



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Waiting on God: Life in the Center with God (Advent Week 2)**

Speaker: **Pete Scazzero, Pastor-at-Large**

Scripture: **Isaiah 7:1-4, 9, 14**

“When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah.’”

“If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.”

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Outline:

- I. Illustration - map.
- II. Fear and God’s plane
- III. “Be careful.”
- IV. “Don’t be afraid.”
- V. “Keep calm.”
- VI. “Do not lose heart.”

Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Pete shares out of Isaiah on the nature of fear, judgementalism, and God’s call on our life, showing us the way forward in God’s grace.

Sermon Questions:

1. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
2. What is one practical step you sense God calling you to take in light of this message and/or scripture passage?
 - How did your family deal with fear? Did you grow up in a home that made it easy or difficult to remain calm in the face of fear?
 - How do you deal with fear? Many sins, Pastor Pete said, can be traced back to fear. How is God challenging you in this area?
 - How is God inviting you to “be careful” in your life? What is the Holy Spirit saying to your heart about being watchful?
 - How does faith relate to fear? How is God equipping you to “not lose heart”?
 - Advent, Pastor Pete says, is “inviting Jesus into our space of fear and anxiety.” How can you practically invite Jesus into those spaces in your life more often?