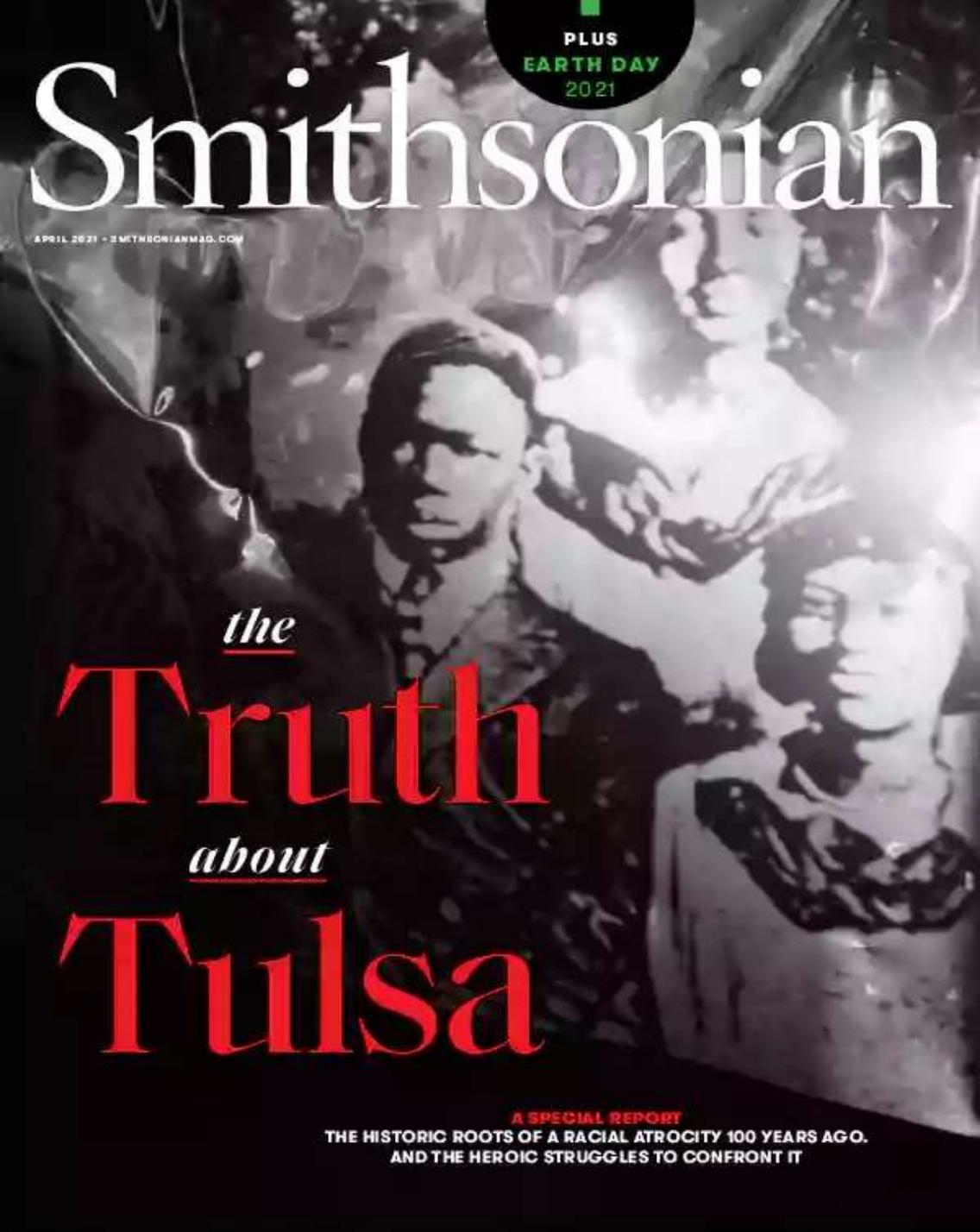


Blankophobia

The Curse of Mankind
and God's Solution

Bill Morehouse – April 8, 2021

The background of the entire image is a collage of historical Black Americans. In the center, a man in a suit and tie looks forward. To his right, a woman is shown in profile, looking towards the left. Above her, another woman's face is visible. The overall tone is somber and historical.

