

New Edition

# *Fear No Evil*



Kevin Martin



**Fear**

**No**

**Evil**

**KEVIN P. MARTIN**

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2021, by Kingdom Expansion Ministries International, Inc.

Publisher:

Kingdom Expansion Ministries International  
1501 Partin Dr. N. Apt 251  
Niceville, FL 32678  
USA

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Printed in the USA

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## FORWARD

Here before you are twelve teachings on the subject of fear that I have included together under the title “Fear No Evil.” Previously there were two sets of teachings; four teachings under the present title and four under the title “Fear Disables/Love Enables.” The Lord first moved me to teach on this subject in July of 2001. Then the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 occurred, and I knew why this was important. November of that year, He began to teach me about the “Spirit of Fear.” I saw how intrusive and pervasive fear is, in the same way evil spirits are always intrusive. My ministry had to change and become more aggressive against fear. In March of 2002, I taught “Only Believe,” (similar to Only Believe – Part 3, in this edition) which leads the minister into an aggressive posture against the effects of fear in ministry. In the summer of 2002, God further awakened me to the total scope of fear as underlying all sin. It was an essential part of Satan’s deception that lured Adam and Eve into the first sin. Conversely, to walk free of fear is a major deliverance from the power of sin that controls us and inhibits us from being led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus feared only God the Father, but He was never afraid of the Father, and neither should we be afraid of God. When we know the Father loves us unconditionally, we will fear no evil, for God is with us. He has defeated all evil through Christ. To know God’s love in its purity is to know you can always approach His throne, even when you have just sinned, and be received and cleansed. This is truly “grace to help in time of need.” This knowledge allows you to perpetually walk in His love and give His love freely to others, even when they hurt you. Thus, love is perfected in you and perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:12, 18). To fear any evil means you have not yet been perfected in God’s love. You can submit all your fears to God. And you can draw near to God and have Him draw near to you in His perfect love for you. You can be free from fear. Do not let fear hold you back from freedom. It is the only thing that can. Christ is ready to set you free!

## INTRODUCTION

The Apostle John taught that perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). Fear is not cast out by performance. How well you perform, how often you perform, where you perform or who you perform for do not remove fear from your heart. What happens when you fail; when you can't do it anymore or as long or as often? What happens when you can't perform in the same climate or to the satisfaction of that certain group of people? You may lose your job, your position, your acclaim and your favor. If you are your own source of protection or provision, what happens when you are no longer strong enough, fast enough, smart enough or popular enough?

God loves you because you are you. He wants you to know that and be certain of it all your life. Perfect love drives out fear. Only God's love is perfect, because it has no conditions and it never ends nor ever fails. Therefore, no matter what your abilities or accomplishments or future potential, God will never stop loving, protecting and providing for you. If you will let Him. Consider the sixth chapter of Matthew starting at verse 25 and below.

### **Matthew 6:26, 27**

**<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?**

When you know God in Spirit and in truth, you will be certain of His love and come to rest there. You can live in His love forever. That's what God offers you.

Many teach that to please God and deserve His love they must do all the right things until the day they die. Yet the writer of Hebrews said that without faith it's impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). Paul adds that faith works through love (Galatians 5:6). To drive home this point, Paul told the Corinthians that they can speak like angels, prophecy, know the mysteries of the kingdom, live according to the law and have faith to remove mountains; they can feed the poor till they are penniless; they can even suffer a martyr's death. You can do everything Jesus, John or Paul said you should. But if you do not have God's love in your heart for you first, your motivation will always be out of fear. Fear that unless I do these things, I will be discovered to be unworthy of His name and therefore, rejected.

Perfect love will drive out the fear of rejection. Perfect love will become the motivation of faith which empowers the child of God's love to do what human



love alone cannot. Perfect love will guide you to do only what God's love in you for others leads you to do. In other words, no dead works. Living works.

The man who sits on the back pew in a large church and never speaks much nor appears to do much, may be the only one in the church who effectively ministers out of the love of God. He has no fear of failure, though he fails at times. Consequently, he never compares himself to others. He loves freely, knowing God loves everyone the same. This man sees the good in others and trusts God to bless them and reveal His love to them with the same patient longsuffering approach God used to reveal His love to him.

This same man weeps when he sees fear cause brothers and sisters to hurt each other. Then he rejoices as he sees God's love breakthrough and secure each one in God's love for them. His heart dances as they are restored to one another in peace.

James rightly declares that pure religion is to visit orphans and widows in their struggles and to keep oneself undefiled from the world (James 1:27). Keep in mind that fear and a desire to be seen doing good deeds are often the motivation. This then defiles the religious deed. Paul warned that such performance would not benefit the soul. God knows the motivation of the heart that performs to be seen. And likewise, the orphan and widow see the wrong motivation. People in need can receive the good deed while sensing the substance of pride motivated by fear. They can also sense when the substance is faith working through love.

Fear keeps you awake at night wondering if you did enough or if you forgot something. Love allows you to sleep soundly, whether you did anything for anyone that day or that year. You rest in God's love. You are moved to serve others in God's love. By the Holy Spirit, you begin while at rest in love and you finish in the rest of love. Perfect love casts out fear and perfect love keeps the heart free of fear. Perfect love fears no evil.

**In this book,** we will expose the way fear controls people and robs us of the faith that works through love. We will reveal how the enemy uses fear to deceive us and draw us away from God. We will discuss the ways to detect fear and overcome it in faith. But the only way to be free of fear is to receive God's perfect love and remain there. This must be possible or the Apostle John could not have written 1 John 4:7-21, especially verse 18. John knew by experience that perfect love drives out fear. And love can be perfected in us (verse 12). This book is written to bring you into perfect love. Let God pour His love upon you and learn, by the Spirit of God, how to remain in His love. God bless you as you read.



## **CHAPTER ONE**

# **FEAR NO EVIL**

Your only true source of peace and joy is in the heart of our Father in Heaven, Who loves you with an unending, unconditional and perfect love. He sent His Son, Jesus, to restore the broken relationship between us and Himself the only way that was possible; through the sacrificial death of His Son. His blood washes away all sin and guarantees complete forgiveness and full access to the heart of our Father for everyone who will trust in the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

The real enemy of your soul is the father of lies. He masters his craft to rob us of peace and joy by deceiving us about God's heart of loving kindness. His schemes are designed to make us afraid to open our hearts to hear God's heart. He knows the Father longs to speak the truth of His love which is so perfect it will drive all fear from our hearts and confirm His righteousness in us in our relationship with Him. Our freedom in Christ is God's desire and the enemy's greatest fear.

### **FOR YOU ARE WITH ME**

**Psalm 23:4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

In the middle of the beloved 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm we find the expression of a position of heart the psalmist had come to. He knew that no matter where he was or what was going on around him there was never a need to be afraid, for one reason only. God was with him. No other source of security was necessary. If God is on your side, who can be against you? (Romans 8:31) The Word of God is full of admonitions to take on this confidence from Genesis 15:1 to Revelation 1:17. God is saying, *"If you will trust Me enough to walk with Me, you will be able to walk through the deepest darkest valleys without fear, for the knowledge that I am with you."*

Consider the position of a fearful heart revealed in Isaiah 24:16-18.

#### **Isaiah 24:16-18**

**16** From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: "Glory to the righteous!" But I said, "I am ruined, ruined! Woe to me! The treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously, indeed, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously." **17** Fear and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth. **18** And it

shall be *that* he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit, and he who comes up from the midst of the pit shall be caught in the snare; for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth are shaken.

The picture we have here is of a man who expects to be ruined because of treacherous dealers. “If there is a treacherous dealer out there somewhere, he will find me and I will be ruined.” From this position a man sows seeds of fear and expectation of ruin. He does not trust God. He trusts in the certain destruction of all that he has. From those seeds of distrust comes the fruit of fear. He gets what he feared.

**Proverbs 10:24a The fear of the wicked will come upon him.**

This man fears evil and his fear of evil is the substance that draws evil to him. Evil knows how to detect and find the fear of evil within a person. Now consider God’s answers to shore up the banks of the heart of a man who will listen to Him.

**Isaiah 43:1-5**

**But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; you are Mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I *am* the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. 4 Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life. 5 Fear not, for I *am* with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west;**

**Psalm 91:1-7**

**1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, “*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *and* from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day, 6 *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; *but* it shall not come near you.**

God is giving us the answer to our fear. We do not have to be controlled and terrorized by fear. We can choose to trust Him and find Him faithful. This is what He offers us and this is what He wants for us; to be free of fear, in Him. When we

arrive at this position of heart, in Him, it will not matter what men say or what event happens, we will be secure because we know that He is right here with us. Nothing can terrify you under the shadow of the Almighty. Your task is to cooperate with the Spirit of God to open your eyes and ears to this message so you know it in your heart. Then the position of the man in Psalm 23 will be your position.

## **THE RESULTS OF FEAR**

Fear leads to bondage.

**Hebrews 2:15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

If we understand that fear leads to sin (not trusting God) and sin leads to more fear, then we will also see that there is bondage in fear and place for unholy spirits to work and expand. They take control of more and more of our souls until we are fixated on fear and sin. This is what John describes in 1 John 4:18 as torment.

**1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

When a person is tormented by fear, as they hear the noise of fear, they begin to run. Invariably they run right into the thing or person they fear. And if they escape, they are caught in a snare.

**Isaiah 24:18** And it shall be *that* he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit, and he who comes up from the midst of the pit shall be caught in the snare

**Proverbs 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

This scenario is not merely circumstance; it is unbelief in God's protection, therefore sin (Romans 14:23). In this position before God we fear judgment and lose our confidence to stand before God.

**1 John 4:17, 18**

**17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.**18** There is no fear in

love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

The inevitable result is that we suffer the things we fear.

**Proverbs 1:27** When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

**Proverbs 10:24** The fear of the wicked will come upon him, . . .

Fears lead to more fear and conviction that they will prevail against us. This becomes a cycle in our lives until we become filled with fear.

**Deuteronomy 28:66, 67**

**66** “Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. **67** “In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

**Job 15:24** Trouble and anguish make him afraid; they overpower him, like a king ready for battle.

**Job 18:11** Terrors frighten him on every side, and drive him to his feet.

### **The Law Works Sin**

Fear is sin and sin is fear. They work together to drive us away from those who love us, especially from God. They put us under the law. In Romans 7:7-11 and verse 21 we are told that the law works sin. How does law work sin?

**Romans 7:8, 23, 24**

**8** But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead.

**23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

We become fixated on what we are forbidden. In what way? Fear that we will miss out. The enemy tempts us with fears of someone having something that we are denied. He says, “*You are missing out. You have not been told about everything available to you. God is holding out on you.*” When we give in to this lie we are led to no longer trust God’s word: we miss the mark faith would hit. That’s what sin is, missing the mark. Not trusting God leaves us alone with our

own counsel or the counsel of the enemy. Sin then perpetuates and expands error in our thinking and leads us into more sin. Sin leads only to more sin and then to being afraid of judgment, which is torment to us. We hide from God and are unable to hear His voice. **This is what living under the law produces.**

The Lord showed how this process worked in me as a six-year-old under wounded spiritual authority, unable to shield me or bring correction. My parents separated and my fears led me into sin as follows.

*“No one will provide for me, so I must provide for myself.”* I began to steal toys from a local store to comfort myself in my rejection, confusion and the thoughts that no one would take care of me. The Lord spoke to me recently that I stole to quell the fears of not being able to provide the things I would need. God told me directly, *“In your success at stealing the desires of your heart, you comforted yourself with the knowledge that you were able to get things. If you couldn’t have love – you could provide for yourself – therefore, you didn’t need anybody to love you.”*

When you consider the roots and origins of sin, you always find some sort of fear in the mix. Greed, envy, jealousy and covetousness all exist because of fear that someone else will have what you want. Your not having it will mean something negative about you.

The power of rejection, criticism and abandonment is the fear that because there is some hidden fault in you (or obvious flaw) rejection, criticism and abandonment will happen again and again.

We hang onto anger, resentment, hatred and judgment and refuse to forgive for fear that the person who hurt us will be allowed to hurt us again or will not be required to pay.

The power of sin is the law (1 Corinthians 15:56). The power of the law is fear that you will be found in violation or that you will not be able to keep it. This is bondage to fear.

#### **Galatians 3:12, 21-25**

**12 Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.”**

**21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith**

came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

### **God's Answer**

No longer under a tutor means no longer under the law.

**Galatians 4:1-10, 21-26, 30, 31**

1 Now I say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. 8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Why does God warn us so much about fear? Because He loves us and wants us free. Love is His most powerful answer to fear. By His love He sent His Son, Jesus, to satisfy the demands of the law so He could forgive all sin for all mankind. Now, free of the fear which plugs our ears, we could hear Him clearly say, *"I love you, child. Come and freely take your place in My family of love."*

**Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**

Learn something about relationship with God as a Father. You are not under a law of performance to be accepted as His child. Faith in what Jesus accomplished to free you from slavery to fear under the law is all the Father needs to reveal that your place at His side is established forever in Christ.

