

Fear versus Faith

Psalm 11*

This psalm records an event in the life of David when he is logically counseled to flee in fear. When we take counsel of our fears, discouragement sets in while faith flees. Discouragement is one of the most effective weapons in Satan's arsenal. This weapon is deployed in our lives with searing regularity and with potentially destructive results. Where can we find protection from discouragement?

Our resolve when fear is our advisor (1-3)

- *We will not* _____ (1)
- *We will not* _____ (2)
- *We will not* _____ (3)

Our resource when faith is the answer (4-7)

- *The LORD* _____ (4a)
- *The LORD* _____ (4b-6)
- *The LORD will* _____ (7)

"When Satan cannot overthrow us by presumption, how craftily will he seek to ruin us by distrust! He will employ our dearest friends to argue us out of our confidence, and he will use such plausible logic, that unless we once for all assert our immovable trust in Jehovah, he will make us like the timid bird which flies to the mountain whenever danger presents itself." —Spurgeon

Evaluation of Worship Songs — Our "Take Home Theology"

Worship lyrics used at GracePoint Church for gathered worship are evaluated by the Elders of worship and the Worship Team Leaders.

Worship lyrics are evaluated by asking the following questions:

1. Who is the subject of the lyrics? In other words, who are we singing about and to? (God-centered or man-centered?)
2. What are the lyrics saying about the subject? Do they review and praise God's attributes? Or praise my attributes?
3. Are the lyrics theologically accurate, doctrinally correct, and correspond to the stated beliefs of GracePoint Church? (cf. Elder Affirmation of Faith)
4. Is the music well crafted?
5. Does the song foster actual participation in worship? Many songs are written for concert performance or broadcast, but not for congregational worship. Some songs are too technical, too fast, or too high/low for a congregation.
6. Does our worship team have the abilities and instruments to utilize a particular song? (We don't have a xylophone nor a pedal-steel)

Notes:

- We don't listen to the music until the lyrics are approved (see above). The musical tune can charm our emotions before the lyrics are evaluated.
- Also, remember there are no perfect lyrics, unless they are direct quotes from Scripture (in context).

* These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.