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Overview

A phobia is an irrational fear of something that's unlikely to cause harm. The word itself comes from the Greek word *phobos*, which means fear or horror. Hydrophobia, for example, literally translates to fear of water.

When someone has a phobia, they experience intense fear of a certain object or situation. Phobias are different than regular fears because they cause significant distress, possibly interfering with life at home, work, or school. People with phobias actively avoid the phobic object or situation, or endure it within intense fear or anxiety.

Clinical phobias are a type of anxiety disorder. Anxiety disorders are very common. They're estimated to affect more than 30 percent of U.S. adults at some time in their lives.

In this complicated post-modern world of ours, phobias seem to be proliferating at a wildly accelerated rate.

A culture of fear

With society having lost God as the proper object of healthy fear, our culture is necessarily becoming ever more neurotic, ever more anxious about the unknown – indeed, ever more anxious about anything and everything.

Without God's kind and fatherly providential care, we are left utterly uncertain about the shifting sands of both morality and reality. In ousting God from our culture, other concerns – from personal health to the health of the planet – have assumed a divine ultimacy in our minds.

Good things have become cruel and pitiless idols. And thus we feel helplessly fragile. No longer anchored, society fills with free-floating anxieties.

– from [Rejoice and Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord](#) by Michael Reeves.

Clinical Phobias

Common

- Acrophobia, fear of heights
- Aerophobia, fear of flying
- Arachnophobia, fear of spiders
- Astraphobia, fear of thunder and lightning
- Autophobia, fear of being alone
- Claustrophobia, fear of confined or crowded spaces
- Hemophobia, fear of blood
- Hydrophobia, fear of water
- Ophidiophobia, fear of snakes
- Zoophobia, fear of animals

Unusual

- Alektorophobia, fear of chickens
- Catoptrophobia, fear of mirrors
- Cryophobia, fear of ice or cold
- Genuphobia, fear of knees
- Nephophobia, fear of clouds
- Onomatophobia, fear of names
- Papyrophobia, fear of paper
- Pogonophobia, fear of beards
- Porphyrophobia, fear of the color purple
- Pteridophobia, fear of ferns
- Selenophobia, fear of the moon



1

2 “If Fear is a seed, then it’s Tree is called Hate; whose fruit, when consumed, leads us down the path of injustice and inequity - in short, it is the complete absence of Love.

~ Kevin S. Beckford

3

An interesting proposition

“If Fear is a seed, then it’s Tree is called Hate; whose fruit, when consumed, leads us down the path of injustice and inequity – in short, it is the complete absence of Love.”

~ Kevin S. Beckford

Sr. HR Director for Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion at University
of Rochester / Anti-Racism
Strategist

Notes on preceding slide

1. Identity: Ethnicity? Italian? Polish? Turkish? Black or White? Designation is compounded by slavery, since any child born with mixed heritage has been classified in US as “black” including so-called “mulatto” (1/2), quadroon” (1/4), “octoroon” (1/8), etc. Kevin was born in Kingston, Jamaica, a descendent of Lord William Beckford (1709-1770) by presumed slave rape (British sugar cane plantation slaves were emancipated in 1834 and became farm laborers); raised by parents (father an engineering manager, mother a nurse) in Nassau, Bahamas; moved to US with mother and sibs to go to college at MCC (father turned down by recruiter due to racial discrimination and stayed in Bahamas).
2. Typo: We are all, for better or worse, imperfect. Word “it’s” really should be “its” but I like it as “it is” because what Kevin has to say is what “it is” really like.
3. Status: Kevin is Pittsford’s “first Black Town Council member.” He and Linda live in “Pittsford” (not in the village) with their family and worship at the United Church of Pittsford (Baptist/Methodist). Kevin’s last statement about Love clearly indicates what’s missing here: “I AM” – the source of Divine Love.



