

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)*

I. OUR PAIN IS REAL

All my intimate friends detest me; those I love have turned against me. (Job 19:19)

II. OUR REACTIONS TO THE FEAR

A. Being Distant

But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?' He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.' (Genesis 3:9-10)

- What are you hiding behind?
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B. Being Defensive

The man said, 'The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.' (Genesis 3:12-13)

III. OUR CHOICE TO WALK AS AN OVERCOMER

B. We must take a prayerful relational risk for an intimate relational return.

...love one another deeply, from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22)

1. It is scary to risk – it is even scarier not to risk!

(Love) always...trusts, always hopes, always perseveres... (1 Corinthians 13:7)

2. Avoid pre-mature intimacy.

I want you to promise...not to awaken love until the time is right. (Song 8:4 NLT)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear... (1 John 4:18)

- A. Before we risk, we must find our security, acceptance, and intimacy in Christ.

...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-39)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7)

- Make a list of 100 reasons you are special in Christ!
- Commit to discover intimacy with those in our church family.
- Commit to come out of “hiding.”