



Part 6

Big Idea

In this week's message, Pastor Mark Pettus shares with us how we can overcome fear in our lives. Fear is a tool the enemy uses to try to keep us from being who God made us to be. Fear can cause us to live in anger and insecurity and need to be in control instead of standing in faith. But we are the people of God, and throughout the Bible He tells us hundreds of times that we should not live in fear. Through God, we have the power to overcome fear. Pastor Mark gave us the acronym "SPOT" to help us remember how to respond to fear: we need to Stand our ground, Pray for peace, Object to the enemy's lies, and Trust in God. When we do, we are able to move past fear and step into the future God has for us. As we do, our fear is turned into faith. The enemy may try to use fear to suppress us, but God uses faith to bless us.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

Discussion Questions

- Pastor Mark shared that fear is often the root of the anger, insecurity, or need to control that we can experience in our lives. When you feel anger, insecurity, or control, what fear is prompting that response?
- Read Philippians 4:6. Share a time when you followed the example in this verse and turned to God in the midst of your troubles. Explain how this approach helps you overcome fear and experience peace.
- Discuss how fear can be paralyzing and keep you from moving forward in living God's purpose for your life. What might be in your future that the enemy is trying to stop through fear?
- How can the four "SPOT" actions help you conquer fear and replace it with faith?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to open your eyes to where you're responding to life in fear. It may be a long-time struggle or a recent challenge. As you recognize where fear is in control of you, pray humbly and sincerely and ask God for help. Then, let God know that by faith you are thanking Him in advance for what He is doing for you and for being with you.

Next Step

Now is a great time to "SPOT" your fears and step out of your comfort zone! Maybe you have been reluctant to lead a Small Group or join the Dream Team because of fear. Take a step forward in faith and attend the Growth Track and start making a difference in the lives of others. Step Four is your opportunity to get connected to a ministry team that best fits how God made you. Information on all four steps of the Growth Track is available at <https://www.churchofthehighlands.com/connect/growth-track>.

Leader Tip

Start to identify group members that you think are made to lead a Small Group. Encourage them to consider leading a group next semester. Let them know that Small Group Leadership Training is offered at Step Four of the Growth Track each month and suggest they get prepared now to lead by attending the next training session.