Kevin Beckford at FPCP, 9/30/18

Dr. Gina Cuyler

Discrimination Categories*

Age, Religion, or Sexuality

- Ableism, based on disability
- Ageism, based on age group
- Anti-LGBTQIA+ discrimination
 - Homophobia, fear of homosexuals or queer people generically
 - Biphobia, fear of bisexuals
 - Transphobia, fear of transsexuals
- Anti-Religious, discrimination
 - Atheist, Jewish, Islamic, Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical...
- Sexism, misogyny or based on sexual identity or pregnancy

Various Racisms

- Racism, aversion to people of different races or ethnicities
 - Asians, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Pacific Islanders
 - Africans, African-Americans, POC
 - Latinos, Central and Latin Americans
 - Subcontinental Indians
 - Native or Indigenous Peoples
 - Italians, Germans, Polish, Slavic
 - A proliferation of terms is used

* <https://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu/educated/glossary>, et al.

Newly-coined Phobias

Sexual orientation phobias

Although the terms Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia are widely used and will probably not go away, there are problems:

“As a staff, we’ve been intentionally moving away from using words like “transphobic,” “homophobic,” and “biphobic” because (1) they inaccurately describe systems of oppression as irrational fears, and (2) for some people, phobias are a very distressing part of their lived experience and co-opting this language is disrespectful to their experiences and perpetuates ableism.”

The LGBTQIA+ Resource Center at UC Davis

Racisms in “phobic” terms

- Blancophobia, fear of white people
- Melanophobia, fear of black people
- Oriophobia, fear of orientals
- Occidophobia, fear of occidentals
- Hebrophobia, fear of Hebrews
- Arabophobia, fear of Arabs
- Indigenophobia, fear of indigenous people
- Xenophobia, generic fear of foreigners

***Blankophobia* defined**

A new *blanket* term

Covers and includes all phobias and categories of discriminatory behavior, clinical or otherwise, traditional or newly minted.

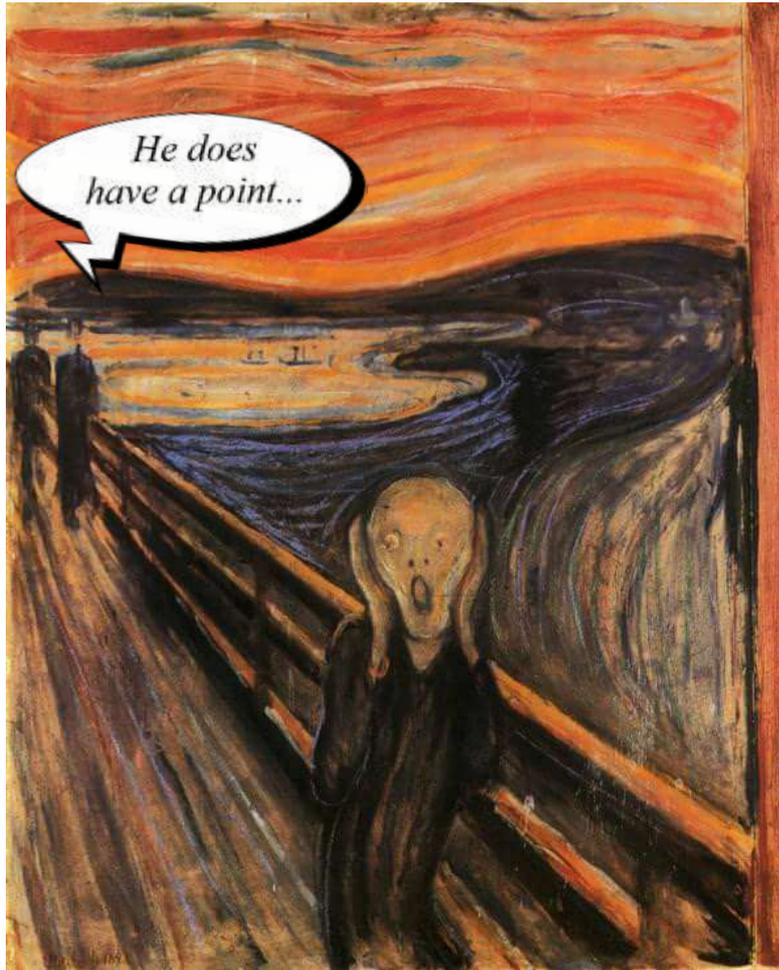
All human beings have anxieties, attitudes, and fears that make them uncomfortable around some people who are perceived as different from them in potentially threatening ways. There is a wide diversity of ways that their concerns may be manifested, ranging from avoidance through discrimination to outright aggression.

