

“When I think of the challenges ahead, I feel scared. I am afraid.” I couldn’t believe what I’d just heard from this great leader. Not that people don’t share these kinds of sentiments in one-on-one conversations or in confidence. It’s just that he had just made this confession on-mic, in front of a packed house. This well-known character, with nothing left to prove to anyone after decades of high-capacity service, just admitted that he still got scared. This moment impressed me.

A couple of days later, I overheard another prominent influencer being asked how she felt about her upcoming 60th birthday and the season of life ahead. She replied, “excited, but scared.” I was struck again by the refreshing honesty.

This month, as we continue our Sunday sermon series on the many ways that God calls us, and how such different characters in the Bible and across human history experience that process, I invite you to acknowledge and reflect on any fears you may have.

See, the Bible normalizes fear. What we are afraid of, our particular phobias, if you will, may differ from person to person or from one life stage to the next. But we all find ourselves scared. In fact, the moment we sense God is inviting us to do something significant, whether getting a degree, breaking an addiction, accepting a necessary ending, or following through on a commitment to move forward in our faith journey, is the very moment that fear shows up.

The songbook of the Bible includes this powerful declaration: “But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3) Notice, it isn’t a matter of if we will be afraid. It’s a question of what we will do with that fear. *When* we are afraid, do we have the kind of relationship with God that allows for continued trust? Do we believe that our fears are safe with our God?

For many of us, this level of trust and faith can seem far away or unrealistic. As a man told me just earlier today, “I don’t trust anybody.” How then will we be able to speak and act with conviction if we are constantly fearful and distrusting of others? Won’t we just stay stuck?

Well, according to one great Christian writer:

“Courage begins with honesty about our fears. The wise know that fears haunt us from within and cripple us if we do not face them with honesty...Just because we acknowledge our fears does not somehow make us courageous or justify our actions. **But it is a start.”**
- Dr. Gordon T. Smith

Whenever you feel the fear rising inside you, I encourage you to acknowledge this happening. Pause and recognize this for yourself and with trusted others: “Today, I feel afraid because of _____.” I also challenge you to pray this out loud, to give this fear over to God and invite an awareness of His presence with you. Does this solve everything? Surely not. But it is a start, and the makings of a courageous and trusting response to God’s continued call on your life.

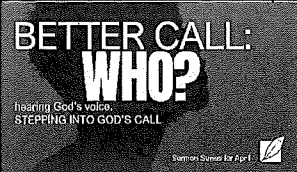



So when we are afraid, may we not seek to hide this reality, but may we admit this honestly and courageously. And may our loving God, Who is worthy of all our trust, guide us to get up and take action, even when we’re still scared.

May 2026

New Life Community

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Memory Verse for this month: Micah 6:8</p>		 <p><i>Dawnings' "Change For Life" Fundraiser this month! Fill a plastic baby bottle and return it on Father's Day!</i></p>	<p>1 Prayer Booth at Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Rose Ann Vuich Park (time TBA)</p>	<p>2 Prayer Booth at Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Rose Ann Vuich Park (time TBA)</p>	
<p>3 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service 11:30 Deacons' Mtg. 5 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM GriefShare</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 6 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Healing Room</p>	<p>6 12 PM DCMA Lunch Meeting 2 PM Open Gate Food Distribution 5 PM Worship Team 6 PM Open Bible Study</p>	<p>7 6 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>8 <i>(Family gathering)</i></p>	<p>9 Fundraiser for SOAR tomorrow during Connecting Point -- meet the participants and enjoy coffee and pastries!</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 8:30 Growth Class 9 AM SOAR Coffee Fundraiser 10 AM Worship Service (No Youth Group or GriefShare)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Healing Room</p>	<p>13 2 PM Open Gate Food Distribution 5 PM Worship Team 6 PM Open Bible Study</p>	<p>14 6 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 5:30 PM Hartland Camp Fundraiser @ RMBC</p>
<p>17 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service Grad info deadline is today! 5 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM GriefShare</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Healing Room</p>	<p>20 2 PM Open Gate Food Distribution 5 PM Worship Team 6:30 PM Prayer Group</p>	<p>21 6 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Payment due by today for your Church Camp Out campsite June 2-6 -- register online!</p>
<p>24 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service 5 PM Youth "Taco Bout It" 6:30 PM GriefShare (final session)</p>	<p>25  <i>(office closed)</i></p>	<p>26 6 AM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>27 2 PM Open Gate Food Distribution 5 PM Worship Team 6:30 PM Prayer Group</p>	<p>28 6 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service, Graduate Recognition & guest 11:15 AM Family Meal (No AM or PM Youth)</p>		<p>NOTES <i>JUNE PREVIEW: 2-6--Church Camp Out in Sequoia National Park; 7--Communion Service; 8-13--SOAR Ministry in Bakersfield; 14--Semi-Annual Members' Meeting; 16--Summer LIFT Bible Study; 21--Father's Day; Dawnings' fundraiser ends; 28--Family Meal; June 28-July 2--"Sun-A-Palooza" Vacation Bible School</i> <i>Calendar accurate as of 4/28/26 -- most events also on website calendar at www.newlifedinuba.org</i></p>				