

FEAR NOT by Linda Ensley



Recently our family took a trip to a water park and arcade in the western part of the state. I found that I thoroughly enjoyed watching my son and grandson as they played the arcade games, climbed the rock wall, raced the go carts, battled each other at laser tag, and found their way out of an outdoor maze. I was strictly a spectator most of the time, watching them play and taking pictures in an attempt to save the memories.

However, on our last day there my grandson persuaded me to join him on a simulated roller coaster ride. Now I have never in my life been on a real roller coaster. I do not do well with heights and even avoid the Ferris wheel at amusement parks.

As I looked at this machine, it seemed relatively harmless. It sat at ground level, with two reclining seats and a video screen. I knew I would be safe, so I agreed. As the ride began the seats bumped and rattled. The motion was much like what I

would expect on a real roller coaster. The visual on the screen above us looked like it was recorded from the front seat of a moving roller coaster, complete with all the climbing, sudden drops and sharp turns. Needless to say, it was terrifying, thrilling and a little painful.

But all through the ride I knew I was not in any danger. As frightening as it seemed, I knew I could not be hurt.

Later, as I was reflecting on this experience, I realized this is how I walk through much of my life. I'm cautious not to engage in any real danger, but when I'm faced with the trials of life I know that I am safe in the hands of God. He sees the bigger picture and can safely guide me through any challenge or crisis. He confirms this in His word.

God proclaims in *Psalm 75:3* ***“When the earth and its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.”***

God's word tells me not to fear. Those words are repeated 365 times in the Bible, once for each day of the year. That is no mistake. He knows we will face all kinds of trials and will often be afraid, but He tells us not to fear, for He is in control.

Psalm 94:19 : ***“When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.”***

Isaiah 43:1 : ***“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”***

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

John 14:27 : ***“Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.”***

Much of what we see and hear via the media today is designed to produce fear. Fear is one of Satan's most effective tools. When we fear, we lack trust that God is in control. We must remember that God is greater than anything this world can throw at us.

What the world offers today is much like the simulated roller coaster ride. It has the appearance of danger, but in the end there is safety for those who trust in the Lord.

