

## Trust in God Psalm 112

I'd like to show you **two examples** of sea defences that have been built in recent years here in Scarborough.

The **first** one was built by my children about three years ago. It was built on North Bay and, as you can see, it's made out of the purest Scarborough sand.

The **second** example is the official sea defences in front of the Sands luxury holiday apartments. As you can see these are made out solid rock and concrete.

Here's a question for you, if you owned one of these apartments at the Sands, which sea defences would you want standing between your property and the sea?

**It's a no brainer isn't it!** Because if we don't have the power to stop the waves from coming in then we need the strongest defences to stop them causing damage.

I know that all of us are hoping for a 2021 that will be **far less traumatic** and **much more positive** than the year that has just finished.

But here's the truth. Even though a vaccine or two will certainly reduce some of the covid bad news, it won't remove all the crashing waves caused by coronavirus.

It's also very obvious that covid is not the only bringer of bad news in our world. In the year ahead some of us will be impacted by...

- Diagnosis of **cancer**
- News of a **car crash**

- Or we may experience **cash flow** problems
- Or perhaps have a **career** disappointment or disaster
- Or whatever...

The point is that we can't control the different waves that bring bad news crashing into our lives.

**I would love to have those powers to push back the waves.**  
Wouldn't you? But we don't.

This means that all of us need **steadfast** and **strong spiritual sea defences** that will protect us from whatever storms lie ahead.

We need something more secure than touch wood or fingers crossed or play some happy music.

But friends, here is the good news. The Bible gives us the answer.

Listen to what we're told in verse 6. **Read verses 6 to 8.**

This is the person we should want to be in 2021.

Notice that they are **steadfast**. That is, they **will** remain standing when the wave of bad news comes crashing into their life.

They haven't been able to stop the wave. They cannot wave a magic wand when they see the water rushing towards them. However, when it crashes on top of them, it doesn't knock them over and leave them without faith, love and hope.

I think it's worth pointing out that this person is **not just** steadfast **when** the waves arrive, he is also steadfast **before** they hit. Did you notice this? We're told that they have no fear of bad news ever arriving and not just that they can cope when it does.

**This is incredible!** Such a person is not naïve in thinking that bad times will never come. But neither are they paralysed by a crushing anxiety that something bad may occur at some point around the corner. Instead they are steadfast, whatever the season.

Surely this is the kind of person **we want to be**, that we should be and that **we need to be** in 2021!

There is so much fear around at the moment. It is crushing the mental well being of thousands of people. It's awful to see the damage it is causing.

**How can we live a fear free life?** It's all about the quality of our personal sea defences.

If our defences are made of **sand** then fear will dominate our lives. However, if we have solid defences made of **spiritual rock** then we will **gain control** over our fears.

The key question is, **where can we find the defences that we need?**

Look at what we're told in verse 1. **Read verse 1.**

These are the ones who have no fear of bad news. Verse 1 reveals the identity of those we want to be in verse 7. These are the ones whose lives are not dominated by fear.

**Did you notice why?** It's because they fear the LORD.

Or if I can put it like this, **there is such a thing as good fear.**

**Good fear banishes bad fear.**

Fear of the LORD doesn't mean being terrified of God. But it does mean having an appropriate reverence and respect for his **power** and **personality**.

There are different stages of this. Firsts, we need to wake up to the truth that we are sinners against the divine Sovereign. But then as we receive Jesus as Saviour we are embraced and welcomed into God's family. God is powerful but we have personal access as his children. This is what it means to fear the LORD.

**It is this good fear that drives out bad fear.**

This is **the personal sea defence** that will help us **enjoy** each day and **embrace** whatever comes in our direction.

Let me unpack how this works.

**This belief, this conviction from the Bible, means that although we can't control the waves, God can.**

You'll hear lots of secular advice about how to decrease your anxiety that goes something like this. You need to learn to take control over some aspect of your life. They will tell you that the reason for increased anxiety is a feeling of helplessness as you are bombarded with overwhelming circumstances. Yep. But their answer isn't brilliant. Try and get a little bit of control back. No, the best answer is to acknowledge we are small and helpless and weak but there is a God in heaven who is the opposite of everything we are. **And this God loves us!**

Friends only God can control the waves.

**This is why Jesus calms the storm when he is on earth.** It shows us his true identity.

Being a Christian doesn't mean we will never get hit by the wave of covid or cancer or be involved in a car crash. But a Christian doesn't need to fear any of this bad news because we trust in a God who is completely in charge of everything.

Sometimes God chooses to stop a wave crashing against us. We have no idea how many waves have been channelled in another direction.

But here's the truth about the ones he allows to crash against our lives. God has an amazing track record of bringing good out of bad. In fact, in the Bible he promises that in every circumstance he is working for the good of those who love him.

Let's be clear about this. **God's greatest desire for us in 2021 is not our personal comfort. It is to make us more like Jesus Christ.**

Or if I can put it like this, we need **deep holiness** more than we need **superficial happiness**.

And we get this as we fear the LORD.

If we want to get off **the daily conveyor belt of fear** then there is only one solution. We must fear the only one who can cast out all fears. We need to **love the God above** and **trust** that he is involved in **our lives down below**.

**You may not be a Christian yet.** What now? Turn to Jesus and trust him with your future.

**Many of us are Christians.** As we step into 2021 then let's pray that we will have a fresh vision of how solid our sea defences are and that this truth will help us to live without the fear of bad news.

**Do you know which 18 inches in the world takes the longest to travel?** The distance from your head to your heart.

Let's pray that God will show us how strong our sea defences are. It's not a sandy wall built by my kids. We fear, love and trust in the LORD of heaven and earth. He is our strong fortress and because of this we don't need to be shaken.

So as we enter into 2021 let's throw away the **touch wood** and the **fingers crossed way of coping**. Much better to trust the mighty one who died on a cross for us and who is completely in control of everything.

**Let's pray.**