

**What People Are Saying About Mark Steven Filkey and
*Fear Must Not Win...***

The Covid-19 pandemic revealed just how much fear can grip the world. From the lowest to the highest levels of society, we saw an entire generation paralyzed. But now Mark Filkey has provided a roadmap to show us the way out of fear. His book is important not only for this moment in our culture but also beyond. Mark is exactly right that *Fear Must Not Win*—especially when it comes to Christian believers. If you've struggled with fear at any level, this book is for you. Win back the confidence that God has provided for us and step back out with the courage to change the world.

—Phil Cooke, PhD

Author, *The Way Back: How Christians Blew Our Credibility
and How We Get It Back*

In his latest literary installment, Bishop Mark Filkey tackles what I'm convinced is the greatest enemy we all face: FEAR. The primary theme threaded throughout the pages of *Fear Must Not Win* is how to deconstruct and destroy the fears in your life that are holding you back from your very best self. With delightful and thoughtful prose, Bishop Filkey coalesces rich theology, powerful revelation, and practical experiences to help the reader form strategies to fight back against fear. Fear must not win, and this marvelous read will show you how to make fear lose forever.

—Pastor Jason Sides

Christian World Ministries Inc., San Antonio, TX

Far too often, the church in America is only like a visitor center. It's safe, it's warm, and it's comfortable. But we're missing the power of Jesus, the presence of Jesus, and the excitement of following Jesus because we're playing it *safe*! The American "trinity" is comfort, pleasure, and success. And one of our biggest idols is safety. Consequently, we don't want to talk about or face our fears. Preachers often ask, "If you died tonight, do you know where you're going?" I think Jesus would ask a different question: "What if you *don't* die tonight—how are you going to live tomorrow?" In *Fear Must Not Win*, Pastor Mark Filkey does a brilliant job of addressing these issues, helping believers to escape the prison of fear and walk in their God-given victory. Read this book and let Pastor Mark help you beat—*defeat*—the scared inside you!

—Pastor Rick Godwin
Summit Church, San Antonio, TX

Bishop Mark Filkey is one of those rare authors who addresses difficult life issues in a practical format while offering profound and relevant insights into *how* to overcome them. *Fear Must Not Win* fully deals with *fear*: it defines it, exposes it, confronts it, and offers us truths to rise above it. Bishop Filkey identifies the origins of people's fear and anxiety and provides real answers. This book is therapy on paper. Thank you, Bishop, for not sidestepping topics that must be addressed. *Fear Must Not Win* is a must-read for those who desire to overcome fear. It's also a tremendous resource for pastors, parents, and leaders who are helping others to overcome it. Fear must not win!

—Bishop Gary McIntosh
Founder, Transformation Church, Tulsa, OK

Mark Filkey is a voice of courage and authority in a day when those qualities are needed most. His prophetic insight pierces through the walls of resistance and calls for men and women to rise in our darkest days and step into the Light of promise and purpose. If you focus for very long on news reports or social media platforms, you might find yourself immersed in the fear that our best days are in the past and our positive destiny is quickly dissipating. Some people cry out, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and rescue us from this impossible situation!" Not so with prophet-bishop Mark Filkey.

When so many are saying, “Run and hide,” Mark rises to the occasion with fire in his eyes, declaring, “It’s time to march forth and recover all for the King and His kingdom!” His book *Fear Must Not Win* is a clarion call to never surrender! FEAR MUST NOT WIN! Jesus is still the answer to every question you’ll ever ask. And Mark Filkey has the keen ability to hear the voice of God and the courage to declare what he hears. This book is proof. I encourage you to read it as fast as you can and then read it again.

—David Binion

Pastor, Dwell Church, Allen, TX
Praise and worship artist

Mark Filkey is a great minister of the Word of God. In his new book, *Fear Must Not Win*, Mark does a tremendous job of walking us through great steps of faith against fear. Fear is a liar, and the devil has no place in our lives as children of God. Take this opportunity to feed your faith with these great testimonies and watch how God will make a way where there seems to be no way. You will be blessed and strengthened by Mark Filkey and *Fear Must Not Win*.