Under the law you are always trying to figure out what you need to do to earn His blessing. Your mind never comes to rest in Him, but works overtime in every

stressful situation. Where is the peace of God? God spoke to me recently, “*I am right here, waiting for you to believe without working in your mind to believe. Just trust Me to be Who I am.*” Prayer is not work. It is a conversation with God in which He persuades you by His love to trust what He says to you: faith.

He urged me to learn the difference between hearing what He speaks to my heart and thereby simply believing in faith – versus working in my mind to convince myself to believe. He said, “*Be persuaded by My love, not logic.*” Bill Johnson often says, “*Relationship trumps principles.*” Let our focus be on hearing, not helping. The good works we do should spring from faith, knowing we are loved. Not hoping to be loved if we do enough.

**Galatians 3:2, 3, 5**

**<sup>2</sup> This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—<sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

**<sup>5</sup> Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**

## **SATISFACTION**

Satisfaction and contentment in wonderful moments can lead to continual satisfaction and contentment, if they are experienced in a state of rest and peace in Christ.

But, if the satisfaction is experienced by a heart that is not at rest and in peace in Christ, then the satisfaction will be fleeting. Dissatisfaction will arise and send the person searching for a greater experience. Satisfaction cannot remain for the heart is still in turmoil in fear that it will not be able to stay at this place of satisfaction (“*All good things are taken from me.*”). Or the fear that there must be something greater and I must strive to attain to it or I will be left out.

A heart at rest in Christ, knowing the love of God, knows that no good thing will be withheld from it – and that no peace, joy, satisfaction, rest or wonderful experience in God’s presence will be taken away.

**Psalm 84:11, 12 Amplified**

**11 For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD bestows [present] grace and favor and [future] glory (honor, splendor, and heavenly bliss)! No good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) *is* the man who trusts in You [leaning and believing on You, committing all and confidently looking to You, and that without fear . . .**



**Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

**John 14:14 “If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.”**

### **EXCERCISE**

Throughout this text we will provide many opportunities for you to overcome fear by trusting God. We will also reveal God’s greatest answers to fear and how they drive fear from you (page 22). Hang on to your hat; we will start very quickly. Here we go.

As you have read this far, have you been reminded of things you fear? Write them below.

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Now, as you are able, bring each fear to the Lord, one at a time.

- Ask Him, “Father God, how did that fear gain power in my life?”
- As you are aware of His answer, ask, “Father God who do I need to forgive for teaching me to fear and what words should I use?”
- “Father, I Choose to forgive this person for training me in fear.”
- “Father, I release the harm they caused me by this influence in my life.”
- “Father, I reject the lie that You would train me to live in fear.”
- “Father God, what’s the truth You want me to know to be free of that fear?”
- Write His answer.

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Now, go back and see if you are still able to feel the same fears as you think about each one. If you can still feel the fear as before, ask God if there is someone else to forgive. Then proceed as above. If fear does not abate, seek ministry for it. When the fear is gone, thank the Lord.

Think again about the position of the man in Isaiah 24. Ask God for an answer in the Word of God for a man who lives in this kind of fear? When you are aware of an answer that works for you, write those verses of Scripture below. Meditate on them as often as you need to get them into your heart. Remember ***God did not give us a spirit of bondage to fear. He gave us the Spirit of adoption by Whom we cry, “Abba, Father” as we are released from the bondage of even the fear of death.***

## CHAPTER TWO

# FEAR KEEPS US IN BONDAGE

**Hebrews 2:15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

I remember reading a man's testimony whose allergies controlled his life. What started as a small problem expanded into so many allergies he ended up living in a bubble. Every product had to be tested. He could not leave his bubble.

He said it started with one allergy. He was referred to a specialist who told him he had five or six allergies. Now he had to stay away from those things. Then as more tests were done, the doctors said they revealed more allergies. These things had not bothered him before, however, now by the doctor's word he started to have those symptoms. The more tests they did to try to help him, the more allergies they found until he could not live in the environment which he used to live in with much less trouble. So, he had to have a bubble constructed for him in his home.

How did the man come out of the bubble? He did come out of his bubble. He gained all his food back, all his clothes, his laundry detergent; he got it all back. Whatever he could not eat, he could eat again. Whatever he could not wear, whatever he could not smell; he got it all back.

He had listened to the tapes of Pastor Henry Wright from Georgia and began to understand that it was the fear that would come on him when he would hear the doctor's report. Whatever he feared he became allergic to. He began to recognize the power of fear. He learned to take steps of faith and overcame each fear.

As I read his testimony, I thought about the fact that fear is not faith. I knew that. But the Lord began to show me that I had a lot of misunderstandings about fear. I thought it was normal. Everybody is afraid of something. Yet, God tells us, "*Fear not!*" "*Be careful for nothing.*" I heard that God said things like this, at least 365 times in the Bible. He always says, "*Fear not, because I'm with you.*" It's as if He is saying, "*I am bigger than your fear.*" He spoke these things so often, it must be important to Him. I hope that is obvious to you.

**Hebrews 2:15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

While fear keeps us in bondage, it separates us. It keeps us from the love of God. It keeps us from loving one another. It causes us to be suspicious of one another. It causes us to believe things that are not true. And even if some things associated with fear are true, it causes us to attach too much importance to those things. We credit more weight upon what we fear than we do upon God's Word when He says, *"I am with you."*

Where is your faith? Jesus would ask that question. In effect He is asking us, *"Is your faith in Me? Or do you put more faith in what you are afraid of?"* And He said, *"According to your faith be it unto you."* This can also mean, *"According to your fear be it unto you."*

**Job 3:25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.**

Job was declared to be a righteous man. Yet, as I read Proverbs 10:24 it says, **"The fear of the wicked will come upon him."** And I said, *"God, Job was not wicked."* God said to me, *"All fear is not of faith."* All fear! It eliminates faith. No fear receives the love of God. It shuts off our ability to sense the love of God. So I asked, *"Well, what does that mean here?"* He said, *"Anything that is not of faith is sin"* (Romans 14:23).

So if we live in fear, we cannot trust God concerning the things we fear. It is wickedness to Him. In a righteous man, that is a place of wickedness. Let me write it again. In a righteous man, that is a place of wickedness. (Wickedness is another word for evil. Evil means being full of labor or toil; doing stuff to protect or promote self.) That may not line up with your thinking as you read this. God had to show me some things about righteousness so I could understand. Holiness and righteousness go together, but you can be holy before God and not be righteous in one way of thinking. As soon as you are afraid of me and not God, you are not righteous before Him, as you fail to trust Him in relating to me. You lose your peace. If you are afraid of me, there is no peace when I come around. **"The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."** (Romans 17:14). If there is no peace in your heart, righteousness has been removed, right there. You may have God's righteousness in every other area of your life, but right there you do not!

The great thing is that God does not condemn you for that. How so? Because in the blood of Christ He has forgiven all sin, for those who trust that Jesus took all our sin upon Him as He went to the Cross. His love for you has not changed one

bit. He wants to use His love, to draw you out of that fear back to confidence in Him; back to fearing (trusting) Him only. Because He loves you, He wants to do this for you. In Hebrews 2:15 He is talking about people who all their lives are in bondage to fear. That means that all their lives fear is controlling everything they do. They live as slaves, servants to fear.

Fear of death: death is anything that is not life. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Not believing in Jesus is death. Unbelief separates you from life. If you do not have Jesus, you do not have life. So you have death. It is really simple. Fear makes you a servant. It puts you in chains. It shackles you to itself.

**Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**

The spirit of bondage is the spirit of slavery that would bring you back under the control of fear once again.

You see God wants deep satisfying relationship for you with Himself. He has a desire to take you someplace that is wonderful in Him. But you cannot go. You want to go, but you start to take the first step and here comes this fear. And it is familiar to you. You have felt this way before. So you decide, "*Oh, I cannot do that. Well, I'll do this other thing instead.*" Something occurs to you right then, a natural thought, almost. Or maybe anger stirs up and agitates you. But something kicks in to mask your fear so that you do not even recognize it.

Fear is there, and just as quickly something else comes in to cover it so you do not see it. In me it is this wonderful rational mind. I just rationalize, "*This will not work, obviously. I just need to do something else.*" So I never enter into the call of God on my life. There is always some good logical reason. That's a spirit of slavery to fear.

God wants us to recognize when the enemy is using fear. There are a lot of spirits out there. Some people do not believe in evil spirits. Unfortunately there are spirits of fear. They are spirits of bondage or slavery.

Yet God is saying, "*I have given you another Spirit.*" He calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Adoption. He is bringing you into something good. He is constantly beckoning to you, "*Come on. Come on. I am taking you someplace good; a place you are designed to go. I have made you for this. Do not let that lie stop you. Come on. Let's go.*"

The Spirit of Adoption. What does it mean to you to be adopted? To me it means that someone has chosen me. It is not that I was just born and now I am someone's responsibility. Someone chose me. I have been adopted by my Heavenly Father. But He did not just look out and discover I was there. He chose me and sent Jesus to get me. The Spirit of Adoption means that God loves me. He cares tremendously about me.

And here is this love that God wants us to enjoy and He is beckoning us into it. Yet a spirit of fear whispers, *"That love is not for you. It is for everyone else. Every time you think someone is going to love you, you know what happens. You just need to go home and turn on the TV until this feeling passes."*

### **God Delivered Me**

I remember about 1985 God began doing a work in my life. Up until that time I had had what the psychologists call a phobia. A phobia is a fear of something which can be life controlling, if it progresses too far. And the phobia I had was taking progressive control of my life. At that time I was a Technical Sergeant in the United States Air Force. I had several college degrees and I qualified to apply for Officer Training School (OTS). Yet as I would prepare to apply for OTS I knew I would have to endure a physical examination. The exam was fine except for one thing. They had to take my blood. When the exam progressed to that point I had to persuade them to let me lie down, and talk to me to distract my attention. Still, before they would ever touch me to withdraw my blood, I was gone. By that I mean I would pass out. And not only that, but my blood pressure would drop quite low. After I woke up they would have to give me oxygen and sometimes even put an IV in my arm just to restore my equilibrium so I could get up and go home. And they might not get one drop of blood from me. So I would wonder how they would accomplish this. This is as bad as this phobia had gotten.

In 1985 I told the Lord that I will not even apply for OTS again unless He healed me of this phobia. I told Him I would be happy to remain an enlisted man in the Air Force. If He wanted me to be an officer He would have to do something about this. As I look back at this, knowing what God did in response to me, I can say that the issue was not whether I was an enlisted man or an officer. To God it was, *"Here is My son. He cannot move forward in his life because of this fear."*

Whatever your fear is, especially if it stops you from moving forward with God, He is opposed to it. God was not condemning me. It was sin in my life; though, I

did not know that then. God loved me and began to send thoughts into my head which changed everything. When a person has a phobia like I had, it is impossible to think about the thing you fear so much. I mean, if you will pass out and become unable to get up for two hours, you do not want to experience that again. Just thinking about it would stir up the fear and you would not even want to think about it. In fact, just hearing someone talk about it can set off the reactions of the phobia. In my case that meant everything would start going dark on me. I would start to lose control and would have to sit down and put my head between my knees so I could avoid passing out. I would have to ask people to change the subject or I would just leave.

God knew about all that. But He also knew that my thoughts about the process of having my blood taken were based on a lie. And yet fear prevented me from thinking in a rationale way about this. So what did God do? One day I was walking through a parking lot and as quick as you can blink an eye God passed a thought through my mind which revealed a truth about the process which corrected part of my wrong thinking. He did this faster than my defenses could go up. The correction in my thinking resulted in such a significant reduction of fear that I could suddenly think about what happens in the process without losing equilibrium. I could think about it without passing out. This was a tremendous breakthrough. It was one of those wow moments. All God did was reveal the facts to me. And suddenly I knew I could take the examination without passing out. Over the next couple of months God revealed a couple more facts to me about it. I put in my application and a few months later I took the examination with no problems whatsoever.

God had defeated this phobia in my life. Sometime after this victory I began to be able to receive the revelation of how deeply God loves me. He began to show me His love and to pour it upon me. And I became able to receive it like never before. It opened up for me the possibility of hearing Him speak directly to my heart. And when He told me He loved me, I knew it was Him speaking and it was true. The enemy had done something in my life and God had just destroyed that work of the devil. He overcame fear to do it.

### **HE WHO FEARS HAS NOT BEEN MADE PERFECT IN LOVE**

**1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

There is no fear in love. There is a fear of God. But the fear of God does not make you afraid of God. When He says there is no fear in love, it means I do not have to be afraid of anything. He goes on to say that perfect love casts out fear. No one who knows God doubts that His love is perfect. Perfect love casts out fear, for fear involves torment. We will talk about torment a little later.

Then this verse says, **“He who fears has not been made perfect in love.”** You have not yet allowed the love of God to perfect you. Love does a perfecting work in you. And you have not yet allowed it to perfect you. I say you have not allowed it because it is really your choice. God does not force us to be perfected. He does not force us to receive any of His truth or any of His love. He wants you to choose. Would you say you want perfect love? I cannot imagine anyone saying they would not want perfect love. But you need to understand that the presence of fear shows you something. It shows you that love has not been perfected in you yet. It reveals the truth about your own heart. There is perfect love for you, however, fear reveals that love has not been made perfect or completed in you yet.

