



DATE	December 11, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Overcoming Fear
SERIES	The Bible says Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. And believing that should change the way we live! But if we're not intentional about it, Christmas can come and go without changing us at all. Let's make this Christmas an intentional Christmas.

“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*” **Isaiah 9:6**

1. Share intentional stories for how Jesus as *Wonderful Counselor* (kindness) and *Mighty God* (powerful living) has impacted your life. How are you being intentional in making this Christmas intentional?
2. Read **Isaiah 9:1-7**. What word is used to describe *Father* in verse six? David stated that *father* elicits more emotion than any other word in the English language. What are your emotions when you hear the word *father*? How has your relationship with your own father shaped the relationship you have with Jesus?
3. Read **Psalms 68:5**. Tell of a time you knew God to care for the fatherless or the widows using the four actions of a *good father*.
 - a. Provides for his children.
 - b. Protects His children.
 - c. Instructs His children.
 - d. Lifts up and cares for His children.
4. **A good father provides, protects, instructs and cares to help us overcome our fear!** Share a time you knew provision, protection, instruction, or care from your earthly father, your father-in-law, or a father-figure. How did this help you overcome fears you wrestled against? How do you think God's example of what a good father should be helps you be a better father or parent?
5. Read **Luke 1:26-38**. How did Mary trust her Father to overcome her fears? Tell how Mary experienced joy, peace and hope through trusting her heavenly Father. Read **Luke 1:37** from several different translations. Discuss the meaning of the message tucked right inside the Christmas story.
6. What common phrase is seen in all three of the following Scriptures: **Matthew 10:31; 14:27; 17:7**? Walk through who is present in each passage, the circumstances and the spoken Word of the Lord. Now, zero in on the truth of **Luke 1:37** combined with these passages. What principle do you walk away with for your personal life? How can you spread the joyous news this Christmas season that we have an *Everlasting Father* who provides?
7. David gave four ways for us to overcome personal fears by:
 - a. Trusting that our Father will provide
 - b. Trusting that our Father will protect
 - c. Trusting the instructions our Father gives
 - d. Trusting what our Father allows

How do you characteristically cope with fear and anxiety? Where do you find your trust waning the most in the list above? Read **1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 34:4**. In what ways do these verses strengthen your trust in your *Everlasting Father*? When have you been challenged to see God as a good Father? Share

important ways we can choose trust over fear. Do you believe it is a daily choice to engage with fear or embrace trust? Can we engage fear and embrace trust?

CLOSING:

A good father provides, protects, instructs and cares to help us overcome our fear!

Pray this prayer: *Father, I'm afraid of _____ but I choose to trust you through it. You will provide, protect, instruct and care for me because **Luke 1:37** states nothing is impossible with You. I choose to trust You, therefore, I choose not to accept fear.*