



Free from the Fear of Dying

By Shannon Ford on July 1, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Acts 25

Festus has replaced Felix as governor of Judea. Paul is still in prison and will again defend the false charges from the Jews. Like Felix in the previous chapter, Festus cannot come up with any actual charge against Paul. Both governors cannot bring any charge against Paul, but they know exactly what he stands for and the gospel he proclaims.

Paul was not intimidated by Festus or the high priest and Jewish leaders. His remarks could have triggered the wrath of Festus in an instant. But Paul had courage and did not fear any of them. Paul's statement in verse 11 is the most powerful verse in this chapter. He says, "If I am guilty of doing anything deserving of death, I do not refuse to die." We should each take a moment and consider the courage and faith behind that statement.

Paul completely trusted in the power of Jesus Christ. Paul had nothing to fear. He feared neither life nor death. Remember his confession in Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." We cannot really live until we are free from the fear of dying. How can we as Christians obtain such faith and courage to not fear death? How does one get to that place where "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain"? The answer lies in trust. We will never learn to trust Christ until we learn to step out in faith. The assurance of the resurrection of Christ and our own resurrection should free us from the fear of death and the fear of living. Will you trust in Christ and live life to the fullest without fear?

PRAYER: Lord, as believers we should not fear death. You are the resurrection and the life, all in Christ never truly die. Death is nothing more than a doorway to eternity in glory. Help me daily to live life to the fullest without fear of death. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 26

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