

HALLOWEEN



FIELD OF SCREAMS

FAITH AND FEAR

**DO OUR FEARS INTERFERE
WITH OUR FAITH?**

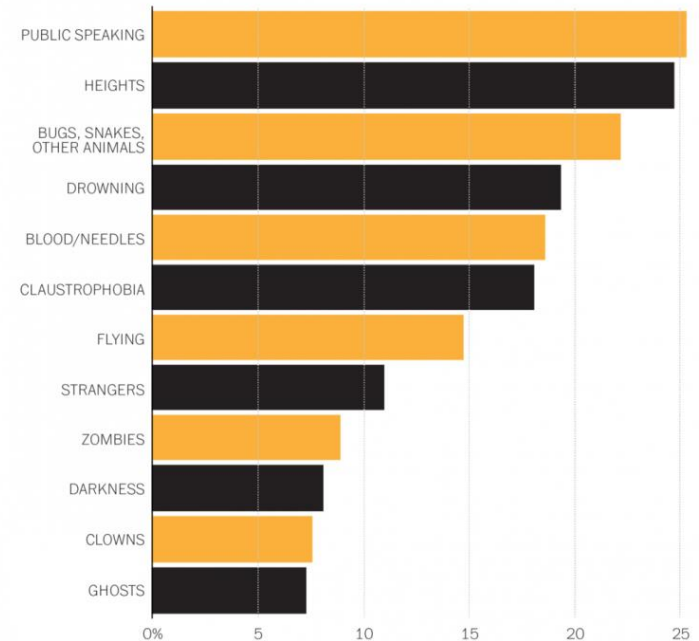
TOP FEARS OF AMERICANS

SOURCE: CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

1. **Public Speaking (25%)**
2. **Heights (24%)**
3. **Bugs, Snakes, Other Animals (22%)**
4. **Drowning (19%)**
5. **Blood/Needles (18%)**
6. **Claustrophobia (17%)**
7. **Flying (14%)**
8. **Strangers (12%)**
9. **Zombies (9%)**
10. **Darkness (8%)**

What are you so afraid of?

% of Americans who say they fear...



HEALTHY FEARS

-Fear of the Lord:

¹³ Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. Deuteronomy 6:13

⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Revelations 14:7

-Fear of getting hurt or hurting others.

-Fear of hell.

SCOUTING THE PROMISED LAND

NUMBERS 13: 1-3, 17-20

Exploring Canaan

13 The LORD said to Moses,
2 “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

3 So at the LORD’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. **18** See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. **19** What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? **20** How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

THE REPORT

The Good News

²⁷ They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.

Numbers 13:27

The Bad News

²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. Number 13:28

Anaks- tribe of giants

THE INITIAL REACTION

NUMBERS 13: 30-33

**Lets Go! We got
this!**

³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

We can't do it!

¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”

³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

WHAT FUELS FEAR?

We tend to see huge obstacles.

Doubt creeps in about being successful.

We exaggerate the problem.

Resist the temptation to fight through.

The Israelites had come so far and were about to cross into the Promised Land, but now they were letting their fears get the best of them.

THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

**We cannot do
this!**

14 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.

2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!

3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder.”

Numbers 14: 1-3

The Israelites started to turn on God, Moses and Aaron.

WE CAN DO THIS!

GOD IS WITH US!

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

Numbers 14: 5-10

THE LOSS OF FAITH

11 The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?”

Numbers 14: 11

The Israelites refused to trust in God despite all that He had done for them and the miracles they witnessed. They forgot of all of the good God had done.

FEAR VS GOD

Fear of being destroyed by the inhabitants of Canaan, hurt the relationship between God and the Israelites. They believed the problem was too big for God.

Do we ever let our fears get so big, that God is not even thought of as a possible solution?

If we think God cannot handle our problems, why are we here?

FAITH VS FEAR

Jesus let us know that He knows what we go through. He experienced fear in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus turned His fear over to God.

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39

DO NOT LET WORRY OVERTAKE YOU

A worried mind means a chronically stressed brain, and chronic stress generates serious problems. Some effects of worrying include: shrinkage of brain mass, lowering of your IQ, prone to heart disease, cancer and premature aging, marital problems, family dysfunction, and depression, and makes seniors more likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's.

Don Joseph Goewey-author of *The End of Stress-Four Steps to Rewire Your Brain*.

85% of us worry about things that never happen.

Out of the 15% that did happen, 79% discovered they could handle the difficulty better than they expected.

Does worry overwhelm us?

How does our worrying effect our relationship with God?

Does our worry tell God that we do not trust in Him?

JESUS: DO NOT WORRY (IT DOESN'T HELP)

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? Matt 6:25-27

WITH GOD ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Mark 10:25-27

Do we believe anything is possible with God's help?

Have you ever been in a situation where you cannot explain why something worked out for the good?

Does the fact that we can still be saved even with our sinfulness ease our minds?

JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Jesus took our human form. He experienced the highs and lows of being human. He wants us to know that he overcame the world. Does knowing this give us the peace Jesus desires us to have?