—Mark Hankins

Mark Hankins Ministries

I have known Mark Filkey for nearly thirty years. Mark is a multitalented man of God, preacher, pastor, mentor, musician, worship leader, and author. *Fear Must Not Win* and its timely message come at a critical time for our nation and the world. Faith was designed to conquer fears. You will be encouraged as you read this book.

—Dick Bernal

Founder, Jubilee Christian Center, San Jose, CA

There are so many nuggets within this book that speak to my generation. Bishop Filkey's life experiences, discernment, and passion are felt in every word. In a world where it seems as though fear, projected insecurities, and anxiety rule, Bishop Filkey points to a better word, including the triumphant revelation that we are—*by far*—greater than our enemies when we know the One who is standing behind, beside, and before us. We much decide *today* that *Fear Must Not Win!*

—Doe Jones

Singer, songwriter, and recording artist

Bishop Mark Filkey is a longtime friend and an uncle to all of my children! For decades, Bishop Filkey has been a blessing not only to our lives but also to the world with his courageous, faith-filled prophetic insights. I believe that *Fear Must Not Win* is a godsend for addressing the troubled times we are living in today. It is truly a must-read book, especially for all those who have never before had the opportunity to benefit from Bishop Filkey's liberating teachings. May your heart and mind be washed clean of all fear as you read through the pages of this book. It is powerful stuff!

—Dewitt C. Jones III

Double Grammy-nominated family band forever JONES

Mark Filkey's presentation of the stories and principles in *Fear Must Not Win* is innovative, inspiring, and eye-opening. In an age when the spirit of fear is continually battling to consume our every thought, this book is a great reminder to believers that we have not been given a spirit of fear, but we have been given love—a perfect love that casts out all fear—power, and self-control. For believers, fear must not and cannot win!

—Pastors Tommy and Brenda Todd

Transformation Church, Tulsa, OK

Bishop Mark Filkey has declared that *Fear Must Not Win!* Believe me, he has had a lifetime of experience to present a convincing case for attaining fear-free living in this captivating book. His homespun humor, down-to-earth illustrations, and easy-to-grasp, powerful principles make this book an important addition to one's faith library. I love and appreciate Mark Filkey's commitment to establishing a scriptural foundation for confronting and overcoming fear. I hope we can expect more from this unique leader and author.

—Pastor Denny Duron
Shreveport Community Church, Shreveport, LA

You never find heroes in smooth times, when everything is right with the world. No, heroes emerge in times of crisis—that's when they go all in! Mark Filkey is such a hero, and he has found the perfect time in our crisis- and anxiety-ridden world to prophesy that *Fear Must Not Win!* As you read this book, the anointing that is on Mark's life for victory and dominion over the spirit of fear will begin to fill your soul. Faith in Christ will arise within you, the peace of God that passes understanding will guard your heart and mind, and you will begin to declare over your own life, "Fear must not win!"

—Pastor Mel Ayres
In His Presence Church, Woodland Hills, CA

MARK STEVEN FILKEY

**FEAR
MUST NOT WIN**

**FINDING PEACE, CONFIDENCE,
AND COURAGE IN CHALLENGING TIMES**



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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Boldface type in the Scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis. The forms *LORD* and *GOD* (in small capital letters) in Bible quotations represent the Hebrew name for God *Yahweh* (Jehovah), while *Lord* and *God* normally represent the name *Adonai*, in accordance with the Bible version used.

FEAR MUST NOT WIN:

Finding Peace, Confidence, and Courage in Challenging Times

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ISBN: 978-1-64123-875-5 • eBook ISBN: 978-1-64123-876-2
Printed in the United States of America
© 2022 by Mark Steven Filkey

Whitaker House • 1030 Hunt Valley Circle • New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022014485>
LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022014486>

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1

“HASH BROWN!”: THE POWER OF GOD’S PRESENCE

“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.

