



LAKE ERIE CHURCH OF GOD

3060 ANTIOCH RD PERRY, OHIO

(440) 259-2310

Loving God Loving People

6:30 Mondays – WOW Practice

Bishop Higgins/Overseers

6:30 Breaking Free Book Study

Dustin Vorse–Youth Pastor

6:00 Tuesday – Prayer

Jerome Barclay Music Pastor

6:30 Wednesday- Bible Study

Don Tyree – Pastoral Care

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

(WOW Practice will resume on Monday, August 21)

Today's Truth Food For Thought

"...but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm." ([Proverbs 1:33](#), NIV)

Friend to Friend

Let's face it. Life can be scary.

We watch the news and feel like Chicken Little. The sky always seems to be falling.

We lose sleep over our loved ones, our lost ones, and our little ones.

We worry about the economy, finances, and employment.

We shake and shudder when more medical testing is required or the diagnosis is not favorable.

We are anxious with "what ifs" and "whys."

It's understandable that we wrestle with the opponent of fear. The world is broken and life isn't a Hallmark movie or a fairy tale. (Although I *do* love a good Hallmark movie!) In the same token, while I realize it's completely normal for us to process emotions of anxiety and unrest, the [Bible](#) says that it is not God's plan for us to crumble in its wake. ([2 Timothy 1:7](#))

We can't let fear run our lives. Fear was never meant to control or consume us.

The good news is that God doesn't just tell us to suck it up and deal. He gives us the tools we need to help us in the fear-fight.

[Proverbs 1:33](#) says, "but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm." I sure do like the promises in this verse. Yes, please. I want to live in safety and be at ease. Order me up some of that, God! (You want this too, right?) So how can you and I have a brave faith when life gets scary? Let's consider the text and break down the promises found in [Proverbs 1:33](#) by looking at the: *who, what, and why*.

...but whoever listens to *me*...

WHO is the "me" we need to listen to? The context of the chapter lets us know that the *me* is God's wisdom. I listen to God's wisdom when I go to Him with my fears instead of allowing them to grip me. When I pray and place my anxieties in His care. When I reflect upon God's Word, power, plan, and strength more than on the words of that analyst on the news channel.

God is the source of the wisdom I must listen to.

WHAT does it mean to "listen" in this verse? The Hebrew word *shama'* is used. *Shama'* means to hear, listen to, yield to, obey. (Strong's H8085) So to listen to the wisdom of God does not simply mean that my ears need to process His wisdom. It means that

my *heart* needs to process and implement His wisdom. It is not just about hearing audibly, it's about hearing spiritually ... and responding accordingly.

...will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.

WHY does it matter if I accept and walk in God's wisdom verses my own? My own wisdom is limited. ([1 Corinthians 1:25](#)) It's subjective and faulty. And while the implementation of earthly wisdom can and often does bring some benefit, it will not always lead me to the safety and ease I long for deep inside.

God's wisdom is perfect. It leads my heart, mind, and soul to safety and rest in a world that is filled with scary realities and uncertainties. And it's free for the asking! He gives us wisdom when we ask for it. That promise is found in [James 1:5](#). "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

When we ask for and listen to God's wisdom - when we hear it, yield to it, apply it and obey it - we will live in peace. Not the world's peace – God's peace. We will be at ease in Christ. Not with perfect lives, but with lives that are led by the Spirit of God, not controlled by fear and anxiousness. We can and will experience calm in spite of the chaos.

I hear your push back. *Really? That seems too easy. It's just not that simple, Gwen.*

Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to tap an easy-button here. The Biblical instruction might be simple, but the implementation of it isn't. If you and I are going to live with a brave faith we need God's help. Remember? Jesus said that without Him we can bear NO fruit. ([John 15:5](#)) What does fruit have to do with this conversation? Glad you asked...

And the [fruit of the Spirit](#) is love, joy, peace...([Galatians 5:22](#))

Peace. God's peace is more powerful than the fears of this earth and His peace abounds in His presence. It is evidence of the Holy Spirit at work within us.

When you and I spend time with Jesus... when we look beyond our fears to God's sovereign strength... when we trust in the wisdom of God and set our hearts on His Word, we find the peace our hearts long for.



Please join us as we pray for

Wands Pagett

Dee & Sandy Bayless

Barbara Sublett

Richard Tyler

Marvin Breedlove

Sis. Wilson

*If desire prayer please contact the office and our Prayer
Team will contact you.*

*When you can't put
your prayer into
words, God hears
your heart.*



SUNDAY AUGUST 13th

Book Bags and supplies will be distributed after morning worship for more information please check with the church office



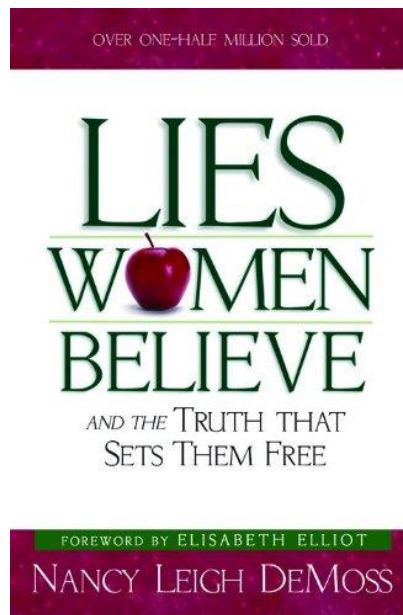
AUGUST 11th 4:00 PM

Bring a friend and Join us for lots of fun

Recommended Reading



Join us as we journey through the bible in a year. Weekly readings are posted on our web page as well as Facebook.



Join the Breaking Free Book Study as we read and discuss this amazing book and learn of some of the technics the enemy uses to distract and hinder our fellowship with God. Monday's at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.