**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 13, 2020**

Good afternoon!

Hope all had a wonderful weekend!

There is a place in Kissimmee Florida called Old Town! It’s a wonderful place to visit! Antique shops, old stores that sell real pulled taffy, old fashion candy, book stores, old cars in the streets and so much more. They also have from time to time some big special attraction that is there. One time while we were on vacation in Florida with some friends, we decided to go visit the fun place. When we arrived the first thing that we noticed was that there was a bungee jump tower set up for whoever would dare! Our friend’s teenage son got very excited and said that he wanted to do the bungee jump! His dad said are you sure? I thought myself, who would want to jump off of what looked like a very high tower! The boy was very bold about his doing it and his dad finally said OK. After paying for his ticket at the counter on the ground floor the young man began his long trip up the many flights of steps to the top of the tower. When he finally arrived at the jumping-off point, he began to have second thoughts. Fear seemed to be gripping his heart! That’s when he saw the sign that was posted right at the end of the platform that read “It cost $50 to walk the stairs; the jump is free.” As you can imagine there have been many others before him who have lost their nerve, have had a change of mind and then wanted a refund! When it comes to overcoming fear with faith the daily battle is real! Listen to some verses that help us win the fight!

• “There is no fear in love; perfect love cast out fear.” I John 4:18

• “But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage; it is I; don’t be afraid. Lord, if it’s You, Peter replied, tell me to come to You on the water. Come, He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, Lord, save me! Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. You of little faith, He said, why did you doubt?” Matthew 14:27-31

• “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

• “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

• “Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine.” Isaiah 43:1

• “He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8

• “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.” Psalm 18:2

• “Do not be afraid…for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

• “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

You may be wondering how it all worked out with the young man. Well, after a long pause he took the leap of faith! In this case, the bungee cords keep him from harm. His dad and all of let out a big sigh of relief! When God has us, as we step out on faith, we can step with confidence knowing that He will always be with us and lift us up. When Peter stepped out of the boat at Jesus’ calling, he stepped out by faith. What may have kept the others from following was fear! Peter only began to sink when he noticed the waves around him and took his eyes off of Jesus! Let’s keep our eyes on the Lord through these somewhat fearful and uncertain times and keep our faith in Him! He will certainly lift us up!

Have a super day,

Mike