### **A Life in Bondage to Fear**

Consider King Saul. As a man and as a king he lived in fear. In the Prophet Samuel’s day, despite his authority as a God appointed judge over the people, they demanded a king. God spoke to Samuel and told him that He would give the people what they wanted, a king.

#### **1 Samuel 10:1-7**

**1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured *it* on his head, and kissed him and said: “*Is it* not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance? 2 “When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel’s tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, ‘The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, “What shall I do about my son?” ’ 3 “Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. 4 “And they will greet you and give you two *loaves* of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. 5 “After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison *is*. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. 6 “Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.**



**7 “And let it be, when these signs come to you, *that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.***

The story of King Saul reveals a life in bondage to fear. Samuel had come to Saul and told him that he was the one that God had chosen to be King in Israel.

God was showing Saul what was about to happen in his life. And God used the events of 1 Samuel 10 to confirm to Saul that He was indeed calling him to be King over Israel. He knew that Saul, in himself, was not capable to be king over anyone. God confirmed His choice of Saul, but the most important thing God said to him was, *“I am going to be with you.”* The grace of God is the power of God deposited in you to do everything that God has ordained you to do. God does not want you to live in fear of anything He has asked you to do.

He is saying, *“I have put the grace within you. And not only that, I will go with you.”* God sees you standing there looking at Him like He is an idiot or something. Like Saul you say to Him, *“What are You looking at me for? I am the least in Israel. I cannot do anything.”* This is similar to what occurred between God and Gideon in Judges Chapter 6. God called him a mighty man of valor. Gideon responded in a similar fashion to Saul. He corrected God, *“I am from the least of the tribes. I cannot do anything.”* But God told him to, **“Go in this might of yours and you shall deliver Israel from the hand of the Midianites.”**

**1 Samuel 10:21, 22**

**21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, “Has the man come here yet?” And the LORD answered, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.”**

Here is God telling King Saul, *“I will go with you.”* And Samuel told Saul to go get prepared. But when God showed the people who their king would be, Saul hid from the people. Imagine God telling you that you are going to be king, and then confirming the word to you with signs following. In Saul’s case He literally proved to Saul that He, as God, had said this to Samuel about him. Imagine He proves this to you and says to you, *“I will be with you.”* Why would you be afraid to stand up and go with God?

We have a problem. We could go with God in similar situations as long as we did not have to face certain people along the way. *“Lord, I can go with you as long as*

*these people are not involved.*” Three chapters later you can still see this fear in the heart of King Saul. He was always looking at people.

**1 Samuel 13:7** And *some of the Hebrews* crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

As Saul observed his people, he could see the fear in them. When you are in charge and leading people and they are following you trembling; they know that you have fear in your heart.

By contrast, David had six hundred men who followed him. They were mighty men of valor. When David would say, *“We are going over here to defeat this enemy,”* they knew he had been before God, and God had spoken to him. *“Go David and overtake the enemy and recover everything.”* They knew that David knew God and that God had spoken to David. They knew that if David was going, we will be victorious. They would go fight the enemy and not lose a man. David was not a man of fear. He knew God. He had God’s heart. God had his heart. And he had perfect love in his heart from God the Father. And so when God said, *“Go,”* he knew God was going with him. He believed it. And so David’s men had perfect confidence in God and in David.

## **FEAR HAS SUBSTANCE**

Hebrews 11:1 says that faith is a substance. It is a substance. If you feel the material from which you are reading this, you touch the matter, the substance. It is solid. You can feel it. You can see it. Faith is like that. It is something you can grab hold of in your heart. There is substance to faith.

There is substance to fear. You can see fear on people. You can feel it come from them. It comes from them and defiles you. It gets on you. You will not be defiled by it, if you walk in the love of God. Then fear cannot touch you. But if you already have fear in your heart and your leader is afraid, then your fear will touch his fear and you will both be more afraid. Can you see this picture? Saul’s men saw his fear and they were not able to stay with him. They did not know what would happen to them, if they went into battle. So they hid in caves.

**1 Samuel 13:11, 12**

**11** And Samuel said, *“What have you done?”* And Saul said, *“When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and **that** you did not come within the days appointed, and **that** the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, 12* *“then I said,*

**'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."**

In verse 11 Samuel is coming, but Saul has done something he was not supposed to do. Samuel says, **"What have you done?"** He answers, **"When I saw the people were scattered from me,"** and then look at the second half of verse 12, **"Therefore I felt compelled."** What does it mean to feel compelled? It is like someone has come to you saying, *"Come on. Let's go."* And it feels like he has grabbed hold of you and is pulling you. Do you see what fear does to you? It controls you. It compels you to do something that you know you should not do. It pulls you. It tries to make you do the thing that you do not want to do. Fear does that to you. Fear disables you. But God has a solution. We will get to that. Read on.

## **FEAR WORDS**

There are a lot of words in the Bible that are what I call fear words; being *careful* about things. **"Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things."** (Luke 10:41)

Anxiety, stress, pressure, being compelled, and panic, worry, fretting, being careful: these are all fear words. God wants to show you how fear controls your life. How it hinders you.

King Saul did not know what David knew. He heard God say, *"I will be with you."* But he did not know the love of his God. He did not know that because God had chosen him that God would enable him to do what He called him to do. Saul felt compelled as he feared the people. Fear compels us to forget what God has said. Ultimately, it caused Saul to lose the kingdom. He disobeyed God in a very extreme issue.

**1 Samuel 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice."**

**"I feared the people and obeyed their voice."** Whose voice you obey, shows who you fear.

**John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments."**

When you know that God loves you and you receive His love, it gives you the confidence in His love you need to turn back to God. You do not have enough

love of your own to offer God and have it be worth anything. But God has made you with a great capacity to be filled up with His love. You are able to receive all the love of God. When you receive it, then you have the love that He wants you to return to Him. It fills your heart. Then as you come before God you naturally love Him and want to shower it upon Him.

Then you know He will be with you. Whatever He asks you to do; you know now that you can do it. You are not afraid anymore. So you step out at His command. And when you step out, someone is right beside you. He goes with you, everywhere you go. Everything He asks you to do, He is right there doing it within and through you.

The man who is filled with God's love can obey God's word. The man who cannot obey God's word fears something else. He may love God. But his love has not been perfected yet. If we fear things other than God, we may love Him, but that love has not been perfected within us yet. God wants us to receive that love. But we must come to God and allow Him to release it within us.

Saul feared people more than he feared God. He would obey his fear of the people more than he would obey the voice of the Lord. If you look up the word "fear," you will find it means "to worship the thing you behold." Whatever we fear becomes our god. What did Saul fear? He was afraid of the people because he believed they had the power to reject him as King. He feared, beyond that, that they would reject him altogether. He feared that he would be found a failure in their eyes.

Remember my story when I wanted to apply for OTS. I could not follow God, because I feared the process of having my blood taken. I trusted the outcome, that I would end up on the floor and it would be hours before I could go home. I trusted that more than I trusted God. We worship whatever we fear. Fear means worship.

We always think about what we fear. When the thing we fear is before us, we cannot think about God. We are too consumed with thoughts about that terrible thing. *"I can worship God as long as this thing does not come into my life."* When the thing I fear arrives, it takes over. It controls me. And I have to leave. God is there. But if this thing is there too, it has more power over my life than God's promise and God's word. So I have to leave.

You have seen that affect in people's lives; how fear compels them. They think on, dwell on; they focus on the things they fear. God is there, but they look at what they fear. So they bow at an altar of worship to fear. *"I will worship at the altar of abortion. If I don't, the people won't follow me."*

### **Consider the Apostle Peter**

Jesus had already given Peter victory over the fear of what religious authorities could do to him. Peter had repented for denying the Lord in the face of a young girl who could report him to the chief priests (Luke 22:61, 62). Jesus forgave him and later filled him with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Shortly thereafter Peter responded in great boldness in the face of the rulers of the temple (Acts 4:8-13). Now let us see how Peter responds years later in Antioch.

#### **Galatians 2:11, 12**

**11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.**

Peter was again controlled by fear. He worshiped Jesus until fear snuck up on him when he was not expecting it. Fear had been defeated in his life it seemed. Then he went to Antioch and was fellowshiping with the gentiles. Everything was fine. He sat with them. He ate with them. Jews were not supposed to do that. But he had a revelation in Simon the Tanner's house not to call unclean what God has called holy. He knew that he could eat with the gentiles. But then some Jewish believers arrived from Jerusalem. They came from James and the other Apostles. What if they heard about this? What would the Apostles and elders think about him? This fear led Peter to mistreat the gentile brethren with whom he had fellowshiped openly just the day before. So he separated from the gentiles and ate only with Jewish believers. In verse 12 he was, **"fearing those who were of the circumcision."** Paul saw this and said to him, *"You are to be blamed."*

Fear can control us and keep us from trusting our freedom in Christ. For the moment he was controlled again by this fear. The fear of civil authority no longer controlled him, but the fear of rejection by the brethren still had power in his life. So Paul had to confront him. Because Paul confronted him, he saw this fear in his heart. That was a good thing. Later Peter commended Paul, saying what wonderful teachings came from him (2 Peter 3:15, 16). They did not lose fellowship. They were not separated over this. They were strengthened in their relationship because Paul was bold to confront fear and help his brother.

Confrontation is not a bad thing. It is sometimes essential to help your brother. Peter repented and continued to serve the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter knew the Lord in a way that allowed him to move forward in Christ instead of allowing fear to keep him separated from his gentile brethren. He was able to finish his course and accomplish God's purpose for his life.

## **FEAR HAS TORMENT**

**1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

There are two things that bring torment to you. One is fear, as this verse says. The other is the torturers mentioned in Matthew 18:34. When we will not forgive our brother, it is like we are thrown into jail and the jailors torment us. In the English, the word can also be translated punishment. Someone is going to discover what I have done and punish me. We have not yet discovered that there is no condemnation in Christ (Romans 8:1). As the sacrifice Lamb, Jesus brought us into the New Covenant in which there is no punishment. God is not waiting for an opportunity to punish you. Why would He forgive all sin in the sacrificial death of Jesus and then punish you anyway? That would make the blood of Christ of no effect. Knowing God's love for you, it becomes natural to forgive your brother.

Now fear does not work in the spirit of a born again believer. A Christian's spirit is joined to the Spirit of God when Christ is invited into the heart (1 Corinthians 6:17). And when you are communing with Him there is no fear because there is perfect love in the Spirit of God. A lot of believers think their soul and their spirit are the same thing. They are not. Your spirit and your soul are distinct, yet you are one. However, if you are a believer being tormented by fear, you are not being tormented in your spirit. The torment is occurring in your soul.

It is happening in your thoughts and in your emotions. And your will is incapacitated. You cannot do what you want to do. You get stuck in a corner and you cannot come out. Your soul is being tormented. And your soul begins to torment itself. All I had to do was think about those needles. My emotions would fail me and my body would begin to buckle under me. If I walked into a room and heard someone talking about it, I would say, "*Don't talk about that!*"

I began to realize how subtle fear is. Most people do not even recognize their fear. God began to show me the smallest little thing. It did not even feel like fear. I would come into a room and someone would say, "*Don't come around me. I think*

*I have the flu.*” I would begin to have a fear of catching the flu. I did not have the flu, yet I would begin to feel the symptoms. If I did not repent, I would be in bed the next day with the flu. It can happen that quickly.

I began to learn. If I feel a little tickle in my throat, I just renounce that thing. I am not talking about fear now. I am talking about something else. I do not get the flu. If you have the flu, I will not get it from you. However, as soon as I become afraid that because you have the flu, I will get the flu then, fear rules me and I get what I am afraid of; that quickly. I have experienced this for myself. I checked it out. If I do not repent of the fear of getting the flu, I will get the flu. If I do not stand against it, I will get it. But, if at the slightest symptom I quickly come against it, I do not get the flu. In Christ we have that authority.

The problem is that we do not recognize how this works. We have been conditioned. The way fear works in our thoughts seems normal to us. And as it torments us in our thoughts, feelings of fear increase. Or we are tormented in our emotions first and then the torment increases in our thoughts. Our thoughts play on our feelings and our feelings play on our thoughts.

You can ask God to show you how this works. God wants to show you all the subtle plays; the way feelings shift; the way your emotions get moved. You are walking with God one moment. Your emotion changes slightly and you’re not focused on God anymore. Your thoughts are not those of faith anymore. Your thoughts transfer and now you are thinking, *“What if this? What if that?”* All the reasons you should not do what God wants you to do.

## **THE WAY OUT**

There is a way out of both conditions of torment. Torment because either you have unforgiveness in your heart, or because you are afraid of something.

**1 John 4:10 (CEV) Real love isn’t our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven.**

We loved God because He loved us first. God’s love comes to us first and as we receive it, it begins to settle things in our heart. There is something about the perfecting of God’s love. Some people are so afraid of not being loved, if they receive God’s love, they do not want to give it away. They have to hold on to the love they have. That is fear.



