



GREAT
COMMISSION
ACADEMY

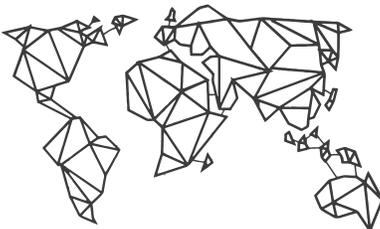
¹ Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene: Books Three and Four* (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 2006), 223.

² Merlin Switzer, *Bold Leadership: Biblical Principles for Marketplace Impact* (Rocklin, CA: Public Policy Institute, 2012), 31.

Notes:

GREAT COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

HOMEWORK PACKET SEVEN



FEARLESS LEADERSHIP

*Be bold, be bold and everywhere be bold.*¹

Edmund Spenser

*Boldness, based on our confidence in an infinite, all-powerful God, is expected of the Biblical leader; yielding to fear is not.*²

Merlin Switzer

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Proverbs 28:1 [ESV]

COURAGEOUS LEADERS FEAR ONLY GOD

Jesus taught that His followers must fear God, not people (Matt. 10:28). Moses is a classic example of someone learning to trust God with his fears and insecurities. Moses exhibits insecurities about his calling in a very honest way in Exodus 4, doubting God's call and how people would respond. He was consumed with insecurity to the point of begging God to send someone different. All leaders will have to deal with insecurities of different types in life and ministry. God promised Moses, in verse 15, that He would be with him and be sufficient for his weaknesses and insecurities. Every effective leader must come to a place of trusting God with their insecurities, allowing God to make them a bold and confident leader. God will do great things through any leader who is surrendered to Him, like He did with Moses.

DON'T LET FEAR PARALYZE YOU

God tells His people, "Fear not, for I am with you..." (Isaiah 41:10). That is a command and He always enables us for what He commands us to do. You can live and lead courageously; His Holy Spirit in you is up to the challenge. The **FEAR** acronym is a great reminder of what fear really is, **False Evidence Appearing Real**. Godly leaders will call fear what it is,

⁴ Jean Edward Smith, *FDR*
(New York, NY: Random House,
2007), 278.

Notes:

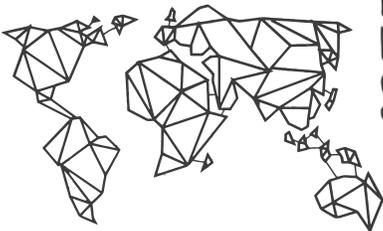
a lie. Most fear is a figment of your imagination and is more destructive than the thing you fear. There are four types of fears that will prevent you from all God has for you. To help you categorize these fears, we've developed the **PAIN** acronym (as they lead to untold pain if you do not deal with them), which describes four main types of fears. These four main types of fears are **1** Phobias, which are irrational fears; **2** Anxieties, which are fears about the future and uncontrollable circumstances; **3** Insecurities, which are personal fears characterized by self doubt and a lack of confidence; and, finally, **4** Narcissistic fears, which are fears of giving up control characterized by an unwillingness to go all in with God (pride really is the core issue with fear and narcissistic fears will hurt you more than any others). If you want to effectively accomplish all God has for you, you must be willing to deal with your phobias, anxieties, insecurities and narcissistic fears.

Remember Franklin D. Roosevelt's wise quote, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."⁴ Most of your fears won't ever happen to you but even if they did, you have so much more to look forward to (ex. a life of purpose, an eternity in heaven, etc.). Even when there is truly reason to fear, remember Ps. 23:4 and Ps. 18:2. Fear will keep you in bondage. It will keep you from growing. It will destroy your confidence. It will limit your effectiveness for Christ. Fear keeps you from being who God made you to be (Is. 57:11). Choose today to live a fearless life, trusting God and free from the bondage of fear.

→ **What are your top 5 fears?**

1. List a phobia you will trust God to crush:
2. List an anxiety you will trust God to crush:
3. List an insecurity you will trust God to crush:
4. List a narcissistic fear you will trust God to crush:
5. List another fear you will trust God to crush:

→ **What have these fears produced in your life?**



⁵ Alex Ayers, *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations* (New York, NY: Harper and Row Publishers, 1987), 49.