You are able to say to yourself, ‘I have lived through this horror.

I can take the next thing that comes along.’ You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

—*Eleanor Roosevelt*¹

When I was growing up during in the second half of the twentieth century, I was blessed to experience the freedom to walk or ride my bicycle to and from just about any place I wanted to go. It was generally an era of innocence when little boys like my brother and me could go outside and play all by ourselves without a single care that harm would come to us. During that era, while there were sobering exceptions, of course, many children grew up in the same type of free environment.

As a bonus, my father and mother had the presence of mind to move our family out of the big city—Los Angeles—and into the country. When

1. “Eleanor Roosevelt,” Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/eleanor-roosevelt>.

I was only three years old, we relocated just outside a small farming community in California called Stockton. My father purchased an early-1940s home and had it moved across town, where it rested alongside a quiet, dead-end street nestled between hundreds of unplowed acres and the walnut orchard that sat behind our house.

While my parents felt they had secured a much quieter, safer environment in which to raise my brother and me, it wasn't long before they realized that living out in the middle of nowhere came with its own set of uncertainties and potential dangers, including animals like skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and, at times, wild dogs.

Thankfully, confronting wild animals wasn't something we experienced every day. But my father, having been raised in the city, had somewhere along the way come up with a rapid response for when we did encounter "critters." As crazy as it might seem, this method worked to scare off all unwelcome intruders: he would stand straight up (he was already a tall man), raise his hands, and shout, as loud as he could, "HASH BROWN!"

I particularly remember several occasions when wild animals crept into our front yard—which, incidentally, at that time, was a muddy field—and my father screamed that odd phrase from the deepest place in his lungs, sending those animals scurrying back into the wilderness. I have never been sure why he used the name of a breakfast item to scare off wild animals, but it was certainly effective!

CONFRONTING FEAR

One cold, foggy winter day when I was almost ten, my parents received word that a possible rabies outbreak had occurred in our area. Although I was still young, my father felt he had no choice but to educate me on what to do if I ever found myself face-to-face with a dog or other animal that potentially had been infected with rabies.

I will never forget the feeling that came over me as my dad explained the dangers of being bitten by such a diseased animal. Just hearing the symptoms of rabies—nausea, vomiting, violent movements, uncontrolled anxiety, fear of water, an inability to move parts of one's body, confusion, and even death—would be enough to scare anyone half to death!

Unfortunately, all the little animals around us, including the neighborhood dogs, were prime suspects for carrying and transmitting the disease via bite or saliva.

As I listened with my eyes wide open, trying to absorb all this alarming information, my father added this warning: "Now Marky, listen carefully! If you are ever confronted by an animal that looks infected, don't move forward to approach it, and, whatever you do, don't just turn and run! These animals smell fear. And if you run, they will chase you and bite you! It's not a pleasant thought, and if you trip and fall, they will go for the throat, trying to kill you!"

Taking a deep breath and trying to be brave, I asked, "Then what should I do?" My dad replied, "If possible, quietly back away, nice and easy, until you have an opportunity to get away, and then come home and tell your mother and me." What he said next was something I have never forgotten. His words saved me personally, and I also later told them to my own sons, who are now grown. "Marky, if any of these animals ever gets aggressive and there's nowhere for you to go..." Suddenly, my dad stood up, fully straightened his back, stuck out his chest, raised his hands, and said, "Shout, as loud as you can, 'HASH BROWN!'" When he screamed that phrase, even though I had heard him yell it many times, it scared me all the way to my bones!

Then my father said one last thing that still echoes in my mind as clearly as the day he said it: "Son, remember, you don't have to be afraid of them. Make them afraid of you! Never forget, in their eyes, you are bigger and taller, so, as I taught you, yell much louder than they growl! The truth is, you are much more of a threat to them than they are to you. Do and say what you've seen and heard me do and say a thousand times!" I leaned back, took a breath, and then exhaled as he said, "Do you understand, Son?" Quickly, I responded, "Yes, sir! I got it!"