When God's love comes to you, it is like this: from God's heart to your heart there is a hose. His love flows from His heart through that hose to your heart. But you have placed a cap on your end of the hose. When you uncap your end the love of God begins to pour into your heart. God does not have a switch up there to turn it off. The only thing that stops it is the cap that you put on at your end. When the love of God starts to pour into you it keeps on pouring in. You are the one who can cause it to stop. Fear stops it. It puts a cap on it. God says, "*Don't be afraid. Take the cap off.*" When you do, there will always be enough for you, no matter how much you give to others.

**1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.**

As we receive God's love we give it away. We give it to our brothers and sisters. As we give it to others it flows through us to them. God is love, so He finds Himself at home in us. And we find ourselves at peace with the knowledge of God's presence within us as an abiding reality. His love chases out all fear. The more we love others, the more we are challenged to love people it was hard for us to love before. We are challenged to love those who had despitely used us and hated us. Maybe we had hated them. As we allow God's grace to enable us to love them, the fear of loving them diminishes. As we trust God to continue loving them, the fear of loving them leaves. Love defeats the fear of rejection in our hearts. God's love becomes more and more a part of who we are until it fully matures us as believers. It becomes perfected in us and fear has no place in us.

This allows you to love people who then turn around and hate you. You can love people who persecute you. You can be persecuted for righteousness' sake. You can be persecuted for the name of Jesus. And you will still love the persecutor. Though they think of you as an enemy, you love them all the more. Through that love, God now has a channel to pour love into them and to reach their hearts. He can convince them that He loves them, through you.

**1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

Whenever you see fear, you need to come running to the One Who loves you, your Heavenly Father. Come right up to Him and say, "*Lord, I am afraid. I admit to You that I do not trust You now. Something bad is threatening me. When this comes up I am not able to trust You. I am unable to stop looking at it. I do not want to be controlled by this fear. I ask You to forgive me for trusting this fear more than I trust You. I choose to trust You right now. I turn away from it and I*

*look to You. I receive Your forgiveness. I choose to trust Your love. I open my heart to You now. I receive Your love. I am staying right here and looking at You now. I am not looking at fear now. I am not worshipping it anymore. I worship You. I love You. I choose to trust You now.”*

Do you know what God does? He honors His word. When you turn to God, He takes the veil off your eyes and He begins to show you Himself. He begins to transform you into His very image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

### **How To Start**

There is something you can do to begin to position yourself before God so that you can experience the love that He has already poured into your spirit (assuming that you are a born again believer in Jesus Christ). Remember that God is love (1 John 4:8). Therefore, His Spirit is love. When you are saved you become one spirit with the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 6:17). God wants you to know the full measure of the love He has poured into you. He would not give it to you just to tease you with little moments of love, yet deny you the full manifestation of the power of His love to free you from the torment of fear. His will is your complete liberty to walk in love, led by His Spirit, as a son of God (Romans 8:14-16, Ephesians 5:2).

The steps below will prepare you to sense and know God’s love for you. Fear is the sin of not trusting God and limits your ability to sense His love. He has already forgiven your fear. He simply needs you to turn from it (repentance) and begin to seek His face.

### **EXCERCISE**

Begin by asking God if there is fear or unforgiveness in your heart. Unforgiveness is sin coupled with fear. Ask God to show you what you fear. Trust Him to not show you more than you can handle at this point in your life. Let Him show you a fear, an anxiety; some way that you are being controlled. You may want to write down what He shows you.

- Is fear or unforgiveness in your heart?
- Repent before God of the sin He shows you.

- Ask Jesus to forgive any sin by someone else against you.
- Then, with God's help, you forgive that person before God.
- Repent of any judgment in your heart for that person's failures.
- Ask God to give you new ways of thinking about this person to restore a sense of value and honor toward that one, whether or not they deserve it.
- Once peace has been established in your heart over this issue or toward this person, ask God if there is another issue or another person.
- When there are no more issues, no more people; only peace, then place yourself before God the Father and ask Him to pour His love into your heart. Wait before Him. As His love pours in you'll begin to recognize that fear is being driven from your soul. God's love is taking over.
- Love will now enable you to trust God and obey His call on your life!

Praise Him! Praise Him as you start this. Praise Him in the middle of it. Praise Him at each point of victory and each point of defeat. Praise Him when you see that fear is gone! Your praises will accelerate the process.

The more you allow God to reveal the lies the enemy uses to keep you in fear and then hear Him speak His loving truth into your heart, the more you will discover that you really can live without the fear of evil. Next we will examine what it actually means to Fear No Evil.

## CHAPTER THREE

# WHAT “FEAR NO EVIL” MEANS

In the previous chapter we defined fear as the worship of anyone or anything other than God. You put your confidence in what you fear instead of trusting God. Even if the thing you fear is obviously harmful, you believe the harmful projection rather than trust God’s promise to protect and provide for you. In this chapter we will define what it means to Fear No Evil.

Evil is anything you are persuaded you need to believe or do to protect or provide for yourself, rather than believe God’s word; trusting Him as your source of protection and provision. He asks us, *“Do you trust My love for you or your own wisdom and ability?”* Psalm 23 is saying, *“Fear no persuasion to turn away from God to take care of you.”* We need to repent; turn back to God and faith in His word.

**Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

Give me some latitude to share with you what I see in the Greek definitions of evil. These are the same Greek words that appear in the Septuagint, which is the version of the Old Testament widely available to Jesus, Paul and the other Apostles. The Strong’s dictionary reference numbers for Greek words are added and underlined next to the relevant English words, also underlined. Notice several Greek definitions for the word evil. To not get lost in the definitions, I suggest you focus on the underlined words.

**John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”**

**John 3:19-21 (KJV)**

**19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.<sup>G4190</sup> 20 For every one that doeth evil<sup>G5337</sup> hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**

Evil then means to **toil in anguish for daily subsistence** which, compared to being in God's garden, is **worthless and foul**. Rather than knowing you are the favored of God, you feel worthless like a beggar. Of course, feeling this way leads to believing you are worthless to God. Your thoughts and feelings degrade from knowing you please God without earning His favor (Ephesians 2:8, 9) to believing you must toil to please Him. Wanting to please God and interpreting His response as evidence of failure, we, like Cain, feel rejected and therefore reject God's counsel. Then we blame God for the effect of our choices. We no longer want to come to the light. We prefer to keep ourselves in darkness. And we pass this way of thinking on to our children.

**James 1:13 (KJV) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil,<sup>G2556</sup> neither tempteth he any man:**

Considering Genesis 2, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not a temptation. Because God gives us choices does not mean He tempts us. The devil, however, does tempt us by casting doubt on God's goodness. He lies. He then suggests that the way to know the truth is to do the opposite of the good God desires for us.

To eat of knowledge is to listen to it, meditate on it (chew on it) and decide how to use it for desired results. Once that knowledge enters into our spirit and soul as a seed, if we don't spit it out, it will take root and produce fruit. Notice the fruit in Cain (Genesis 4:1-16). Because of his parents' sin, rather than enjoy the provision of God's garden without toil, he must labor to provide for himself. Yet somehow Cain and his brother Abel knew that God was good and they wanted to please Him. The knowledge of good pointed to God. But the knowledge of evil (toil and anguish) was not as obvious. Abel's gift pleased God. Somehow it was not

**G4190** ponēros, From a derivative of **G4192**; *hurtful*, that is, *evil (in effect or influence*, thus differing from **G2556**, which refers rather to *essential* character, as well as from **G4550**, which indicates *degeneracy from original virtue*); *calamitous; ill, diseased*; (morally) *culpable*, that is, *derelict, vicious; mischief, malice, or guilt*; the *devil, or sinners*: - bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked (-ness).

**G4192** ponos, From the base of **G3993**; *toil, that is, anguish*: - pain.

**G3993** penēs, From a primary "peno" (*to toil for daily subsistence*); *starving*, that is, *indigent*: - poor.

**G2556** kakos, Apparently a primary word; *worthless (intrinsically such*; whereas **G4190** properly refers to *effects*), that is, (subjectively) *depraved*, or (objectively) *injurious*: - bad, evil, harm, ill, wicked.

**G5337** phaulos, a primary word; *"foul"*, that is, *wicked*: - evil.

attached to evil. Cain's gift did not please God as it was from his toil and anguish. Our toil and anguish as a means of pleasing God is evil in His eyes. Righteousness with God never comes from what we do. It is given to us by faith; what we believe. What we need to see though, is that God did not condemn Cain. He simply attempted to instruct Cain how to bring an offering He could respect. We then see that Cain was ruled by his negative emotions (sin) rather than God's counsel.

Had Cain stayed talking to God long enough to hear with spiritual ears, sin would have lost its power to control him. But, alas, Cain walked out the door too soon and sin mastered him. He toiled in anguish to still the voice of failure and condemnation on his own. Failing to do that, anger gave place to sin's temptation and he killed his brother. It's interesting that God did not stop talking to Cain even then. Still Cain chose to move away from God and from those who communed with God, not wanting to hear God's voice anymore

**1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil,<sup>G4190</sup> and his brother's righteous.<sup>G1342</sup>**

**G1342**, dikaios, From **G1349**; *equitable* (in character or act); by implication *innocent*, *holy*: just, **right** (-eous).

John used the Greek word, **G4190** ponēros, which means to be *hurtful in effect or influence*, and **not evil in essential character**. At first, Cain's essential character was not evil, but there was now some *degeneracy* from original virtue which led to hurtful effect. Whereas, John declared Abel was in the state of innocence, thus righteous.

**1 Peter 3:11 (KJV) Let him eschew evil,<sup>G2556</sup> and do good;<sup>G18</sup> let him seek peace, and ensue it.**

**G18** agathos, A primary word; "good" (in any sense, often as noun): - **benefit**, good (-s, things), **well**.

**3 John 11 (KJV) Beloved, follow not that which is evil,<sup>G2556</sup> but that which is good.<sup>G18</sup> He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil<sup>G2554</sup> hath not seen God.**

Peter and John both suggest that we turn away (repent) from what has become intrinsically worthless and injurious within us, our works to please God, and choose what is good (John 6:29) – faith. They knew such a choice would be met with God's grace.

Now we'll need to expand our definition of evil as we look at Psalm 23:4. For the definitions the Greek focuses on are about the nature of the person or people we may encounter. In life there are many other things the enemy seeks to use to control our lives through fear. The Hebrew word for evil found in this key verse is **rah**, which covers natural and moral sources of potential danger to us. There are things in nature such as lions, tigers and bears plus scorpions, bees and snakes which may cause us physical harm. There are also storms, diseases, sorrows and other calamities. And there are spiritual entities such as evil spirits and morally evil people.

**Psalm 23:4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: <sup>H7451</sup> for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

### **H7451, rah, raw-aw'**

From **H7489**; *bad* or (as noun) *evil* (naturally or morally). This includes the second (feminine) form; as adjective or noun: -adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, + displeasure (-ure), distress, evil ([-favouredness], man, thing), + exceedingly, X great, grief (-vous), harm, heavy, hurt (-ful), ill (favoured), + mark, mischief, (-vous), misery, naught (-ty), noisome, + not please, sad (-ly), sore, sorrow, trouble, vex, wicked (-ly, -ness, one), worse (-st) wretchedness, wrong. [Including feminine ra'ah; as adjective or noun.]

In the dark valleys where dangers of these various forms lie in wait to overtake us with fears of harm, trauma or death, God has promised that He is walking with us. As we make Him our dwelling place (Psalm 91:1, 10); none of those things will harm us. He is our secret place of safety and provision. What natural event or spiritual enemy can penetrate His shield of protection that surrounds us by our faith in His word?

### **What Does Fear No Evil Mean Then?**

To fear no evil, therefore, means not to fear those who have been influenced away from innocence to become **hurtful or even evil in character**. It also means **to not** turn away from God as your source of provision and protection; **to not** start seeking knowledge, apart from God's influence, on how to provide for and protect yourself, or to find other sources of such.

John said that those who do evil have not seen God. They don't yet know how ready He is to take care of them. Those who seek God will find Him. Seek Him in spirit and truth. Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and everything you need will be provided for you. God has always wanted relationship with us based

on trust, rather than relationship based on obedience to rules. That's God's love and His goodness.

**Matthew 6:25, 26, 31-33**

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

<sup>31</sup> "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

When we learn to trust His love and goodness, we discover He made us just like Himself. Trusting who He is within us, we partake of His divine, loving and good nature. We become naturally just like our Father. Knowing we are His children without needing to prove anything to Him, deals a deadly blow to the work of fear in our lives (1 John 4:18).

**2 Peter 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

**1 John 3:1, 2**

<sup>1</sup> Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

When fear shouts through traumatic circumstances or whispers in the dark of night, do we remember the loving truths God has spoken to us personally? Do we remember what He spoke in times past to those who walked in faith? In every tempting situation to yield to fear, open the ears of your heart to hear God speak, "Fear Not."



## **Helpful Questions**

See if you can answer a few questions based on the text of this chapter.

How have we defined fear?

If that definition is unclear or does not work for you, how do you define fear?

What is our definition of evil?

Consider the various ways evil is defined in the Strong's. Are any of these familiar to you? Which ones feel true to you and why?

What is your definition of evil?

What or who is the source of temptation to evil?

What do Peter and John both suggest?

What does 'Fear No Evil' mean to you?

What answer to the fear of evil does God provide?

