



Never Ending Story

This past Sunday I was in California and tuned in to one of my church's streaming service. They had a new Associate Pastor, and this was his first Sunday service since installation. The Gospel lesson was the Mark 13 passage, which has themes of the end of the world, fear and being on guard. I have been told that this passage is one of the more difficult portions of the Bible to preach on, so I was curious how this pastor would approach this in his sermon.

He represented the text very well, drawing a parallel with "[The Never-Ending Story](#)," a children's fantasy where a young boy is both the reader of the story and, in the end, emerges as the hero of the story. A story which portrays fear as nothing in the face of faith and belief. The parallel worked very well, illustrating the message of the Gospel. I was impressed with how the pastor presented the lesson, and so later in the day I watched the [1984 film](#) "The Never-Ending Story" and found myself the hero of the story!

We are human, we experience fear in some form or another. Sometimes fear serves us for our safety, and sometimes the fear is of the unknown, or comes out of our worry about the future. We hear plenty of scripture passages that say to us do not fear, and to not worry about tomorrow, letting tomorrow's worry will take care of itself. Yet, often we find that, while we can feel fear, we discover that the reason for fear has no substance, something we discover on the other side, when fear is overcome.

We humans are just a little cautious. [Steve Brown](#) tells us we all follow the first law of wing-walking: Never let go of one thing until you have hold of something else! We have a very hard time risking, anything. Then we get hit by that other platitude, "Let go and let God!" and then our mind screams, HOW?

In the story, the force that everyone fears, the power they believe will destroy the planet, carries the apt name “Nothing.” In confronting and defeating Nothing, the people realize that through their faith and resolve, they solved the “How?” question and the threat is gone.

The lesson for us? The fears we face are “Nothing” with God. Amen.

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This essay was the Meditation in Stan Escott's [Watchword](#) for November 23, 2021. The content of Watchwords is written from inspiration born of Scripture, devotional readings and reflection. Each post is meant to encourage and give you a sense of peace in these troubled times. To explore Watchwords or sign up for the mailings, visit bosworth30.com/watchwords/.