

Scary Stuff

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It's that time of year again. Haunted houses are everywhere. Spooks, goblins, witches and scary things are in abundance. Candy is in great supply. Yes, it's Halloween. Regardless of how you think of Halloween, either because of its pagan background or the religious symbolism attached to it later by the Christian church, we have to admit that it is here.

It seems that nearly everyone gets into the act, trying to scare everyone. The Lieutenants on base sponsored a haunted house on base a few days ago. Everyone who went through got their share of fright. As people went through in groups, one of the volunteers went through in advance to let the other workers know that it was a group of children coming through so they wouldn't scare the children too badly. Other times, they warned their fellow fiends that it was a group of adults and encouraged them to do their best to scare them.

One thing that was interesting to observe is how the children reacted to the creatures and monsters. Some of the children would walk right up and want to know who was inside. Others just wanted to play. But some of them were terrified, even when they knew who was inside or saw the person without a mask.

I'm not sure what causes one person to be frightened while another is not bothered in the least by the same person. I don't know what makes one person tenderhearted while another can seem to tolerate anything without being affected at all. I just know it works out that way, whether we are adults or children.

Christians seem to be the same way in living their Christian lives. One person seems to live boldly, eagerly proclaiming to the world the change God has made in his life, while another is more timid, afraid to speak up. Again, I am not sure what makes the difference, but the Bible does have a word of instruction for us.

The Bible says that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but He has given us a spirit of power, love and a strong mind (2 Timothy 1:7). We are reminded that we can live our lives boldly and with confidence because we possess the spirit and presence of God in our lives. We can not only share the love of God without fear, we can live all of our lives with the confidence that God holds our eternal destiny securely in His hand. We have no need to fear anyone or anything because we are under God's eternal protection.

This means that we don't need to be afraid of ghosts or goblins, witches or warlocks, or even the neighbor down the street. We have no reason to fear a chainsaw murderer or mad scientist. We don't even need to worry about things that go bump in the night. Nightmares and movies are just things we imagine and cause nothing for us to fear. We don't even need to worry about the future, because we know that God even holds that safely in His hand.

I believe that God intends us all to live our lives without fear. We are to boldly go into all of the world telling others that God loves them, just as we have experienced His love. We can even do it on Halloween.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.