FIGHT OR FLIGHT?

In my little mind, I continually replayed potential scenarios where I was being either bitten or chased by zombie-looking creatures with red eyes and saliva dripping from their fangs. As you might imagine, I was

beyond relieved when I didn't experience any problems in the weeks and months following. I encountered no rabid skunks, squirrels, or coyotes. Thank God!

Then it happened. It was on a Saturday evening more than a year later, just a few weeks after my eleventh birthday. I was walking home from a friend's house through a freshly plowed field when I heard an odd noise behind me. When I turned around to see what I was hearing, I noticed dust off in the distance and the sound of barking dogs, along with an eerie cry. "Oh, no!" I thought. "It can't be!"

I swiped my long hair out of my face, away from my eyes. After struggling to catch a glimpse of what was coming toward me, I finally got a better look at how many wild dogs there were. I worked feverishly to calm myself, trying not to panic.

Quickly, I turned back around, attempting to measure the distance between where the dogs were and the location of my home. Even though I was a relatively short way from the house, my heart began beating rapidly in my chest as my mind tried to decide what to do next. Should I make a run for it? At the time, there were very few neighbors living close to us, so I didn't have the option of running to a nearby house.

Before I knew it, almost as if they were systematically taking turns lunging at me, three wild-looking, four-legged beasts came toward me, tumbling, rolling, and finally skidding to a slow halt. Each of them used its wiry, muscular back legs to force a complete stop. They all landed with their heads down, and they were barking, snarling, and snapping at me as if I were the smaller prey and the battle was about to begin.

It felt like a match to see who was going to back down first.

THEY ALL LANDED WITH THEIR HEADS DOWN, AND THEY WERE BARKING, SNARLING, AND SNAPPING AT ME AS IF I WERE THE SMALLER PREY AND THE BATTLE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

Fight or flight? That was the question. But, in an astonishing moment, my flight for life mechanism kicked in as the scene seemed to shift into slow motion. I cautiously backed away, as my father had taught me to do, but the dogs began to deliberately follow me, as if waiting for me to turn and run. Then, after what seemed like the longest minutes of my life, it was "go time"! Something like a supernatural shadow came over me as I stood straight up, leaned in, took a deep breath, lifted my hands as high and as wide as I could, and let out a shout: "HASH BROWN!"

At that moment, I could hardly believe the animals' startled reactions, but mostly I could barely believe what had just come out of my mouth. As my voice had echoed across the field, it had sounded exactly like my father's voice! Again, I shouted, "HASH BROWN!" I continued to yell in this way, keeping my hands raised over my head, as I advanced toward the animals, driving them further and further backward. Finally, the animals looked at me as if they were facing an army of angels, and, as they turned around, they began to run and yelp as if their tails were on fire! Relieved to finally be able to catch my breath, I leaned forward, placing my hands on my knees, and took a deep breath.

As I worked to regain my composure, I heard a voice right behind me.

MY FATHER'S PRESENCE

Looking backward between my legs, my eyes came into focus, and I saw a tall, courageous figure standing a few feet behind me with that familiar smile on his face. It was my dad! As soon as I saw him, I quickly twisted my body around and ran into his arms. He pulled me close and hugged me, saying, "Good job, Son!" As tears filled my eyes, I asked, "How did you know?" He replied, "It was getting late, and your mother was concerned, so I came looking for you! When I saw you moving toward the dogs, I moved toward them with you! Every time you screamed 'HASH BROWN!' I shouted it behind you!"

I pulled away, smiled, and said, "You mean...?" He answered, "Yep! That wasn't an echo. It was me. I was here shouting and facing those dogs with you the entire time!"

