

## Local Church Budget

# Carefully & Prayerfully, but not Fearfully

In Matthew 14:27, Jesus said, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” Believing Jesus, Peter soon found himself in the middle of the stormy sea, standing on nothing but water!

But just moments into his faith journey, he took His eyes off Jesus, saw all the dangers surrounding him, and began to sink in fear. How easy it is to be like Peter—from faithful to fearful in a moment.

We often fear because we’re over-focusing on temporary ‘securities’ like finances, careers, investments, health, or even our lives. Yes, we must manage these things faithfully, but Jesus tells us not to worry or fear.

When fear starts rising, we are invited to dive into our Bibles, fix our minds on Jesus, His promises, and our eternity with Him, and let the fear melt away like frost in the morning sun. When we study God’s perfect love, it casts out all our fears.

The Bible clearly explains that calamities will happen on earth. Jesus foretold these terrible things before they happened so that our faith would be strengthened when we see them happen.

In times of crisis—with our health, finances, or other losses—let’s move forward carefully and prayerfully, but not fearfully.

Appeal: It’s now time to return God’s 10% tithe and give the Promise offerings that we are encouraged to set apart from our income during this past week. What a joy it is to know that God is our Provider and that He is faithful, even in the most challenging times, to care for our needs. Thank you for your faithfulness today.

## Local Church Budget

# Cliff-Hanger

If you had to hang from a rope over a frighteningly high cliff and were given a choice between two ropes—a thin, frayed one or a scientifically-engineered strong one—which rope would you place more faith in? It’s scary either way! But I think you would choose the strong rope.

And would you rather step off the cliff with a lot of faith in the thin rope or a little faith in the strong rope?

Ultimately, it wouldn’t matter how much faith you had because your safety doesn’t rely on your level of faith; it relies on the strength of the rope. Faith is only as good as the object or person that we have faith in.

God gives us skills and talents and encourages us to use them wisely, but never to hang our whole weight on them or even have faith in them.

Our well-honed skills, proven strategies, time-tested programs, and maybe even our track record of successes are a great blessing, but God calls us to have faith in Him, not our abilities. Compared to God’s strength and support, even at their best, our skills and talents are just a thin little rope.

What sort of rope have you been placing your faith in this week?

Appeal: It’s now time to return God’s tithe and give Him our regular and systematic Promise offerings. What a privilege it is to know our awesome God and believe that whatever our situation is when we have faith in Him, He will save us and hold us tight.