## CHAPTER FOUR

# FEAR NOT

**Genesis 26:24 (KJV) And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I *am* the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I *am* with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.**

In the phrase "*Fear not, for I am with you,*" God is giving us a simple directive for walking in faith. "*Never be afraid of anything, anyone or any event. I am with you at all times in all circumstances. If you know that I am bigger than all your enemies and I am always by your side, you never have a reason to fear. Do not fear. Trust Me in every situation and I will always take care of you.*" God brings all this down to one simple statement, "*Fear not, for I am with you.*" God declares this to us at least 35 times throughout scripture. Each time He says, "*Fear not,*" He always gives you a promise, if you will trust Him.

In the phrase, "*Fear not,*" God is instructing us to choose to not be afraid. In the phrase, "*I am with you,*" He is saying we can trust Him. He is instructing us to choose to trust Him, regardless of what we experience.

In the Old Testament each "Fear not" statement is followed by one of three promise declarations.

- Fear not, for I am (with you in some specified way)
- ◊ Fear not, for the Lord (will help you in the way declared)
- Fear not, you shall (overcome in the way declared)

Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults.

- **Genesis 15:1(KJV) Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield,**
- **Genesis 46:3 (KJV) fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:**
- **Numbers 21:34 (KJV) Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand,**
- **Joshua 8:1 (KJV) Fear not, neither be thou dismayed:**
- **Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'**
- **Isaiah 43:5 Fear not, for I *am* with you; I will bring your descendants**
- **Isaiah 44:2 Fear not, O Jacob, My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.**
- **Isaiah 51:7 (KJV) fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.**

- Isaiah 54:4 (KJV) Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded;
- Jeremiah 30:10 (KJV) fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, . . . I will save thee
- ◊ Exodus 14:13 (KJV) Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD,
- ◊ Exodus 20:20 (KJV) Fear not: for God is come to prove you,
- ◊ Numbers 14:9 (KJV) the LORD is with us: fear them not.
- ◊ Deuteronomy 31:6 (KJV) fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, . . . will not fail thee
- ◊ 1 Samuel 12:20 (KJV) Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;
- ◊ 2 Kings 6:16 (KJV) Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.
- ◊ 2 Chronicles 20:17 (KJV) fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you.
- ◊ Isaiah 7:4 (KJV) fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands,
- ◊ Isaiah 35:4 (KJV) Be strong, fear not: . . . , your God will come *with* vengeance,
- Judges 6:23 (KJV) Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.
- 2 Kings 25:24 (KJV) Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees:
- Daniel 10:19 O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong,

In the New Testament each “Fear not” statement is followed by one of three promise declarations.

- Fear not, believe only (and the specified result will be yours)
  - ◊ Fear not, God is . . . (in this special capacity)
  - Fear them not, fear God
- Matthew 10:26 (KJV) Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed;
- Matthew 10:31 (KJV) Fear ye not . . . , ye are of more value than many sparrows.
- Luke 8:50 (KJV) Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.
- ◊ Matthew 28:5 (KJV) Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.
- ◊ Luke 1:13 (KJV) Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; . . . Elisabeth shall bear thee a son,
- ◊ Luke 2:10 (KJV) Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
- ◊ Luke 12:32 (KJV) Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- ◊ John 12:15 Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.
- ◊ Acts 27:24 (KJV) Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar:
- ◊ Revelation 1:17 (KJV) Fear not; I am the first and the last:
- Matthew 10:28 (KJV) And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul:

Do you see how important this statement is before God? Agree with God that if He is with us, we have nothing to fear. Say out of your mouth with the Psalmist, *“I will fear no evil. I will not bow to the god of fear. I will trust in the LORD God, even if He slays me.”*

**Matthew 10:28 (KJV) And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**Acts 7:59, 60**

<sup>59</sup> And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Could Stephen have endured this had he lived in fear? No. He would never have ventured to stand before the Sanhedrin and declare their sin to them. He would have remained hidden as he had before being baptized in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Like the rest of us he had been in bondage to the fear of death. Now he could boldly declare Christ, having been set free.

**Hebrews 2:15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Stephen, like the other disciples chose to obey Jesus and wait for the promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) and found, in this commitment and the promise received a victory over fear. But some people choose to stay in bondage though they know the promise is real and for them. They choose their bondage because they love it.

**John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

When you love darkness and cannot give it up – even for God – your condemnation is that you know this love separates you from God, yet you hold onto it and forsake God. You cannot love God and mammon.

As in all sin there is a fear in this picture. The fear prevents you from obeying God and letting go of the object you love so you can love Him. The fear is that if you let God remove this thing from you, you will be miserable from then on. You fear that you will never again enjoy the happiness you have found in this thing you love.

**Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes *one* rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.**

The thing we love may not be bad or evil in itself. It may be a holy person before God. It may be a precious animal or a beautiful piece of jewelry. It may be leading God's people into worship or revelation. It is not the thing itself that is darkness; it is that you choose this thing over God. It takes God's place in your heart to some degree. It is choosing this thing over God that is your idolatry.

What we fail to see is that God is love. He loves us and wants to fulfill our joy. He does that by removing darkness. When he sees we are ready, He shines His light on darkness within us and reveals it to us as the sin of loving it over Him. If we repent of idolatry and let Him establish His righteousness there, then He comes and fills that place with His love, which is peace and joy – His kingdom. He does that by beckoning us to come to Him to receive love until our fear is settled. In receiving His love is great peace and joy to the full. He loves us into loving Him.

We find that in repentance of our darkness and fear there is the release of God's great love to us. As we remove the plugs of fear that stop up the love hose, His kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy expands within us.

**Luke 12:31, 32**

**<sup>31</sup> But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>32</sup> “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

It is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. So He will give you joy for your darkness. Do not stay in bondage to fear, give up your darkness and let God give you the kingdom.

**If you fear anything more than you fear God, then there is something you love more than you love God. You are worshipping that thing. It has become an idol to you – a darkness you love.**

When someone shines light upon this issue, you hate that person. Why? They are being used by God to expose your darkness as sin and idolatry. So you hate the light, for it is the true exposor of your sin, not the person God is using. In reality you hate the light. The light is Jesus!

**John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”**

## THE OUTCOME OF YOUR LIFE

**Genesis 26:24 (KJV)** And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I *am* the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I *am* with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

**Jeremiah 29:11–13**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

The outcome of your life is already determined for good if you will agree with God. Live in faith, not fear, and you will experience God's favor.

**Deuteronomy 31:6-8 (KJV)**

**6** Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. **7** And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. **8** And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

God will not fail you. He will go with you.

Why does God say, “*Fear not?*” There are things out there that can be frightening. There are giants in the land. If you fear the giants instead of God, you will fail to enter into your inheritance. Fear is the source of your doubt and unbelief and leads you to disobey God.

God is saying, “*I have an expected end for you of good, not evil. It is yours if you trust Me to obey Me in faith. If, instead you live out of fear, you will end up with the end you fear, for that will be the product of your faith. What you believe for is what you will get. Therefore, ‘Fear not.’ Believe only in My promises and you shall have them.*”

**Romans 8:31–39**

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who

also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: “*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*” <sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Also see Isaiah 43:1-7.)

**2 Chronicles 20:17 (KJV) Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you.**

There is no need for you to fight your enemy. God is ready to destroy them for you, if you are ready to give up being the hero, and ready to give up your darkness.

**Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.**

**Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’**

**To all who love and worship God, He is a strength, a song, their shield and sure defense. He is our salvation!**

**How does fear move us from a position of confidence in God, Who as our strength and our song, is also our sure defense? That’s what we will discuss next.**

## CHAPTER FIVE

# THROUGH FEAR WE ERR IN OUR HEARTS

**Hebrews 3:10 (KJV)** Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.

We err because we do not trust God. We do not know His ways. His way is to always push us to confront the things we fear. He tells us, *“I am with you. Go and do the thing you fear. Trust Me, I will help you.”* He does this to teach us to walk in faith. Instead, out of fear, we err in our hearts. We do our own thing. Fear is what derails you from following God. The Spirit of God is He Who empowers you to trust God.

**Proverbs 10:24** The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

**Zechariah 4:6, 7**

**6** Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. **7** Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof with* shoutings, *crying, Grace, grace* unto it.

It would be good for you to read over Hebrews 3:7-19 and Numbers 13. As you read in Hebrews 3:10 above; the Hebrews always erred in their hearts. That is what kept them out of the Promised Land. A simple reading of Numbers 13 reveals that fear led the people to doubt God. They believed their fears more than they believed God. Through fear we err in our hearts when we do not believe God. This happens because we do not really know God or His ways. Once fear leads us to err in our hearts, then we harden our hearts through unbelief. We fail to enter our rest through unbelief.

**Hebrews 3:12, 13, 15–19**

<sup>12</sup> Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; <sup>13</sup> but exhort one another daily, while it is called *“Today,”* lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

<sup>15</sup> while it is said: *“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”* <sup>16</sup> For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who



came out of Egypt, *led by Moses?* <sup>17</sup> Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?* <sup>18</sup> And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

What hardens our hearts? Verse 13, “**lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**” The deceitfulness of sin hardens our hearts.

How? Sin persuades you that unless you protect yourself, what you fear will happen. We project a bad outcome into our future. We then become so fearful that we seek furtively for a way of escape or a way to defend ourselves. Even a passive person will find a way to defend himself.

How do we protect ourselves? Often we will strike before we are struck. Rather than admit fault in an argument, we will blame someone else. If we are not getting our way, we fear what that might mean, so we control the other person.

I have watched people use tactics of manipulation to get their way. I have seen some use fear to bend the will of another, so that person had to do it their way. Right then they lost respect and eroded the authority they had in that situation. Whenever you use fear to manipulate, it is because you do not trust God to take care of you. You are afraid of something. The unfortunate results of using fear to control another are that you, either create a puppet and lose love, – or the person catches on, walks away and you lose love.

Sin persuades you that what you fear will happen to you unless you do such and such (protect yourself). Pray this right now, “*Lord, show me the thing I fear and the action sin suggests I take to protect myself.*” Write down what He shows you.

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You may not agree with sin the first time it puts this fear before you and suggests some action. But sin keeps pressing the point, “*See. It’s happening again. You better do something. Haven’t you had enough yet?*”

Turn to God in faith and ask, “*Lord, what is happening here? What do You want me to do?*” And then wait for His answer. If you do not wait for God’s answer, sin will keep pressuring you, “*See? See? See?*”

Finally, you agree with sin and say, *“I’ve had enough. I won’t endure this anymore.”* And you harden your heart. You decide right then to protect yourself and you harden your heart into that decision. Why? You fear being vulnerable again in hope.

Sin fears the worst outcome, speaks the worst outcome and plans a sinful way to react to that outcome. Or it plans a way to prevent that outcome through control and manipulation or by striking first.

Faith, working through love, believes the best, speaks the best and seeks God for a life giving response to bless with the best, even when the other is spitefully using you. Faith asks God for an answer and faith implements the answer. When the answer is, *“Simply trust,”* faith simply trusts.

In Daniel chapter 6 a plot was hatched against Daniel to find fault with him so his jealous adversaries could have him killed. They persuaded the king to sign a decree that no one could petition any god or man except the king for thirty days. If anyone did so they were to be thrown to the lions. Daniel could have allowed fear to dictate his response. Instead he trusted God.

**Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.**

Picture Daniel on his knees facing Jerusalem with his windows open. There is peace here, before God, though a storm of threat and temptation to fear is raging all around. This is submission to the God of peace. He did not have to protect himself. God protected him.

Contrast Daniel’s response in this situation to King Saul’s response in 1 Samuel 13. Saul was supposed to wait for Samuel to arrive to offer a sacrifice to the Lord before entering battle. As the Philistines massed and his army shrank in fear, Saul took matters into his own hands out of fear and suffered the loss of the kingdom as God sought for a man after His heart.

#### **1 Samuel 13:10–14**

**<sup>10</sup> Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. <sup>11</sup> And Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* you did not come within the days appointed, and *that***

the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.” <sup>13</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

Picture Saul watching the Philistines gather and his army is shrinking in fear. He decides, “*No. I can’t wait on Samuel (or on God) any longer. I will make the sacrifice or the people will leave me* (fear speaking).” Even while Saul is making the sacrifice, to have peace in his heart about it, he must cut off the voice of the Spirit. He must harden his heart to not remember Samuel’s instruction, or hear God’s Spirit warn him. Sin and his flesh win. His spirit loses. This is how we err in our hearts. We listen to the voice of fear and we ignore the word of God. We harden our hearts to not hear the voice of the Spirit.

## **2 Kings 6:11-15**

**11** Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?” **12** And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who *is* in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” **13** So he said, “Go and see where he *is*, that I may send and get him.” And it was told him, saying, “Surely *he is* in Dothan.” **14** Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. **15** And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

Picture yourself as Elisha’s servant. What thoughts would run through your mind as you see the Syrian army all around you? What action would you take? Do not fool yourself. In hindsight you always see clearer than you see when facing your enemy in the moment. Be honest with yourself. Can you let God show you what’s in your heart?

Ask the Lord this question. “*Lord, what situation would present me with the greatest temptation to fear?*” Wait for Him to bring some memory or some projected future threat into your conscious mind. Write it down.

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Now ask, “*Lord, what thoughts naturally run through my mind in that situation? Would I be in peace or fear?*” Write down what He reveals to you.