The booming, courageous voice that had shouted and sent those crazy, aggressive animals scurrying back across that field into a distant orchard hadn't been my voice at all. It had been my father's. He had been standing behind me and shouting with me.

I looked back to check on the wild dogs, but they were nowhere to be found. Within seconds, I felt an overwhelming peace come over me. Fear had been swallowed up in victory! Not just by the faith and courage infused into my spirit by my father, but, more important, by the power of my father's voice and presence.

FEAR HAD BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY! NOT JUST BY THE FAITH AND COURAGE INFUSED INTO MY SPIRIT BY MY FATHER, BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, BY THE POWER OF MY FATHER'S PRESENCE.

LESSONS LEARNED, FEAR DEFEATED

While this incident happened to my father and me well over fifty years ago, its lessons continue to remind me of just how strong our heavenly Father is. As I reflect on what my dad taught and demonstrated for me while I was growing up, this is the main truth I learned: the presence of God is always there with a big shout against the “giants” of life that seek to cause us fear, dread, anxiety, and panic. In the decades that have followed, I have discovered proven ways to face my fears and defeat those giants in God's strength.

I began this book with the “hash-brown” story because I wanted to emphasize from the start that gaining victory over any type of fear in our lives begins with acknowledging and living in the presence of our heavenly Father. Here are some takeaways from the lessons I have learned, which I will expand on throughout *Fear Must Not Win*:

- ✦ *Your heavenly Father never allows you to face your fears and/or threats alone. When you are faced with life's challenges—and some of*

them may well be life-threatening—be assured that your heavenly Father is always with you. Even though you may feel like you are isolated and alone, God is aware when you come under attack, and He runs to the field to meet your enemies with you. You are not alone!

- ✦ *You must learn to confront your fears.* There will be times when you find yourself face-to-face with the kinds of threats and challenges you will not be able to escape or outrun. At those moments, you must turn and boldly face them. Though you may not feel courageous, you *can* stand up against them, knowing that your Father stands with you. Again, whenever it doesn't seem as if God is with you, remember that He is standing behind you, ready to support and protect you in times of trouble.
- ✦ *When a threat feels bigger than you are, the truth is, when you stand up against it, you are always larger than the opposition.* Why? Because greater is He who is in you than anything that comes against you! (See 1 John 4:4.)
- ✦ *You must discover the power of your relationship with God and your position in Him.* When you do this, you can learn how to stand up against both earthly dangers and demonic attacks. Just as the wild dogs ran away when they found themselves face-to-face with the combination of my faith and my earthly father's presence, the devil will put his tail between his legs and run back from where he came when you stand in your faith and in the heavenly Father's presence! "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7 KJV, KJVER).
- ✦ *Never forget to raise your hands as a sign of victory, even when facing your enemies.* Something shifts in the spiritual realm when you praise God during your battles. Lifted hands represent strength, power, and victorious faith on the field! Nothing frustrates or scares the devil more than a fearless warrior who understands the power of lifted hands and a lifted spirit. In the Bible, we read instances of the Israelites winning battles without firing a single shot but, rather, praising and worshipping God. The enemy is afraid of losing a fight he knows he can't win. When the powers of

darkness see you moving forward, full of faith, arms raised in worship, those demonic dogs will run for the hills! They know when they're outnumbered. As you increasingly walk in this exciting lifestyle of faith, you will encounter a powerful truth: your most significant victories are preceded by praise. So, lift your hands and give God all the honor and glory!

- ✦ *Use your voice.* Turn up the volume of your faith by opening your mouth and declaring the truths in God's Word. Words have power, and when you speak the Word, fear flees and walls fall! The Bible says, "*The word of God is...powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword*" (Hebrews 4:12 KJV). Along with raising your hands in victory, speak words of faith, prayer, praise, and worship, shouting out to God with the voice of triumph. (See Psalm 47:1.) The faith-infused sound of your voice will send shockwaves up and down the spines of your enemies! Just as those dogs scurried off into the shadows when they heard my voice and the raised voice of my father, your enemies will look for the exit signs when you begin to use your voice in concert with God's Word. Don't wait until the battle is over; shout your praises now!

