

## Why be afraid?

I see a lot of scared people out there. I'm not one bit afraid. Why should I be? In God I have put my trust. What can man do to me? (Psalm 56:11) "Well, that's all very fine," someone might say. "But don't you listen to the news?" Actually, no. Or at least not since July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to July 6<sup>th</sup>, I watched the news at least twice a day on TV, looked at several news websites throughout the day, and listened to news bulletins and talk radio while driving. I prided myself on being somewhat expert on current events, especially politics. On July 6<sup>th</sup> I went to Honduras for a mission trip. "No news" really became good news for me. Since I returned, I have not watched the news on TV or listened to it on the radio. What I discovered, in my separation from the news while in Honduras, was that unbeknownst to me, I had been plugging my mind directly into a sewer pipe. I knew that fear and anger had been eating at me, but I had not directly connected it to my consumption of the news. But having been away from it, I realized that sewer pipe had just been pouring fear and anger and contempt right into my soul.

When I unplugged myself from that sewer pipe, something else entered in. The Word of God.

Without really trying, I regained my conscious awareness of God. I found myself praying and singing in the Spirit while driving, instead of filling my soul with anger and contempt. Instead of sitting down to watch the news on TV, I read my Bible and Christian books. I'm not going back. Call me ignorant, but you won't get me to trade the peace and joy I now have in the Lord for anything. Others can be expert about the latest atrocity and outrage—I will abide in Jesus and live gratefully to God.

I also discovered that fear is a spirit (Rom 8:15, 2 Tim 1:7) and that I have the right in Jesus Christ to tell it to shut-up and get away from me and insist that it go. And so it has. I am not afraid. Praise the Lord!

Are you one who trusts in Jesus Christ? Then declare these promises out loud, for they belong to you: Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in this world (1 John 4:4). I reign in this life through Jesus Christ (Rom 5:17). I am more than a conqueror through Him who loved me (Romans 8:37). I overcome all the power of the evil one—nothing shall in any way harm me (Luke 10:19). Why should I be afraid? Jesus has commanded me to not to be afraid (Luke 12:4, 7). Besides, God is working out everything for my good! (Rom 8:28)