



The Full Gospel Church

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With the world the way it is today with the suicide bombings, terrorists, drugs, and newspaper headlines like, "With Drugs in Open, Elderly Live Behind Locks," from the NY Times,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/02/nyregion/02elder.html> is it any wonder that many are afraid and living in fear? We are living in a world that is de-

scribed in the Bible as the last days. We are living in a time where it is dangerous to walk alone at night. About a month ago a girl was attacked on Erie Avenue in the early evening just after sunset. She was helped by some passerby in a car who fought off the attacker. How are we to live in these dire times?

Jesus is the hope of the born again Christian. Jesus is our only hope when we see corruption in high places and evil escalating to unimaginable heights.

The Apostles were living in times where their government was hunting them and casting them into prison.

Acts 12:1-25

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John

with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy

sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of



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his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

19 And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired

peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Here we see the church locking themselves behind barred doors just like the people described in today's NY Times. Fear is a tool of the devil. If he can make you afraid, he has accomplished his mission. Now if you seek the Lord with all of your heart, you will find that all fear disappears and vanishes. With prayer, you will see that fear is something to laugh at.

Isaiah 35:1-10

1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

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6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

9 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Satan is doing his best to make you afraid and fearful. He wants you to be afraid. He wants you to be fearful. He wants to see you cower behind locked, barred doors fearing the unknown. We need to remember that with the Lord, there is no reason to be afraid. Jesus is our hope! Jesus is our savior! Jesus is our leader. With a commander like Jesus leading us, we have no fear because he has wiped away all of our tears. He has taken the fear that Satan puts in our head and throws it away.

When you feel fear coming on, just seek the Lord with your whole heart and the fear will vanish. On the other hand, if you dwell on the fear, you will not only quiver in fear, but will become useless to yourself and those whom you love. The Lord will put a boldness in you that will make the devil flee from you. With this holy boldness, the demons that were mak-

ing you cower and cringe in fear will flee from you. You will have the power to command them to depart from your presence.

This is the life that Jesus wants you to have. He doesn't want you be afraid, but he wants you to live a victorious life overcoming all of the wiles of the devil. Jesus died on the cross so that you can have this life! If you are afraid, now is the time to seek the Lord with all of your heart and ask him for divine power to overcome the fear, becoming victorious over the devil. Seek the Lord while you have the time.

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Services:

Sunday School 11:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 12:00 Noon
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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