WHENEVER IT DOESN'T SEEM AS IF GOD IS WITH YOU, REMEMBER THAT HE IS STANDING BEHIND YOU, READY TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT YOU IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE

Perhaps you're facing what appears to be an impossible test or challenge, and it is provoking feelings of anxiety or dread within you. Or maybe you just need to conquer fear itself. Here is the good news: you can do it! You can be equipped to stand against and defeat every challenging giant that threatens to break you and steal your God-given dreams and destiny.

The psalmist said, "My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:2–3 NKJV). Here is a wonderful biblical commentary on this passage:

Over against God, the majestic One, men are feeble beings. Their rebellion against the counsel of God is ineffective madness. If the poet has God's favour on his side, then he will face these pigmies that behave as though they were giants, who fight against him..., moving on high, i.e., proudly..., in the invincible might of God.... Thus, then, he does not fear; in the day when...he might well be afraid..., he clings trustfully to...his God, so that fear cannot come near him. He has the word of His promise on his side.²

Remember, when you are afraid, fully trust in the Lord. He is on your side. Your heavenly Father is greater than your problems. The giants of the world pale in comparison to His splendor. In His presence, problems shrink, and fears dissipate. Ordinary people are formidable and capable of pulverizing walls and obliterating giants if they will believe in the Lord and trust Him. Every situation has a "God solution," and every giant can be conquered.

To have an optimistic attitude based on God's promises is not the same as quoting nice-sounding clichés that ignore reality and tricking ourselves into believing that everything is okay when it's not. Just the opposite: it is a way for us to take the scales of fear and worry off our eyes and see that the One who is for us is greater than all the problems that have come against us. Oral Roberts said, "When you see the invisible, you can do the impossible."³ Never let worry stop you from seeing what the actual spiritual reality is.

2. Keil and Delitzsch, *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/psalms/56-1.htm>.

3. Oral Roberts, *When You See the Invisible, You Can Do the Impossible* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 2011).

By God's design, when it comes to dealing with fear, we are created to fight, not to run and hide. Therefore, stand up, push back, and prevail, even in the midst of perplexing and stressful times. Fear often heightens our sense of feeling overwhelmed by our circumstances because we imagine that we are all alone, without any source of help. When your heart seems to fail, let your spiritual eyes "look to the hills from where your help comes." You can rely on the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (See Psalm 121:1–2.) In times of fear, distress, and tragedy, our help comes from God. When we face tests, trials, and tribulations, we can shout, "He comes! He comes to save!"

***NEVER LET WORRY STOP YOU FROM SEEING WHAT THE ACTUAL
SPIRITUAL REALITY IS.***

Just as my father taught me how to stand tall in the face of aggression, you can overcome every fear you can imagine. The heavenly Father wants to teach you how to surmount worry and anxiety in your life and be a conqueror in Christ Jesus. Don't settle for less than God's absolute best for you. *Fear must not win!*

In the following chapters, we will explore common sources of fear, such as the influence of the media in promoting alarm and uncertainty in our lives, childhood trauma, painful memories, and misperceptions. I will walk you through a variety of spiritual techniques centered on prizing God's presence that will strengthen your faith, minimize your panic, counteract fear's power to paralyze, and invite peace into every situation. Through engaging biblical accounts, personal stories, and life lessons, you will learn principles and truths by which you can begin living a fear-free life—the life God always intended for you.

As you read this book, let me encourage you to allow the Holy Spirit to heal you spiritually and emotionally and to inspire you to pursue and fulfill the purpose God has given you. In each chapter, you will discover something powerful about yourself and the God who made you. Just

beneath the surface of who you believe you are, there is far more than you have imagined. Let God instill you with the courage to face your fears, rise above your anxieties, push aside dread, and slay your giants!