Notes:

→ **What is fear robbing you of?**

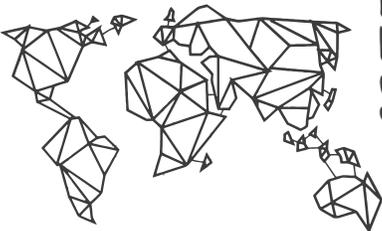
→ **How have they affected your life, leadership and ministry?**

CRUSH YOUR FEAR

Who would you be if you had total victory over fear? God set you free and desires that you remain free (Gal. 5:1). We hope you will learn to look fear in the eyes and walk through it. Fear is doesn't just disappear; it must be conquered by taking steps of faith. If you wait for fear to leave before you act, fear will never leave and you will never act—fear must be conquered. Remember the famous Mark Twain quote: "Courage is resistance to fear—mastery of fear—not absence of fear."⁵ Here are a few time-tested ways of conquering fear:

- » First, conquer fear by fearing God. A correct view of God will displace all other fear (He is bigger than anything you could possible fear). Fear God, respect Him for who He really is, instead of fearing whatever else is causing you fear (Mt. 10:28).
- » Second, conquer fear by dying to yourself. Having been crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20), you are free to live by faith rather than fear.
- » Third, conquer fear by knowing and applying God's Word. Joshua 1:8-9 connects courage with a knowledge of God's Word.
- » Fourth, conquer fear through prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 promises God will replace the anxieties you bring to Him in prayer with a peace that surpasses understanding.
- » Finally, fifth, conquer fear by taking a step of faith in the power of the Spirit. Faith is the antithesis of fear (Mk. 4:40). Walk by faith and you'll be fearless.

As you fear God, die to yourself, grow in God's Word, pray, and walk by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, you'll become a courageous leader.



Notes:

→ Which of these five steps to fearlessness (fearing God, dying to your self, growing in God's Word, praying, and walking by faith) do you need to grow in today?

→ How will you step out in those areas?

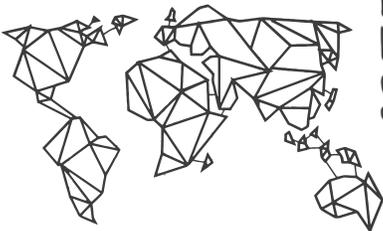
→ How will this affect the fears you listed previously?

These principles will help you live and lead courageously. There are a few other areas that you'll have to address specifically as well. These include confidence, insecurities, shame and guilt. Courageous leadership requires that you deal with each of these areas.

ELIMINATE CONFIDENCE KILLERS

Leaders can't lead effectively without godly confidence. Pride, sin, ignorance, inexperience, past failures and personal insecurities all destroy a leader's confidence and ministry abilities. The Spirit filled life is naturally confident and if a leader eliminates confidence killers, confident leadership will be a natural result of being filled with the Spirit. A leader should not be confident in their own abilities (self-confidence) but rather in God's abilities through them. Pr. 14:26 promises, "In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence..." Life and ministry done with a correct perspective of God result in strong confidence!

The following are a few typical confidence killers. Pride creates the need to protect one's self in effect minimizing confidence, while humility creates true fearless confidence (Pr. 16:18, James 4:6). Sin, especially secret sin, robs the believer of confidence. Ignorance and a lack of knowledge and wisdom create confusion and a lack of confidence. Inexperience leads to an inevitable lack of confidence



Notes:

about aspects of ministry we're not familiar with. Past failures can erode the confidence God wants you to lead with. Finally, Insecurities plague all leaders so we will address those in more detail in the next section. How do the confidence killers below minimize your confidence?

- **Which areas of pride have kept you from walking in the freedom and confidence God offers?**

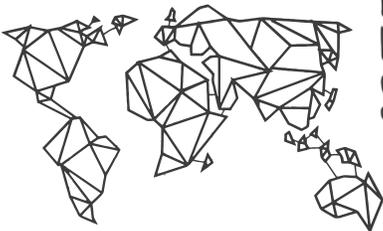
- **What sin has kept you from the confidence God desires you to walk in? Share this with the person disciplining you and come up with an accountability plan for beating it.**

- **What areas have you felt a lack of knowledge or wisdom kept you from confidence in ministry?**

- **What steps have you become afraid of stepping out in and how can you take a step in these areas?**

- **What past failures in life and ministry have lead to a lack of confidence today & which of these do you need to surrender to God today?**

- **Briefly describe how insecurities have effected your confidence so far.**



⁶Dictionary.com, *Insecurity* definition, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/insecurity?s=t> (accessed December 1, 2013).