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Maybe you did not think fearful thoughts. Your mind may have immediately started thinking how to react. If you stop thinking of your response, is your mind at peace? Can you relax and wait for God to speak?

Whether you had fearful thoughts you could identify or thoughts of how to react ask God these questions. “*Lord, what do You want me to know in a situation like that? Is there something I fail to see? What does Your Word say? What do You want me to do?*” Wait before Him long enough to receive His answers. Write down what you sense from Him.

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### **2 Kings 6:16, 17**

**16** So he answered, “**Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**” **17** And Elisha prayed, and said, “**LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.**” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. **And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

When you trust God and begin to let Him use you in what may seem small ways, the enemy will know who you are and where to find you. The devil will know that a little insignificant child of God is discovering his strategies and interrupting his operations. If God chooses to use you in such a significant way, you need to know that when the enemy discovers you, **you have no reason to fear**. You can trust Jehovah Nissi, the Lord our Banner. He is the Lord of Hosts. Are you aware of the angels of God around you? Yes there are demons reporting your actions to the devil. But all you need is faith in God, for those who are for us are more than those who are with them. Not only is God always with you, His angels are always camped round about you. He only needs your faith to activate them.

Will you be like King Saul and plan your own way to survive? Or will you, like Daniel, turn your face toward God and trust Him to deliver you? **Hear the exhortation to trust God.**

**Hebrews 3:12-15**

**12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”**

**Isaiah 12:1-3;**

**1 And in that day you will say: “O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. 2 Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ ” 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

**Trust God. Do not fear. He is your salvation, your strength and your song. In Him are the wells of salvation from which you may draw with joy. In the face of your greatest fear, draw water from the wells of salvation with joy.**

**How is it that some people get free of fear through some simple ministry experiences and others receive the same ministry and yet do not experience the same level of freedom? The answer to that question is as varied as each person’s history. In the next two chapters we’ll dig into one source of fear which controls many and is often passed down from generation to generation leading some to feel hopeless. Yet, in Christ there is always hope. Let’s explore His answers.**

## CHAPTER SIX

# SPIRIT OF FEAR

## Part One – The Snare

I am not going to spend time proving there are spirits of fear. There are some fears you may not get the victory over unless you deal with a spirit which uses fear to control and torment you. This study is to help you recognize when that is necessary and how to deal with it.

### Isaiah 24:16-18 KJV

**16 From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, my leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! The treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. 17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. 18 And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.**

Before verse 16 there is a mixture of woes and recriminations and then words of looking to the righteous God. **“From the utter most parts of the earth have we heard songs even glory to the righteous.”** It sounds like they are beginning to magnify God. But then someone stands up in the midst of that who says, **“But I said, my leanness, my leanness, woe unto me. The treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously, yea; the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. Fear and the pit and the snare are upon thee, oh inhabitant of the earth.”**

I found doing a word study on the word “snare” to be very interesting. I began to think, *“Here is someone who is hearing a noise that produces fear in his heart. It might not produce fear in someone else, but in this person it does.”* It makes him certain something he fears is about to happen. He gets up and starts to run and falls into a pit. Now more alarmed and scrambling frantically, somehow he climbs out. He starts running again and steps into the snare. The word “snare” in the Hebrew coincides with the word “noise.” The “snare” is the “noise” he is hearing. The noise may sound like this; *“The thing you dread is going to happen to you. Here it comes!”* As he runs, he falls in the pit, climbs out of the pit, and starts running. Then whatever it is he is afraid of happens to him. The snare is what he was running from. He heard it was coming upon him; he started to run and ran right into it.

When fear comes upon you, do not get up and run. That is exactly what the enemy wants you to do. He has sent a spirit to lead you to destruction. In Hebrews 4 and James 1 we learn that God moves in our lives because of faith; not because of need. You need a lot of things. You do not have them for any number of reasons. Either you have forgotten God's promise in His word and yielded to fear. Or your faith is not sufficient, but you haven't given up hope yet. There is always something God wants you to learn of His faithfulness to sustain you while He prepares you to receive what you need in a way you never imagined. Under every failure of faith, which is the sin of missing the mark He set for you, if you look deep enough, you will find the reason people cannot trust God and cannot obey God is because they are afraid. How will it turn out, if they do it the way God wants? They disobey God out of fear.

First there is deception from the enemy; then there is fear. *"What terrible event is going to happen in my life? How can I prevent it? Oh no, here it comes!"* That fear leads you down a pathway into sin; we act out of fear. We may then seek to justify ourselves and judge others in comparison. This can lead to hardening our heart in judgment and pride. These sins get fostered in us out of an under-girding foundation of fear; rather than a foundation of faith in the love of Christ, our Rock.

#### **Romans 8:14–16**

**<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

There is a spirit of bondage to fear. However, God's plan is for you to discover that you are accepted and loved by God the Father. In Christ, you are able, out of your own spirit, to cry out in joy, *"Abba Father."* The Spirit of God witnesses with a believer's spirit that she/he is a child of God. You do not need to fear!

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

Fear is a spirit. It is not just an emotion within you; it is a spirit that will not let you act in faith. If there is fear in your life and you cannot act in faith, you are becoming one with something - fear. You can become one with fear. Or you can become one with God, in faith. I want you to learn something that will bring deliverance for you. Fear or faith; are you going to allow a spirit of fear to control

your life? The Holy Spirit of power will not control you. He will guide you in grace, truth and love. Choose faith!

**1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

Fear involves torment. What do demons do? They torment people. Fear has torment because it is a spirit. You are not going to torment yourself and God is not going to torment you. But a spirit will torment you. In agreeing with fear we open the door for a spirit of fear to come upon us. And that spirit will torment us and lead us to destruction. That spirit will always say to you, *“You better be careful. Something terrible is about to happen.”* There is always an expectation of something bad. That spirit gets you up and running from that noise; that fear. As you run, you do the opposite of what God would lead you to do. God does not want you to run from fear. He wants you to stand and face fear.

In faith you can defeat fear. Faith always defeats fear because faith works through love. Faith is of God and fear is of the devil. Who is bigger? If you have fear in your life, know that all you have to do is get in touch with the One Who loves you with perfect love. Focus on Him and let His words of love begin to reverberate in your heart. You can rise up in faith and defeat the thing you fear.

God’s Word says resist the devil and he will flee from you. There is a process of resisting the devil. You do not resist him when you are still in agreement with fear. You have to come out of agreement with fear by repenting of something that is sin in your life. Did you know that fear is sin? According to Romans 14:23, anything that is not of faith is sin. Therefore, believing more in what you fear than in God is sin. You resist by turning to God and trusting Him in the face of fear. I am describing how to do that in many ways throughout this book. Keep reading.

If fear is coming your way, you should be able to sense it within yourself. God wants you to learn how to discern the noise of fear. There is a noise fear makes; a sound which you can discern and say, *“This is fear.”* You can say, *“I will not agree with this.”*

The noise of fear often comes as a voice. Fear is not just an emotion; it is a spirit. It speaks fear filled thoughts into your head and tries to get you to run. God wants you to realize that this is an enemy. If you are going to run from a spirit of fear, then you are going to fall in the pit; you are going to climb out, begin to run and step in the snare. The thing that will get you is the noise you are hearing.



## **Debby's Dream**

Debby had a dream one night. In the dream we were already married, we had our children but they were still small. We had four cats with us. In the time period she was dreaming of we only had one cat, but in this dream four cats we owned at a later time were with us. We were packing to go home and looking for all the kennels to put the cats in. We realized we only had one kennel for four cats. Debby loved her cats; they were precious to her. She goes down into the basement of her old house. She starts rummaging through all kinds of neat things but she is not finding any boxes or crates. All of a sudden she senses something right next to her and it is cold. Then fear made a noise. It said something into her being that frightened her. *"There aren't enough kennels. You can't take all your cats."* She was not afraid, until she sensed this thing come right up beside her and began to speak to her, wanting to enter in right then. That is how it works.

In Debby's own words: "Because I knew that I would not be able to take the cats, a fear came upon me. A fear so great that I could feel it, sense it, smell it, taste it. It was almost like a personality came upon me so great that it became a part of me though it was not really me; more like a separate characteristic that came upon me. The Lord was showing me how fear is, that it actually takes on a characteristic of its own when you allow it to fester in you. I allowed that fear when I thought I knew I would not be able to take my cats. If I left them they would not survive. That fear came upon me and had taken over my being. It was like a total separate person had taken over me."

Fear is not just an emotion, it is often a spirit.

### **An Exercise to Dethrone Fear**

What you can do here is very simple and effective. However, you may need some assistance from someone who knows their authority in Christ the first time you do this. Those who are trained in Bethel Sozo prayer ministry are certainly able.

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a specific fear in your life. *"Holy Spirit, what fear has power in my life?"*
2. Ask Holy Spirit what event(s) gave the spirit of fear an opening to put fear on you. *"Holy Spirit, what happened in my life that opened a door for a spirit of fear to have some measure of control over me?"*

3. Ask Holy Spirit if there are any people who were involved that you need to forgive. *“Holy Spirit, who do I need to forgive?”*

4. Forgive those people. *“Holy Spirit, I choose to forgive (name the people) for being part of fear getting power in my life. I release them from the hurt and the effects that fear has had on me since then.”*

5. Hand the spirit of fear to Father God or Jesus and ask what He gives you in exchange. *“Jesus, I hand this spirit of fear of (name the fear) to You. What do You give me in exchange?”*

6. The first thing you hear or see or sense is likely God’s answer. Does it bring peace to your heart? Write it down and thank God for His answer. You may need to allow more than just a minute or two. It’s worth waiting. When God speaks, His words are more powerful than anything a person can say to you, even if that person is speaking prophetically. Go back to step one and start again.

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**If nothing changes**, find someone who can minister Bethel Sozo prayer ministry, maybe even schedule a Sozo session. That can be the quick and easy approach. If you prefer to tackle fear working alone with God, read further. But don’t be reluctant to seek help from someone who can.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

# SPIRIT OF FEAR

## Part Two - Going Forward

To take more control over fear in your life you may want to go a little further. On two separate sheets of paper write two separate lists. On one write your fears. See a list of common fears on page 50, below. On the other write verses of Scripture that you become aware of which answer your fears. You may want to look back at pages 31 and 32 of chapter 3, Fear Not. As you see which verses answer your fears, put the Scriptures next to each fear as you see which word of God answers them. In the list of Scriptures, you may notice that several fears are answered by one verse of Scripture. So list each fear next to the verse which answers it. You will start to see, there is a fear of being destroyed, but God speaks a word, *“Be still and know that I am God.”*

Mathew 6:25 says, *“Do not worry about your life.”* Verse 27 asks, *“Which one of you can add a cubit to your stature, so why do you worry?”* Verse 30 continues, *“Will He not much more cloth you, oh you of little faith?”* Verse 31; *“Do not worry.”* Verse 34; *“Do not worry.”* God is constantly reminding you and encouraging you not to worry about anything. To Paul He said, *“My grace is sufficient.”* In yourself, you cannot defeat fear. He has defeated fear for you. You need to see what God has done for you in the victorious life of His Son.

God says, *“Fear not, for I am with you.”* *“My love casts out fear.”* Love has great power to break down the much weaker power of fear within people. Those of us who have lived all our lives, as it says in Hebrews 2:15, **“in bondage to fear,”** have a hard time believing that fear can be defeated in our lives. It seems so big, so potent and pervasive in our lives, how can anyone defeat it? God says, *“My grace is sufficient for you.”*

**2 Corinthians 12:9** And He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**Philippians 4:6, 7**

<sup>6</sup> **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;** <sup>7</sup> **and the peace of God,**

**which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

There is one place in Scripture where it says; you must be born again; one place (John 3:7). You all know and believe and accept that. There are 365 places in the Scripture where some form of this phrase is used, “*Fear not,*” “*Don’t be afraid,*” “*Why are you so fearful?*” Do you know that fear is an enemy? This is important! Your enemy seeks whom he may devour. He will steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10) and he will use fear to do it.

What kind of fear is he using in your life?

Fear of failure	fear of being alone	fear of intimacy
fear of rejection	fear of financial lack	fear of too much money
fear of man	fear of backsliding	fear of the noise of fear
fear of authority	fear of disobedience	fear of obedience
fear of love	fear of hate	fear of the unknown
fear of what God is telling you to do	fear of new circumstances	
fear of success and not knowing how to handle it		
fear of not being good enough to go to heaven, etc., etc.		

You can find over 200 fears mentioned in Scripture. Behind every fear is a spirit that will come in and aggravate that fear and try to make you one with him in that fear. You may think you will never be free from a particular brand of fear. You can never seem to get free of it. If you can just stand up and walk out of a fear, there is no spirit there. If you cannot, there is a demon keeping you bound up in that fear. What you need is the Spirit of power and love. Who is that? He is the Holy Spirit. Power that sets you free is from the Spirit of God. And He is also full of love for you. God has given you a Spirit of power, love and a sound mind. You receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon you (Acts 1:8). Jesus said, “*If I by the finger of God (the Spirit of God) cast out devils.*” (Luke 11:20). There is power in every believer to cast out devils because of the Spirit of God. More importantly, all through the Gospel of John Jesus talks about the Father’s love. The Father loves you! Power is available to us because of God’s love.

