



SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

“Fear Not”

Learning to Live Separate from Fear:

I. Trade your blanket.

Luke 2:8-9 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

- The core of fear is being exposed before a Holy God!

Luke 2:10-12 (NIV)

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears.

I John 4:18 (NIV)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Galatians 3:26-27 (NIV)

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

2. Trade your picture.

Luke 2:13-14 (NIV)

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

- Keeping Jesus as an infant keeps your problems and fears impossible. (John 1:1-4)
- Living separate from fear is not an elimination problem but a focus problem!

3. Trade your location.

Luke 2:15-16 (NIV)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

- The shepherds had the courage to drop the temporary and go seize the eternal.

4. Trade your fears.

Luke 2:17-18 (NIV)

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

- The shepherds show us that being in the presence of Christ is followed by a public proclamation of Christ.