Notes:

DESTROY INSECURITIES

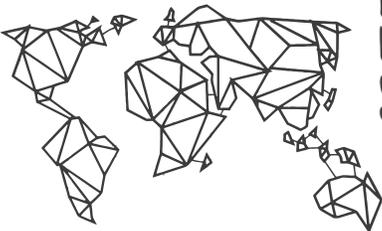
Insecurity is defined as “a lack of confidence or assurance.”⁶ Insecurities are some of the most destructive fears leaders face. All leaders have insecurities. Insecurities derive from anything in your life or ministry that causes you to doubt how others will view or respond to you. Insecurities are in effect the fear of man. Whether outgoing people hide their insecurities behind an outgoing facade or introverts obscure them with their quietness, everyone has them. Leaders can be insecure about themselves, their talents, abilities, productivity, ministry, ministry size and many other things. Whatever your insecurities are, they are sin and they are keeping you from being who God made you to be and accomplishing what He made you to accomplish. God wants to free you from them. Pr. 29:25 says, “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.” You must realize that God formed you before birth uniquely how He desired (Ps. 139:13-14), created you in Christ Jesus as a masterpiece (Eph. 2:10), is the author of each chapter of your life (Heb. 12:2) and will finish the good work He began in you (Phil. 1:6).

- **How have your insecurities kept you from all God has for you in life and ministry?**

THE **STRONG** ACRONYM

Remember the **STRONG** acronym for overcoming insecurities:

- » **S**urrender it! Release it. Give it to God. Recognize that insecurities are sin and quit holding on to them so tightly. Trust Him with your insecurities (Pr. 3:5-6).
- » **T**alk to God about it! Pray! Consciously put it in His hands as often as you need to. Cast your anxieties on him through prayer (1 Peter 5:7, Php. 4:6-7).
- » **R**emember Scripture about it! Memorize Scripture and repeat it to yourself when tempted to be insecure. A great place to start is Pr. 29:25. Allow God to transform your mind with His truth (Rom. 12:1-2).



Notes:

- » **Open up about it!** Get it in the light (1 Jn. 1:7). Vulnerability and accountability are key. Publicize it appropriately and with the right people, people you can trust (James 5:16). Talking about it with other believers will free you from much of its power.
- » **Navigate past it.** Walk by faith (1 Cor. 5:7). Fear really boils down to a lack of faith (Mk. 4:40). Step into situations you're tempted to avoid, taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and then trusting the results to God (as Bill Bright would say). Repeat these "exposures" until the insecurity is beat!
- » **Get over it.** Realize it is not as big a deal as you think it is. Most likely no one is holding your insecurity issues against you. We tend to make them bigger than they really are.

Accept what you can't change and do something about what you can. Remember the good/bad split. You don't have to like everything about yourself but you do have to trust it all to God. Keep your eyes on Jesus rather than on your insecurities (Heb. 12:1-2).

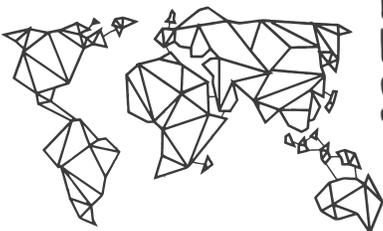
- **List an insecurity that holds you back in ministry:**

- **List how you will apply the STRONG acronym concerning this insecurity:**

FREEDOM FROM SHAME AND GUILT

Many people live in bondage to constant shame and guilt, stemming from things they've done or things done to them. You will never be able to be who God made you to be or lead how He made you to lead until you surrender these to Him and experience the forgiveness (Ps. 103:12) and healing (Is. 53:5) He offers. You are made wonderfully (Ps. 139:13-14) in God's very image (Gen. 1:26-27) and you are who you are by His grace (1 Cor. 15:10). Start living in the freedom He offers (Gal. 5:1).