Whenever you are ministering, the power to minister is given to you because the Father loves everyone. You are imparting His love. They need to know God’s love because their earthly father may not have received that kind of love; therefore could not give them the love they need. We get our image of the heavenly Father from our earthly father. We develop a wrong fear of God the Father. That kind of fear is not what God is talking about in Scripture. When He says, “*Fear the Lord,*”

he wants you to have a reverence, a holy awe of God. He does not want you to be afraid to come to him. Jesus came to reconcile us to whom? The Father. He wants us to know we can come boldly to the throne of grace, standing before the Father in confidence (Hebrews 4:16).

In John 14:15 you will see obedience and love mixed together. Your disobedience comes out of fear. Fear brings you into agreement with Satan. Even so, God is not going to make you obey Him. Out of fear you cannot. Out of faith you can. Faith works through love (Galatians 5:6). Yet we are not talking about the command to love God. We are talking about the fact that God loves you first (1 John 4:19). When you really know He loves you, you can trust Him and obey.

**Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”**

God is ready to take care of us. He does so through faith. God wants to release faith to us in love. Galatians 5:6 shows us that faith does not work through fear. Faith does not work through commandments, “*Thou shalt and thou shalt not.*” There is strength behind the love of God which He releases to empower us to stand against fear. *Faith works through love.*

**Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FAIL?**

**Psalm 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!*  
For His mercy *endures* forever.**

God is good. He is not evil. He does not kick you when you are down. He offers you a hand back up. And He offers to walk with you so you can learn from Him to succeed in faith

**Psalm 37:23, 24**

**23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.**

**24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down;**

**For the LORD upholds *him with* His hand.**

You may fall again – and again. With God’s help you will rise up each time. Proverbs 24:16 declares, “. . . **a just man falls seven times, and rises up again.**” The number 7 is God’s perfect number. It matters not how often a just man falls.

God will always lift him up. Jesus even declared this to the ridiculous degree in Matthew 18:21, 22 when He told Peter to forgive the sins of a brother though he sin in the same manner seven times seventy in the same day. (Some Jewish leaders taught to forgive seven times in one day.)

Don't give up hope because you make the same mistake. Keep coming back to the Lord again and again and again. You may fail Him many times but He will never fail you.

*How great are You, Lord  
How great are the things*

*How great is Your mercy  
That You have done for me*

**Psalm 34:4 I sought the LORD, and He heard me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.**

**Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!**

Job was declared a just man because he trusted in the Lord. What happens when you fail? Turn to the Lord, confess your failure and your fear to Him. Trust in His mercy and in His grace to help you in your time of need (Hebrews 4:16). He will.

## **WHAT WE DREAD**

**Job 3:25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.**

Job was afraid of his children being destroyed. He was not worried about all his property, his lands or his animals. He lost a lot of wealth when his animals were destroyed, but he also lost all his children. Each of his sons and daughters were killed. That was the thing he feared the most and the reason he sacrificed animals for his children all the time. They were out there being “party animals,” as they call it today. Job was afraid they would come under God’s judgment and die for their sin. They did die tragically, but God did not cause it. The enemy took advantage of Job’s great fear.

**Job 22:10 Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden fear troubles you,**

**Proverbs 3:25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;**

Fear can come on you suddenly. As in Debby’s dream; like a night vision, and all of a sudden you are in fear. Debby was not in fear until, all of a sudden, it touched

her. She could feel it. It had personality traits and now she was in fear. When fear comes upon you, it changes the way you think, the way you feel; it changes your perceptions. You may be fine about everything else, but when this fear comes on you, suddenly you cannot function normally. You become disabled. You have a panic attack and feel like you are about to die.

### **James 1:13-15**

**13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

As the enemy can use desire to tempt us, he can also use fear. Once you give in to temptation to fear, it starts to control you in similar situations. It robs you of your liberty. Without knowing it, you have agreed with limitation in a way that grieves God. So it is a choice. Am I going to run in fear? Am I going to let fear rule me? Or am I going to choose faith in God's promises? How does faith come? Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Sometimes, we do not know the word about the temptation we face. But if we have learned to commune with the Spirit of God, we can stop and wait for the Spirit to speak to us. When He speaks, there will be no condemnation. There will only be a word of love that empowers us to defeat fear and walk with God in peace.

In the moment of temptation God will speak, if you will wait. If you determine you are not going to enter into fear, you will not have to. Just like any temptation, if you are determined you are not going to sin; you can wait for God to speak. He will. Even if you do not know God's word, He will speak peace to your heart in a way that relates to your situation and you will not have to succumb to fear.

James chapter 1 teaches how temptation leads us to agree with a spirit to sin. Do you understand that temptation is not sin? Having a spirit speak to you is not sin. However, when you come into agreement so that you begin to run in fear (doing what you don't want to); you become one with your fear. There is a difference. Temptation can take you a long ways down the road with thoughts, but it is not sin until you agree with it and then act it out, in your mind or in your behavior.

Don't be condemned. Sin in the Old Covenant led to death or punishment. In the New Covenant sin is missing the mark that faith would hit. The Greek definition does not include punishment or death. Because Jesus provides forgiveness for all transgression and iniquity (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19) to reconcile us to His Father, we can come to God's throne to find grace. Grace, in this situation, is help from God



Himself to defeat sin in our lives. God loves you and is ready to receive you and show you how His love gives you strength to trust His ways to overcome the temptation to sin.

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Send Fear Running**

Just because fear comes to you and taps you on the shoulder and tries to draw you into agreement with it, does not mean you are helpless. A spirit may get you to think about that fear, but until you actually come into agreement with it you have not sinned; you have only been tempted. Jesus was tempted, so relax. You are in great company. And if you do enter into fear, don't condemn yourself. Peter allowed fear to compel him to dishonor the gentiles at Antioch (Galatians 2:12). Yet he repented and moved on with God.

The enemy will try to bring fear upon you. He will not quit trying, but you do not have to join yourself to fear. As soon as you recognize he is trying to get you to fear, you can say, *"I will not. I reject that. Get out of here."* It is not until you actually engage in the activity of fear that you have sinned. I do not care if it has come upon you and the thoughts are there, it is not sin until you have yielded to the thoughts or engaged in the activity. The enemy is going to put thoughts into your mind. They are not your thoughts, but they come. That is where the temptation is coming from. When you begin to act out of, or to move based upon fear; *"Yes, that could happen."* Then you start reacting out of that fear. **Instead**, you can say, *"No! I am going to do what Jesus is telling me I can do. Yeah, you had me going there for a moment. Jesus, You want me to do the right thing, and I will. I trust You to give me strength. I am not going to get up because of the noise of fear and run and fall into a pit and then get up and step into a snare. I will not. Jesus, I am going to walk with You."*

When you hear the noise of fear you don't become one with it until you turn and run from it. When you react to what fear is trying to do, you become one with it. When you try to battle it yourself, you become one with it. Turn to Jesus and trust Him.

At first, you will have to go through this where you are, submitting to God and resisting. After some time you will be able to ignore the noise of fear.

## **GENERATIONAL FEAR**

Some evil spirits have generational roots. If you are controlled by fears which do not leave, though you have had prayer for deliverance, list them on paper and pray over each one in this manner.

*“Lord Jesus, thank You for Your perfect gift of love to empower me in faith. Lord, I choose to forgive my mother, my father and all their ancestors for coming into agreement, knowingly or unknowingly, with a spirit of fear and passing this fear, unknowingly, down to me. Do not hold that against them on my account, in the Name of Jesus.*

*If I have agreed with this spirit, somehow, I choose to forgive myself. I, therefore, renounce agreement with this spirit and cut it off from me and my family. I will not walk in agreement with it any longer. Lord Jesus, I hand this familiar spirit of fear to You. What do You give me in exchange? I receive what you give me and praise You for Your goodness.”*

So there are two parts to that prayer. You cut off ancestral transfers that passed to you and you cut off your own participation in it. If you are not ready to demand that spirits of fear leave, do not worry about that. Take care of the first two parts; choosing forgiveness, renouncing agreement with them from your generations and from your own life. Then simply hand them to Jesus and ask Him what He gives you in exchange and listen. He always gives you what you need to walk with Him in faith. If you will do this for every single fear that you write down, they will lose authority in your life.

*“Father, I bless the people reading this. I thank you for each one of them and I thank You, that as they renounce fears, they set themselves apart from sin and take authority to be free. Lord God, as they become free from fear, teach them also to recognize, by Your Spirit and by Your Word, that they do not have to come into agreement with fear when it tries to come upon them. Instead, they can tell it to leave, in Jesus’ powerful name and remain free. Amen.”*

In the next three chapters we’ll look into two simple but powerful words. These two words spoken by Jesus are too profound to cover adequately in one short or long chapter. Therefore, we’ll use three chapters to explore them. Bless you as you explore.



## CHAPTER EIGHT

# ONLY BELIEVE

### Part One – When Bad Turns to Worse - Mark 5:21-43

**Mark 5:36 (Amplified Bible) *Overhearing* but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm *and* struck with fear; only keep on believing.**

In other words, don't give up the faith by which you first believed.

**Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.**

In Mark 5 we have this wonderful story of two desperate people who received their reward. First, Jairus, ruler of the synagogue, came to Jesus because his daughter was dying and Jesus was his last hope. But he came with hope. He had heard the stories of many being healed and he believed Jesus could heal his daughter.

Jesus went with him. A great crowd came as well, pressing Jesus on every side. I imagine the pace could have been quicker had the people given them room. Yet, at least they were on the way to the ruler's house. **Then everything stopped.**

With his daughter so near death, I can sense the urgency heighten as Jesus stops to ask, **“Who touched Me?”** It must have seemed incredible to this father with all the people pressing Jesus, to hear Him ask this question. I'd be thinking, *“Are you kidding me?”* Did fear rise up? Sure. Was this frustrating? It had to be.

Yet, Jesus did not seem to pay any attention to the ruler's trepidation. He was not worried. He had enough faith to raise up the young girl regardless of how they found her. Did Jairus know that? Probably not. But Jesus knew it. So, when the woman with the issue of blood touched his garment and healing power flowed out of Jesus into her, He could stop and investigate.

**Two points.** Though there are several points of interest here, two are more relevant to this study.

1. When Jesus is involved we never need to be seized with alarm or struck with fear when bad turns to worse. All we need do is keep on believing and His will

shall not fail to manifest what is needed; whether that is peace to a storm or peace to one's heart.

2. Jesus cares as much for the woman who had violated the law of defilement by blood, desperate to touch His garment, as He does for the ruler's daughter.

Jesus handles both concerns. He takes as much time with this woman as she needs to assure her that she could go in peace. A woman with an issue of blood should never have been in a crowd. She was supposed to remain at a distance from everyone, less she defile anyone who might touch her or her clothes. Jairus, as the ruler of the synagogue, knows all this, and while he is listening to this exchange, some from his house arrive to tell him that his daughter has died.

As all hope starts draining away, yet before he has time to despair, Jesus comes to his rescue and challenges the rising fear. **“Don't be afraid. Only believe.”** Something about this man, Jesus, and His words keep hope alive and they continue on. Despite that, the scene worsens. They arrive to the sound of wailing mourners. Though Jesus speaks God's truth into the situation, they laugh Him to scorn. But Jesus is the Christ. He takes the parents in with Him and raises their daughter to perfect health.

Fear is the enemy's agent to rob you of faith, kill your hope and destroy your testimony (John 10:10). But we can look away (repent) from fear to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

**Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, .**

With your eyes on Jesus, you can walk on water. With your ears tuned to His voice, your heart need not harden in unbelief. Seeing and hearing Him, His great faith crosses the boundaries from His Spirit to your heart. You see it in His eyes. You hear it in His voice, and His faith, as the living Word of God arises in your heart. You can go with Him to the place of your greatest fear and in His faith (which is righteousness) bring kingdom peace and joy (Romans 14:17).

Don't let fear have place in your heart (Ephesians 4:27). Focus on the Author of your faith and go with Him all the way to the finish line where faith overcomes.

**Philippians 1:6 (The Living Bible) And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.**

## **CHAPTER NINE**

# **ONLY BELIEVE**

### **Part Two – His Love Empowers Faith**

**Mark 5:36** “Do not be afraid; only believe.”

There are two ways of looking at this instruction of Jesus to the ruler of the synagogue. Each of these two views has its adherents. Are they both correct? Or is only one? I have reason to believe that both views are correct, but one reveals a more powerful persuasion to believe. Let’s look at both views.

View 1. Being in the presence of Jesus, the ruler saw God’s love in His eyes and heard it in His voice. Thus he was persuaded by God’s love that he could trust Jesus.

View 2. Just make the decision to not fear, but instead, believe.

The second view is the one I call, “Just get over it.” I am trying to remember when this was enough for me to walk in the confident peace of faith. As yet, those that most readily come to mind actually turn out to support view 1.