What's your problem?

Take our word _____*ophobia* and fill in the *blank* with what bothers you. Problems with *blankety-blank* dogs? *Dogophobia's* the name you want.

Your problem with *blankophobia* could be how you feel personally or the effect that the behavior of other people with *blankophobia* problems has on you. Actually, these are very reciprocal and turn out to be much the same thing, almost mirror images of each other. Someone fears and discriminates and/or you fear their discrimination.

Pantophobia!



Fear of Everything!

People usually have fears about more than one thing. They may fear abandonment, losing a job, not being loved or understood, running out of money or food, you name it. In other words, phobic intersectionality can multiply the negative effects of fear. This property causes fear to become contagious: the fears of others can add to your own and lead to growing feelings that you, too, are a victim of discrimination and injustice.

Fear always leads naturally to a “fight or flight” reaction.

Blankophobia solutions

Partial solutions

There are many approaches to bringing relief to those who suffer, either wittingly or unwittingly, from or at the hands of people who demonstrate phobic behavior. These include counseling, legal protections, clinical interventions, and education.

Unfortunately, treatment is “after the fact” and laws, while they may affect some behavior, don’t get to the heart of the problem.

Is there a better approach?

Beckford has proposed that *Fear* may naturally progress and grow into *Hate* which leads down a path to *Injustice* and *Inequity*. The end result he identifies with “*the complete absence of Love.*”

Following his outline logically leads to the conclusion that Fear and Hate may be eradicated by an infusion of Love which will then dissolve the problems of Injustice and Inequity. What’s the key?

Blankophobia key!

Consolidation

If you find that you've accumulated a large and burdensome debt, the critical decision point involves **consolidation**, taking an inventory of all your individual debts and combining them into one comprehensive debt that can be managed as a unit.

Once consolidated, the task then becomes finding a lender who is willing to take on and carry your debt as one package.

Conversion

All of our fears boil down to one consolidated fear, the fear of Death (officially known as *Thanatophobia*), which we are all authorized by faith to **convert** to the Fear of God.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15

A new beginning!

Consolidation

Nothing is so much to be feared as fear.

Henry David Thoreau (1851)

Conversion

***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight...***

Proverbs 9:9-10

Blankophobia recovery

Confirmation

*We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear**. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*

1 John 4:16-18

What's the process?

- A. Convert** from fear of death to fear of God, recognizing that God loves everyone. We all have problems, and anyone you fear may fear you even more than you fear them.
- B. Reconcile** by opening your heart to God and all the people around you, trusting Him to forgive, heal, correct, guide, instruct, and bring you together.
- C. Celebrate!** The more of God's love you let flow through you, the better off everyone will be.

A. Convert

(Saved by Grace)

E pluribus unum

Make one out of many. Take all of your phobias, anxieties, fears, discriminatory attitudes, and resentments and convert them to one big fear, the Fear of God.