- **List the things you're ashamed about and any issues from your past that you need to surrender to God:**



⁷ Dictionary.com, *Boldness* definition, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/boldness?s=t> (accessed December 1, 2013).

Notes:

Note: You'll only experience healing when you carefully bring these issues into the light, sharing them with a person you trust (1 Jn. 1:5-7). Talk to the person discipling you about what steps to take next.

→ **Who do you need to forgive or seek forgiveness from and how will you go about that?**

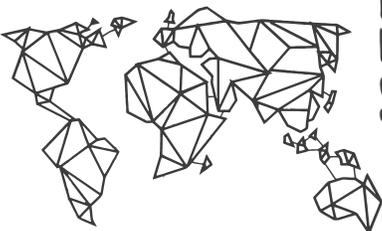
FEARLESSLY FOLLOW GOD

Narcissistic fears really are the worst. Godly leaders must be willing to follow God wherever He leads. You cannot hold back, refraining from the wholly surrendered life He has called you to. If you do, you'll be a terrible leader. Decide today to deal with your own pride, surrendering to Him, allowing to lead you wherever He wants and allowing Him to do with you whatever He wants. Then others will follow your fearless example. Crushing your fears must begin with a humble willingness to follow Christ as He leads.

→ **How do you need to surrender to God today?**

LEADING LIKE BOLD LIONS

Boldness is defined as "being courageous, daring and not hesitating or fearful in the face of actual or possible danger or rebuff."⁷ Again, Pr. 28:1 tells us, "The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion" (NIV). The point of boldness is not just to be obtrusively strong, but to be the example that He's called us to be, saying what He calls us to say, doing what He calls us to do and standing for what He calls us to stand for. As you trust God with your insecurities, applying these principles and persevering even when tempted to give up, you will find victory over fears and insecurities and learn to walk in the confidence and boldness God has for you. Remember the stand Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego took (Daniel 3), how Daniel risked everything to do the right thing (Daniel 6), Esther's fearless action (Es. 4-5), the hardships Paul endured (2 Cor. 11:16-12:10), the apostles' obedience in the face of opposition (Acts 5), and the way David





⁸ Mark Batterson, *All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 105.

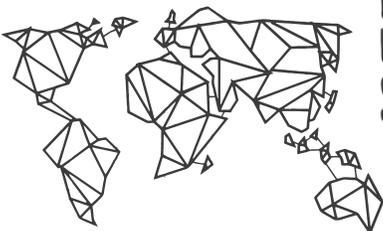
Notes:

courageously fought Goliath (1 Sam. 17). Fears must be crushed as you walk by faith, through walls of fear (Josh. 1:9). Leadership requires courage so crush your fears to be the leader God made you to be.

→ **What fears do you need to crush, and how can you have courage in the face of these fears?**

As you crush fear, deal with confidence killers (like shame, guilt and insecurities) and take bold steps of faith, God will grow you into the confident and bold leader He created you to be! Learn to hate your insecurities, fears and shame more than what makes you feel those ways. You don't have to live in bondage any longer. Mark Batterson encourages you with the truth that, "courage only waits for one thing: a green light from God."⁸ You can begin living in the freedom and grace God offers today, by faith! Trust Him and take the first step through fear, by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



Notes:

ACT NOW

CRUSH YOUR FEARS AND INSECURITIES

→ Review the top 5 fears you listed earlier in this section. How will you work through the 5 steps to conquering fear with each of those?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

→ Which confidence killers (pride, sin, ignorance, inexperience, past failures and personal insecurities) have stolen your confidence and what steps do you need to take to recapture the natural confidence of the Spirit filled life?

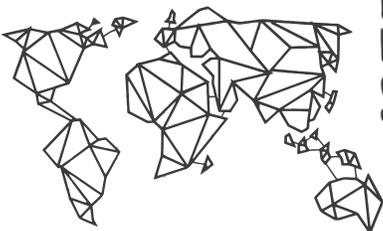
→ List your 3 biggest insecurities (be honest even if it is difficult to write them down). Come up with a game plan (using the STRONG acronym) for dealing with each one:

1.

2.

3.

→ What is your next step in becoming the confident, bold, and secure leader God has made you to be?



⁹ G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal¹⁶ for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

