. But oh, he says, “God always causes me to triumph in Christ” [a paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 2:14]. “I’m not afraid of failure. I’m not going to fail. My Captain never loses a battle.”

And the life of the trusting disciple is like that of his Master:

“...A series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter” *Desire of Ages*, page 679.

Why to the Christian, even apparent defeat has its victory. There is no such thing as failure or loss or impossibility or defeat. Fear of failure? No, no.

“I’m going to go right ahead,” says the child of God. “And if I seem to fail, never mind. I know that as I set my face like a flint toward Zion, there is nothing that can stop me.”

Number four: this is a very real fear to many people, the fear of being lost, the fear of being lost. And oh, how the Devil does scourge some people with that. He just takes like a whip and just whips them and beats them, the fear of being lost. More people than you might think are afflicted with that. They want to be Christians. They try. They sacrifice. They pray. They study the Bible.

But oh, ever and again comes that fear, “Oh, I’m afraid I’m going to be lost. I’m afraid I can’t make it. I’m afraid that after all my striving, I’ll never make it, never make it.”

Anybody here ever had that fear? David says:

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and *delivered* me from all my fears” Psalm 34:4.

The fear of being lost? Sure friends, God doesn’t want us to be tortured with that fear of being lost. Listen, John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter verses 28–29, listen to these precious words from Great Shepherd:

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand”  
John 10:28–29.

There you have it. The hand of Jesus has you. The hand of His Father has you. Two strong hands of infinite love uphold of you. And *no* man is able to pluck you out of Jesus’ hand; no man is able to pluck you out of the Father’s hand. Fear of being lost? Oh, dismiss your fears. Jesus died for you. God gave His Son to die for you. You have given yourself to Him, and He is able to hold you. That’s it.

As Moody once said, “Some people try to hold themselves and God too.” He said, “Whoever heard of the sheep looking after the shepherd and holding the shepherd?” He says, “It’s the shepherd’s business to look after the sheep.”

Jesus is the Shepherd. Why not let your Shepherd carry the worry of it, if I may so word it, the concern, the burden. *He* is the one who gave His life for you. He has written your name upon His hands. And when Satan bothers you with the fear of being lost, look to Calvary and see the Son of God dying there for you. And remember, He says, “It’s for you, and no man is able to pluck you out of My hands” [a paraphrase of John 10:28–29].

I like the way Paul puts it over here in 2 Timothy 1:12. This is one of those great affirmations of faith that rings down through the ages. After speaking of his sufferings, he said:

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” 2 Timothy 1:12.

“...He is able...” 2 Timothy 1:12.

To do what?

“...to keep...” 2 Timothy 1:12.

Keep what?

“...that which I have committed unto Him...” 2 Timothy 1:12.

Have you committed something to Him? Have you committed yourself to Him? Then He’s able to do what? To keep it, to keep it. Don’t go worrying yourself out of His hands. Don’t be afraid you’ll be lost. He is able to keep. And how can that be lost which He keeps? Impossible.

And so, Jude puts it in the 24<sup>th</sup> verse of that little epistle just before Revelation:

“Now unto Him that is able to keep...” Jude 24.

To keep what?

“...keep *you*...” Jude 24.

“...keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy”  
Jude 24.

Oh friends, I’m thankful tonight for this sweet assurance that I’m going to be saved.

Somebody says, “Well, Brother Frazee, how do you know you will?”

Well, Jesus knows it. That’s the important thing. I’m just taking His word for it. That’s all. And He wants me to.

The servant of the Lord speaks about those that have anxieties about whether they will be saved or not. She says:

“Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears” *Steps to Christ*,  
page 71.

“...Dismiss your fears” *Ibid.*

Do you know what that means, dismiss? Well, if you ever went to school, you know. At the close of the day, the school teacher says, what? “You are dismissed.” What’s that time to do? Leave.

“Put away all doubt; *dismiss* your fears” *Ibid.*

“It’s all over. We’re through with you now. You can go home.”