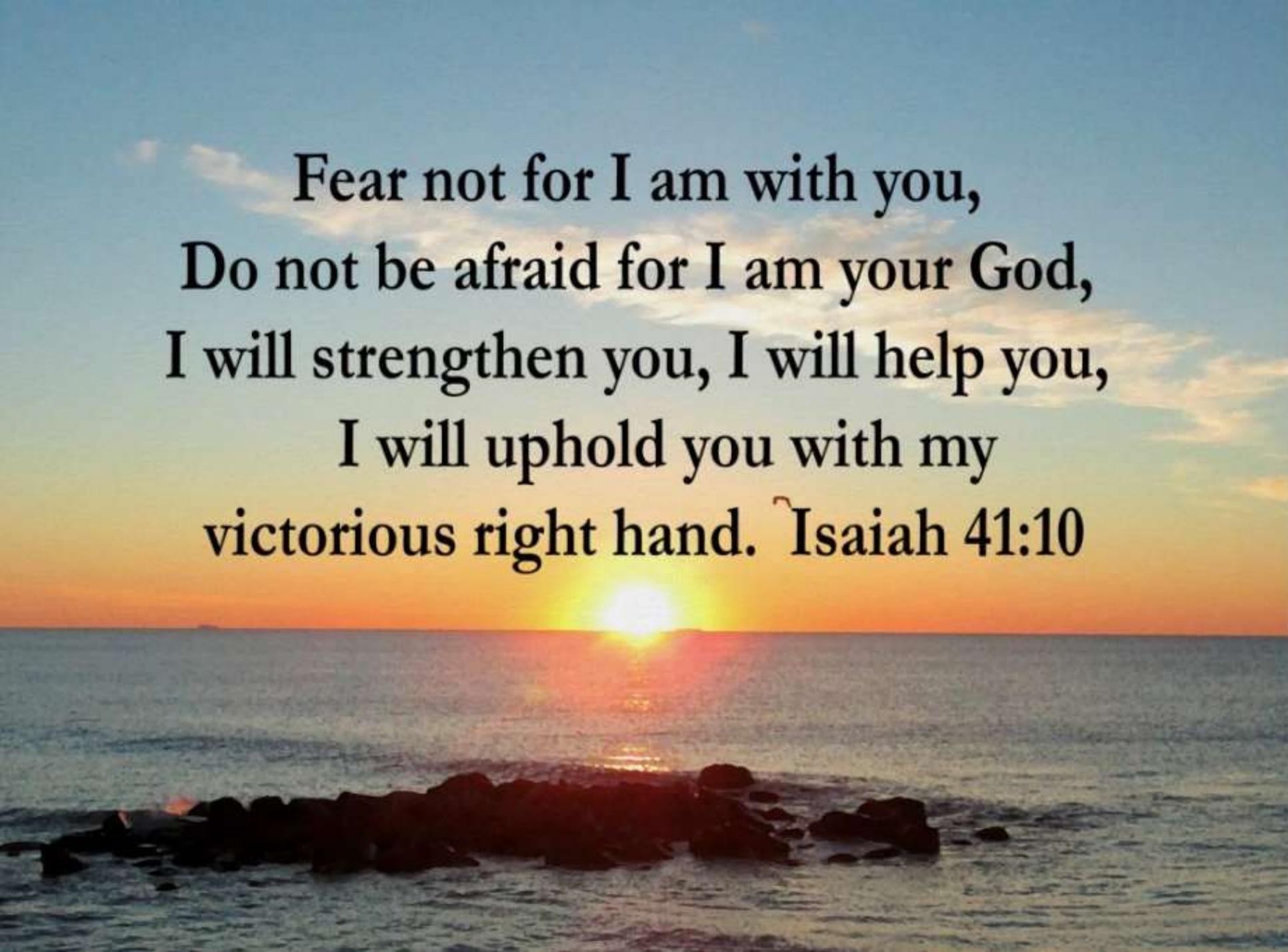
Consider that each of your phobias is made up of injuries or trespasses, all the large intrusions and small micro aggressions that have contributed to us being defensive, suspicious, and even aggressive. Their accumulation has become the pile of mutual debts we carry around as a weight of fear.

Anyone can do it

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

We try shifting the blame to others or denying it in our attempts to rise above it, but Fear is a God-sized problem that calls for casting the whole batch on the only One who truly understands, can sort it all out, and is not only willing but has already paid the price.

A serene sunset scene over a vast ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, casting a shimmering path of light across the water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, dark, jagged rocks protrude from the water, with gentle waves lapping at their base. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Fear not for I am with you,
Do not be afraid for I am your God,
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand. [^]Isaiah 41:10

B. Reconcile

(Sanctified by the HS)

Sorting it all out

Cooperate with God's Holy Spirit in doing a thorough inventory of your unresolved hurts, anxieties, fears, and resentments, giving thanks to Him along the way.

