



"My grand-father

was talking to me yesterday and he said the biggest difference between when he was my age and now is fear. Drive on the freeway and you're afraid of being shot...get lost in the wrong neighborhood and you could be shot...sit in a restaurant and worry about people who walk in wearing camouflage. You are afraid of e. coli, cyanide in your Pepsi, AIDS, race wars, terrorist bombings, global warming, nuclear war, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, asteroids, cancer, the ebola virus, gangs, and on and on. No wonder people are uptight and full of anxiety. Fear is the constant in this society!"

Victor, 17

The Stats

Kids are increasingly scared these days—frightened to the point of losing their chances for productive and healthy futures. And they just may have valid reasons for these fears, according to a Gallup poll:

- 28% of teens say they know peers who have carried or regularly carry guns and knives to school.
- A quarter fear for their safety in school.
- Other fears include drug and alcohol abuse, violence, suicide, pregnancy, and AIDS.

Youthworker Update
September 1996

By the Book...

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18a

Only Thing to Fear is Fear Itself

It was another typical day at North Raleigh High School: three fights, one arrest for possession of a firearm, and the usual drug-sniffing dogs making their rounds along the lockers. As far as Lauren was concerned, school wasn't fun anymore.

Which was ironic. After all, she was the one who refused to attend the private school her parents wanted her to go to. She said she didn't believe Christians ought to hide from the real world. She wanted to be in a public school with her friends in the real world, she declared, instead of in some exclusive private school where everyone was protected from the "the world's" influence.

But Lauren's mind had changed. After history two guys followed her to her locker, then came up on both sides of her.

"Hey, babe...how come you're so stuck up, huh? We think we ought to spend some time together...or are you too good for us? Think about it, —we know where you live."

Lauren was petrified. Now she realized what she had been experiencing all year—not anxiety, not stress, but fear. She was afraid every day at school. No one ought to live like that, she told herself.

She ended up asking a friend to drive her home. That night Lauren asked her parents to transfer her to a private school.

A month later, if you had caught her between classes in her new private school, she would have told you it was the best decision she had ever made.

1. Is fear really that big of an issue in high schools today?

2. Is it wrong to not want to live in fear all the time?

3. Why didn't Lauren trust Psalm 121?

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber...

The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

4. Is it wrong for Christians to fear?

5. Do you agree with Lauren's decision to change schools?