“...Dismiss your fears” *Ibid.*

“Why?”

“I’ve given myself to Jesus. Your fears don’t need to hang around. No room for you. It’s all over. I have committed myself to Jesus. He died for me. He loves me.”

Now, friends, I come to number five, and really in some ways, this is the heart of my study. Number five: the fear of man, the fear of man, the fear of human beings, men, women or children; it doesn’t make any difference what their size, their age, their sex.

Some people are afraid of a great big man like Goliath. The Israelites all were, till a stripling of a boy 17 years of age came along that had been delivered from what? Fear. And what did *he* do? He killed the giant. Now, if he hadn’t been delivered from fear, he would never have done it. You know that. One man, a great giant, had the whole army of Israel cowed. They were afraid.

Somebody says, “Well, they might be.”

No. It’s all a question, dear friends, of whether we are linked up with Jesus Christ. But now, while that great giant made the whole army tremble, I have seen people six feet tall afraid to death and wringing their hands before some six or eight-year-old.

They say, “I don’t know what to do with him. I don’t know what to do with him.”

So, it isn’t necessarily a question of being a giant or of size.

“The fear of man bringeth a snare...” Proverbs 29:25.

Think of the experiences in the Bible of people that were afraid and what they did as the result. Saul says, “I feared the people and obeyed their voice, and disobeyed God” [a paraphrase of 1 Samuel 15:24].

Right now, thousands of politicians are promising all kinds of impossible things because they fear the people. Did the fear of man ever get you into trouble?



Did it ever cause you to do something you were sorry for? But let me come closer than that. Did you ever go ahead and do what you knew was right, and yet it really hit you right here because you were afraid?

I'll just have to confess, dear friends, that of all these seven fears that I'm giving you tonight, as I look at my own experience, this is the heart of my trouble, the fear of man. I've been afraid of people. I've been afraid of some people right here in this room, more than one of them. Some of you may have never known it, but I was very much afraid. Maybe some of you have been afraid of me. But I've been learning more and more that God wants to deliver me from that fear of man, and by God's grace tonight, friends, I'm claiming deliverance from the fear of man.

Do you know, sometimes when we talk the roughest, it's just a bluff because we're afraid. Did you ever hear a dog that would come out and see a dog, and he'd just bark, bark, bark, bark? But you'd just look him right in the eye and say, "Now, you be still," and he just puts his tail between his legs and goes around the back of the house. What was the matter with the thing? He was afraid. That's why he barked so loud.

Some people are like that. Remember that, and instead of getting afraid when they bark, feel sorry. They're probably afraid of you. Feel sorry for them. Many times that's the truth. That's the case.

Now, David says:

"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from..." Psalm 34:4.

What?

"...all my fears" Psalm 34:4.

The fear of man? Oh, yes. Look here. Here's a good one, Isaiah 51:12–13. This is rich, and the people that believe it are really rich.

"I, even I, am He that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made of grass; And forgettest the LORD thy Maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth" Isaiah 51:12–13.

Who is that fellow you're afraid of? He's just a man that's going to die. Who is that man that gives you the trembles? Why he's just like grass. You can mow him right down. Afraid of him? Why you don't need to be afraid of him.

"But oh, Lord, he's a big man."

"Never mind. I'm bigger."

"Oh, but he just looks so hard."

What did God say to Ezekiel? “I’m going to give you a face and a forehead like flint” [a paraphrase of Ezekiel 3:9]. “...Be not afraid of their faces” (Jeremiah 1:8).

You know, I think sometimes we’re most afraid of the people we love. Not just ugly giants like old Goliath. I got to thinking about it one day, and I wrote something down and put it on my desk about this matter of trying to please people. It’s a wonderful thing to try to please people. We ought to. But it’s like every other good thing. You can get sick on it. You can even get sick on honey, sweet as it is. Can’t you? Yes. And this thing of trying to please people, you can get so anxious to please people, and so afraid you won’t please them, that sure you won’t. Do you know what I mean? Yes.