What happened to you and how did you handle it? Turn everything that was wrong and out of order over to God and receive His forgiveness for your part. Be diligent in reciprocating with your forgiveness for the parts others have played and seeking His guidance about how to make amends.

How do we participate?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

We invite and allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and bring our hurts, hang-ups, and dysfunctional habits and attitudes into our awareness. Then we work with him to reconcile it all and learn a new and better way of living.

A person with a backpack is standing on a dirt path, looking out over a vast mountain range under a dramatic, sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Cast all your anxiety on Him
BECAUSE HE
CARES FOR
YOU

C. Celebrate!

(Sent forth with Joy)

Free at last!

Let go and breathe. What a growing and wonderful relief! Every issue that you give to God, he lifts off of you. What great news!

As the process of reconciliation with God and man continues, more burdens are lifted, releasing “the peace that passes understanding” and uncovering reservoirs of energy and joy. You begin to see beyond your own circumstances to those of others and are filled with a desire to share your discovery with everyone around you.

The fruit of love

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say, rejoice! Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand! Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7



REJOICE

— IN THE —

LORD

Pros and Cons

Paradigm advantages

1. It's a time-honored approach and has been proven to work for the past two millennia.
2. We have constant access to an intercessor between God and us as well as an inexhaustible supply of love, forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement.
3. There's an amazing instruction manual and a host of support opportunities to meet and grow with others in person and online.

Paradigm problems

1. It's difficult for people to change.
2. Not everyone is motivated or even wants to change.
3. Pride gets in the way.
4. Past hurts are difficult to erase.
5. Forgiveness doesn't come naturally or flow easily at first.
6. People can't manufacture their own supply of divine Love: they need to learn to ask and keep on asking for a fresh baptism in it.
7. We will only get just so far this side of Heaven.

Overcoming *Blankophobia*

Steps to take

1. Recognize you have problems.
2. Become aware of God's Love for you and all of mankind.
3. Turn yourself, problems and all, over to Him.
4. Do some ever-deepening soul searching about relationships and attitudes that need work.
5. Reach out for His reconciliation.
6. Start at home and keep at it as you go deeper and deeper.
7. Take every opportunity to reach out to those around you.

Keys and tips

1. Everyone has problems.
2. Nothing surprises or shocks God.
3. He's calling you and enabling you to turn yourself over to Him
4. Arrange to meet and grow with others using a study guide like Celebrate Salvation.
5. Be active in reconciliation whenever you're prompted.
6. Charity begins in your heart and those nearest to you.
7. Look around and love your neighbors with new insight.

Beyond *Blankophobia*

From Fear to Family

1. It's one thing to approach others without fear, but the next step beyond that to approach them as members of your family.
2. Remember that family can be friends or foes, and that we often have rather intense feelings about family members.
3. If you can work it out with your own family, you can probably work it out with anyone.
4. You're going to need God's Love all the way.

How to treat people

As you embark on treating everyone as family members, consider that God already is or could become the adoptive Father of you all. That's the opportunity that Jesus was sent to extend to us.

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

1 Timothy 5:1-2



Fatherhood Initiative

For God the Father so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life... [and] to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 3:16, 1:12

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Matthew 6:9-13

www.fathersroc.org

Resources - mixed

The Smithsonian Magazine

April 2021 Edition - **The Truth About Tulsa**

The Promise of Oklahoma and American Terror

The Washington Post

March 16, 2021 - **Reimagine Safety**

A 7-part Project of the Editorial Board

Background Readings for Black-White Reconciliation

A growing list compiled by Bill and Susan Morehouse, 2020-21

<https://cutt.ly/1cAexSM>

Resources - Biblical

Father



Son of God

Holy Spirit

Celebrate Salvation – *The Joy of Christian Discipleship*

A series of small group study guides to the process

www.celebratesalvation.org

The Holy Bible

*Fear not, little flock,
for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give
you the kingdom.*