I’ll illustrate it. Here’s a lady that has some friends she wants to please. So she invites them to dinner. And oh, she’s just getting all kinds of good things cooked, and this dish and that dish and this one and that one. And she’s all the time thinking, “Oh, I’m just afraid they won’t like this.” “And oh, I’m afraid this is too brown. Oh, I am afraid this didn’t stay in the oven long enough.” And so on and so on. And when they get there, “Oh, oh, I wonder if I’m going to please them. Oh, I want to so much. I wonder if I will.”

But she just apologizes and makes excuses for this and for that, so anxious to please them and so afraid she won’t. It’s the fear. By and by, the people catch a little bit of that tension themselves. It’s catching, like measles. And they don’t enjoy it near as much as if the dear hostess were delivered from what? From fear, from fear.

If she’d just relax and say in her heart, “Well now, listen. I’m doing this for Jesus, and to please my friends the best I can. But I’m not perfect, and they know it. And I’m just going to relax and give them what I have and enjoy it, and that will help them to enjoy it too. Do you see what I mean, friends? That’s right, that’s right.

I had a worker in my company once years ago. It was nobody here so you don’t need to guess who I’m talking about. But they confessed to me once after years of working with me that really one of their troubles, one of the reasons that they said some sharp things sometimes and really got into quite a stew, as we would say, was because they were so anxious to please me.

Well, I was glad when they told me that. That helped me to understand why they had so much trouble. They were so anxious to please me. So anxious that I think well of them, you understand.

“The fear of man bringeth a snare...” Proverbs 29:25

Whether it’s the fear of some bad, cruel thing man can do to you, or whether it’s just the fear that puts you in a tension for fear you won’t please somebody.

God says:

“...who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the LORD thy Maker” Isaiah 51:12.

Do you see, when we’re afraid of man, we’ve forgotten whom? The Lord? By God’s grace, friends, I want to be one of those that can stand before the governors and kings of this world and not be afraid, with perfect peace in my heart. Don’t you? Thank God we can, friends, if we’ll do what David did.

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and...” Psalm 34:4.

Did what?

“...delivered me from all my fears” Psalm 34:4.

The 118<sup>th</sup> Psalm the sixth verse, here’s David singing again. Can’t you just hear his harp accompanying him as he sings this beautiful word of trust:

“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” Psalm 118:6.

“The LORD is on my side...” Psalm 118:6.

I’m on His side, so He’s on my side.

All right. Two more fears. The sixth one is the fear of Satan. Now really, he’s somebody to be afraid of if you’re going to be afraid, but no, you don’t even need to be afraid of Satan. Listen to what Jesus says in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke and the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> verses. You don’t need to be afraid of the Devil. He’s strong, stronger than anything outside of God, but you don’t have to be afraid of him.

“And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning...”  
Luke 10:18.

Do what? Fall. He’s fallen.

“...fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”  
Luke 10:18–19.

What are we to do with the Devil? What are we to do with him? Tread on him, it says, tread on him. Now, you don’t tread on the Devil if you’re just afraid of him. No, no. No.

You say, “I couldn’t do that. He might strike back.”

God says, “Never you mind. Tread on him.”

“...I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over *all* the power of the enemy: and *nothing* shall by any means hurt you” Luke 10:19.

Isn't that nice? Do you have to be afraid of the Devil then? No.

Let's not talk so much about the Devil and his power. Let's not blame the Devil for so many things. Really friends, a lot of the things we blame the Devil for we ought to just blame ourselves for. He can't do anything to us unless we let him. He can tempt us, but that doesn't need to make us fall.

“...I give unto you power... over *all* the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” know 10:19.

Let's tell the Devil, let's say, “You are...” (what was that word I gave you a while ago) “...dismissed.”

“Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears” *Steps to Christ*, page 71.

And when the Devil tries to roar and make you afraid of him, remember those lions in that allegory that Bunyan wrote about Pilgrim's Progress. What about those lions that roared? They were what? They were chained. And all you had to do was keep in the middle of the path, and the lions could rant and roar and jump up and down, but they couldn't do what? They couldn't touch you. They couldn't touch you.

Now, one more fear, the fear of death, the fear of death. And that's floored many a brave soul, my friends, the fear of death. Now, I'm not talking about death because when people are dead, then there isn't any more fear or anything else because “The dead know not anything” (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

I'm talking about the *fear* of death. And that can be experienced on the death bed, or it can be experienced for 10, 20, 30, 40 years *before* a person dies. And some people friends, they go through that awful *fear* of death for days and weeks and months and years, yes, afraid of death, afraid of dying.

You know, it's a wonderful thing to just go right up and look at that giant right in the face. No, I mean it seriously, the fear of death. And say, “After all now, what can you do to me?”

“I can kill you.”

“Yes, you can, if my Lord permits. Otherwise, you can't. And if He permits it, I'm not going to be afraid because He won't permit it unless it's for my good.”

Now, repeat with me the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, the first four verses. All together:

“The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth

me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" Psalm 23:1–3.

Now, watch:

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me" Psalm 23:4.

That's fine. Why will I not be afraid, even in the valley of the shadow of death?

"...Thou art with me..." Psalm 23:4.

Oh, He's the answer to every one of these fears. I'll not fear want because:

"He's my Shepherd; I shall not want" Psalm 23:1.

I'll not fear the dark:

"Thou art with me" Psalm 23:4.

I'll not fear failure.

"He always causes me to triumph in Christ" 2 Corinthians 2:14.

I'll not fear being lost:

"...No man is able to pluck them out of My... hand" John 10:29.

I'll not fear man:

"...Who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die... And forgettest the LORD thy maker..." Isaiah 51:12–13.

"Think of Me. Then you won't be afraid of man."

"I'll not fear Satan. Jesus has conquered the Devil, and He's given me power over all the power of the enemy, and I'll not fear death.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me..." Psalm 23:4.

I always like to think of that fine Christian back there in the days of the martyrs when the Roman Empire had pitted its might against the Christian religion, and they were killing them by the hundreds and the thousands. This man was brought in before the judge.

And the judge said, "Look here. If you don't give up this Christian religion" he said, "we will take all your money."

"Ah," he said, "I have no money. I gave that all to Jesus."

"Listen," the judge said, "if you do not give up the Christian religion and come back to worshipping our gods, we will take all your property."

"Ah," he said, "I have no property. I gave it all to Jesus."

"Listen," the judge said, "if you do not give up this thing, we will take your life."

"Ah," but he said, "I have no life. I gave my life all to Jesus."

And the record runs that the judge turned and said, "Turn him loose. What can we do with a fool like that?"

Now, it didn't always go that way. Lots of times they carried out the threat, and the man died, torn by the lions, crucified, beheaded, burned as a torch in Nero's gardens. But what of that?

Oh, how many could say like Paul:

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing" 2 Timothy 4:6–8.

No fear, no fear. And do you know, that was why that every time those Christians went to their death, others sprang up to take their places. As those great crowds came to see those Christians put to death, as they marched, the joy, the peace, the singing with which they went to their death, they said, "Oh what do those people have?" Something more wonderful than mere existence; something worth more than life in this world. They had been delivered from fear, my friends. They had a peace in their hearts that was worth more than mere life here. How could death terrorize them? It couldn't.

Paul says, "I am persuaded that nothing, life or death or anything, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, nothing [a paraphrase of Romans 8:28].

So tonight, I thank God for Jesus, my Lord.

"I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth... O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:1, 3–4.

[Tape ended in progress.]

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W. D. Frazee Sermons  
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757  
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755  
[www.WDFsermons.org](http://www.WDFsermons.org)  
[support@WDFsermons.org](mailto:support@WDFsermons.org)