### **VIEW 1**

I formerly thought several important events in my life were good examples of “just choosing to trust.” One that comes readily to mind is the approach of Hurricane Opal in October 1995. The eye of Opal made landfall between Fort Walton Beach and Navarre in northwestern Florida. We lived in Valparaiso Florida, about 20 miles to the east. Most hurricane observers know that the strongest winds and the highest wave surges occur along the east side (right front quadrant) as these storms make landfall. Having been a weather officer for the Air Force, I knew our home was on the wrong side of this hurricane. The storm’s strong wind field was also large enough that those dangerous winds would hit us head on.

Our children were teenagers and did not all make it home in time for us to leave the area before the evacuation routes were jammed. We did everything we knew to prepare our home for the worst possible impact. Everything the storm could pick up and throw against our ceiling-to-floor glass windows was removed or secured.

Still there was the wooden privacy fence and many pine and oak trees. Fence boards or tree limbs could break off and fly through those windows. Once high winds penetrate a house, the roof can be lifted off. I thought about all those things as I prepared.

After 11 pm that night I lay down next to my wife to try to sleep while the storm raged outside. My mind was racing. Had I done everything? Had I forgotten something? I went over everything several times. Then it happened. No, not disaster. The Lord interjected (spoke) into my thoughts, *“You don’t trust Me.”* That’s all He said.

Those words were as clear to me as if my wife, lying next to me, had said them. I knew it was God and I knew He was right. How true His words were. That’s why my mind was racing. I had no peace. We had been through hurricanes before and watched how He took care of us and our home. Why was I afraid now?

So I just decided to do what I had been taught. I confessed my fear. And then I chose to declare my trust in Him. But the thought process did not proceed like that. It proceeded as thus: *“I know You’re right. I don’t trust You right now. But I know I can trust You. So, Lord, I confess I am afraid. But I choose to trust You right now.”*

The next thing I knew, it was after 6am the next morning. The winds were still blowing, though not nearly as strong. We went outside and saw that tree limbs did come down. But none hit the four cars in the yard, nor our house. Many businesses and homes were badly damaged, but our home was not affected.

The question: Which view explains how I came to peace and slept soundly through the worst of that storm? I used to believe it was just a decision to trust. But now, as I read the ruler’s encounter with Jesus, I remember how the peace of God had already penetrated my soul as He spoke to me. His words at that moment enabled me to make the decision to just trust Him.

There are several other important occasions in my life in which I made the life giving decision to trust Him. In each of those times I can remember making that choice. Yet, in most cases I also remember the preceding conversation with God which resulted in the faith needed to make the decision He was leading and enabling me to make. In each of these cases I can remember being persuaded by the knowledge of His loving care for me and my family. How wonderful, how marvelous, how good and how loving is our God. I have learned that to trust God

is to worship Him. Yes, songs of worship do come easily at such times. But worship is not singing a worship song. Those songs may be used by God to spark trust in Him. But once trust is in your heart towards God, you are worshipping Him, whether you sing a song or not.

I have learned that fear is also worship. You may be worshipping the wind and the waves as you fear them one moment. But then God speaks and you turn from nature worship to worship the God Who calms the storm in your heart so the wind and the waves no longer control your peace. I have learned not to allow fear to control my choices. I can do that by deciding what or Who I will worship. But when circumstances overwhelm me, I may need God to speak. I have also learned that God is faithful. When fear speaks so loud that I forget to turn to God, He will speak into the midst of fearful thoughts as He did for the disciples in the midst of the Sea of Galilee. And as He did for me while Opal was approaching.

## **VIEW 2**

I also remember times which reveal that God honors the choice to trust Him without first hearing Him, even for those who do not believe they have ever heard God. God loves and honors faith directed toward Him, no matter how small. I believe that faith in God of every degree or any amount has its source in Him. Somehow, sometime, somewhere, the Spirit of God anointed a teaching, a preaching, a testimony, a song or a prayer and faith took root as a mustard seed and manifested in your heart at your time of need.

One such time occurred in my life in late spring 2006. Debby and I were living and ministering in Finland. We had not yet purchased a vehicle and were starting a trip on the last bus of the day to Lahti, where we lived. After we had been on the road a short while, I wondered why the driver was not choosing the turns I expected. As we started on a major route I noticed the destination signs were too unfamiliar. I went forward and the driver confirmed my concern. We were on the wrong bus. So I asked him to let us off at the next stop; which he did. The bus stop was right in the middle of a clover of exit and entrance ramps. No businesses or buildings of any sort were in sight. What were we to do? We didn't know where we were, we didn't speak Finnish and the bus we should have taken was the last bus of the day to Lahti.

Fear was on the edge of my awareness. But I remembered how faithful God had always been to us. So I made a decision to trust God. I started praying in the spirit expecting Him to show us what to do. A thought came into my head which I



recognized as His voice. He wanted us to walk in a certain direction. As soon as I understood that He was speaking, peace came. We started walking and discovered a restaurant just a short distance over a low hill. There, one of the staff spoke English and made a phone call to the bus station to discover our bus had not left yet. A taxi was called and came quickly enough while the bus driver waited a few extra minutes. Here is one example of knowing I could trust God and simply deciding to do so. Then He spoke clear direction and we made our way home.

### **Faith for the Future**

I have also learned that having frequent conversations with God, in which I wait for Him to talk to me about whatever He chooses, gives Him opportunity to prepare me ahead of time for what lies ahead. He may use that time to prepare me to walk in peace with Him through a coming storm. Or He may instruct me to speak to the storm to redirect its path or to limit its effects.

It doesn't matter how you come to choose to trust God at such a moment. Simply choose to cast your care (fear) upon Him, for He cares (provides) for you (1 Peter 5:7). Then ask Him to direct your steps and do or say whatever you sense Him prompting you to do or say. God is faithful. Trusting Him (faith) empowers you to benefit from His faithfulness. So, trust Him in all situations, whether you hear His voice empowering your faith or you just decide to trust Him. He always loves you and is always with you. So, be blessed.

### **Faith Does What Fear Cannot**

**Hebrews 11:23 (NLT) It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command.**

Faith does what fear cannot. Fear does what faith will not.

Pharaoh had warned the Hebrew midwives to drown all males they delivered. Fear would have caused Moses' parents to allow him to be drowned. Faith enabled them to hide him for three months. Then God touched the heart of Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:1-10). The very child Pharaoh feared was raised in his home.

**Hebrews 11:27 (NLT) It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.**

Then it so happened that as Moses grew to manhood that he became fully aware of his Hebrew heritage. Having killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, Moses could have claimed royal privilege to sidestep justice. Fear would have moved Moses to submit to Pharaoh's judgment in reverence to him as the king. Faith enabled him to leave the riches and privileges of the Egyptian court behind, though opulence was all he had known.

**Hebrews 11:25 (NLT) He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.**

Moses was choosing to trust the God of His people, though he had not yet heard God speak nor been persuaded by the experience of God's love. Seemingly, Moses chose by faith alone. But is that the whole story? We have learned that God speaks in many ways. Yet, until we learn how He speaks to us, we may not be aware of His influence upon our choices. The enemy uses fear to move us to choose self protection or self promotion. God's influence moves us to trust Him to protect us and/or be the source of our provision. Whether Moses was aware of it or not, God was the source of His faith, as He is for us, every time we choose to trust Him.

Fear prevents you from resting in God's love. It disables you. You can't hear God clearly. And if you do hear Him calling, fear will tempt you to not trust His word. It prevents you from going with Him. But His love comes in the still of the night and quietly reminds us of His faithfulness and persuades us to believe. That's faith working through love. It enables your ears to hear and empowers your heart to trust the word God speaks. It's love that stirs faith to arise in our hearts and move us to obey. It's God's love for each one of us.

Now let's look at three ways to establish the faith that God's love makes available to each one of us especially when we are concerned for someone else. How do we move in the faith that love works through?

## Helpful Questions

See if you can answer a few questions based on the text of chapter 9.

What's the way of looking at Mark 5:26 in View 1?

Think for a moment. Do you remember a time when you were led by God in a similar way to negate fear and trust God? Write it here.

If you don't remember such a time, try asking Father God, *Lord have you led me to overcome fear and trust You that I may have forgotten?* He may remind you of another time, as well. Write it here.

What's the way of looking at Mark 5:26 in View 2?

Do you remember a time when you trusted God over fear as in View 2? Write it here.

Why do you think View 2 would work for someone?

How do you understand these two phrases? Faith does what fear cannot.

Fear does what faith will not.

## CHAPTER TEN

# ONLY BELIEVE

### Part 3 – Three Ways to Establish Faith

Let me say up front, in ministry, we don't see miracles because we doubt God. Behind our doubt is fear. Fear that the person will not receive what they have come for. Fear that we will not look good. We believe God wants to heal and set people free. We believe He will use us. When we step up to someone to minister, however, we lose confidence. Doubt robs us. We become double-minded. God says one thing to us.

**Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard *it*, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.”**

Where there is fear, He is ready to establish faith. His faith is enough. In this chapter I will remind you of three ways He can establish His faith to remove fear and doubt, so the Gospel is preached in demonstrations of the Spirit and power.

**Mark 16:17, 18**

**17 “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 “they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”**

The problem for us is not more faith. It is not more teaching. It is not finding out how to uncover root causes, nor to remove roadblocks to healing. The problem is that we do not believe God. We are afraid of failure. Fear cuts off faith and establishes doubt. Are we praying in fear or in faith?

**James 1:6, 7**

**6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord**

If we will only believe and not fear, we will see the hand of God move.

**Mark 11:23 “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”**

With doubt removed we can remove mountains that stand in the way of a mighty move of God in our lives and ministries.

### **THREE WAYS TO DEFEAT FEAR AND ESTABLISH FAITH**

Each of the obvious ways I believe Jesus can establish faith involve repentance and are actually simple.

**1. Truth sets us free.** The first one is conveyed in six steps in chapter 6 on page 46 under the heading “An Exercise to Dethrone Fear.” In this exercise a divine exchange is taking place. We hand fear to Jesus and He hands us His faith. Jesus always gives us something good, something better than what we give Him (Isaiah 61:2-4). We cast our cares (fears) upon Him and discover how well He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

**2. Aggressive faith.** The second way is explained below as simple aggressive faith to make the enemy pay by using your authority in Christ. Jesus corrected the Pharisees who accused Him of casting out spirits by Beelzebub. He was casting out demons by the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28). You can make the enemy pay for tempting you with fear. You have the authority to send him running. If needed, Holy Spirit will give you a gift of faith (1 Corinthians 12:9) to stand in the authority of Christ sitting at the right hand of God (Ephesians 1:20 and 2:6).

**3. Perfect love casts out fear.** But more important than either of these is to so intimately know the unfailing love of God for you that God’s perfect love becomes rooted in your heart (Ephesians 3:17-19). In that condition of heart all fear is cast out (1 John 4:18) and you stand secure in Christ (Romans 8:35). This is the reality of faith working through love (Galatians 5:6). You will find many references to this throughout this text. Look back at pages 22 through 24 of chapter 2 for how to enter into God’s love for you.

Jesus wants to heal through us. He is looking for faith. We have faith and He sees it, therefore He speaks great things to come through us. Now He is looking for us to believe Him instead of believing our fears. He is looking for us to be humble before Him, willing to look ridiculous and foolish, as we declare healings and great things by the hand of God. He is looking for us to cast aside our fears, risk failure in front of people and believe Him to destroy the cancer, replace the missing eye and raise the dead by His Spirit and power.

Can you do that when you are not confident in God's love for you and nothing apparent happens? The prayer of faith of James 5:15 is only in faith because the one praying is not begging God out of fear, but declaring God's will in faith. How can he do that? By be fully persuaded of God's love for him so that faith arises naturally before or as he begins to pray. A prayer of fear produces nothing. The prayer of faith heals the sick.

In John 5, Jesus healed a man who had been impotent (could not walk) for thirty-eight years without finding root causes or spending days in inner healing. In Luke 5, He declared a man forgiven of His sins and healed him of paralysis, though the man did not declare his faith nor ask to be forgiven. What we do see is that Jesus healed when He saw the faith of the four men who brought him. He saw faith. Fear was not clouding the picture, so He healed by their faith. Faith is what He is looking for. Had they not had sufficient faith, Jesus would have healed the man anyway, with His own faith. We who have believed in Jesus have the faith we need. Faith is here.

The problem is not lack of faith. It is a mountain of unbelief that has grown up over centuries of failure to remove it by grace through faith. But we still have the only answer we need. When we fear and doubt we can look onto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We can ask Him to speak a word of faith and stop and listen. When we hear Him speak that word we will remember that He loves us and faith working through love will arise in our hearts and fear will flee. Love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

**Luke 8:48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."**

**Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard *it*, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."**

Jesus is more concerned with our learning the issues of releasing faith than of discovering roots and roadblocks. We need both, but we lack the first more than the second. To release faith, there are two things to see. First remove doubt by removing fear, as above and below. Second, establish the greatest faith available; His faith.

**Hebrews 3:17-19; 4:1-3**

**17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?**

**19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

**4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. 3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said.**

The Hebrews could not enter the promise of God because of unbelief – doubt. Why? They feared the giants. They heard God’s word, yet they were guilty of the sin of fearing the giants, though God had spoken. They heard the word, but did not mix it with faith. We are able to hear God’s word, establish faith in His love, cast out fear and enter our rest in Christ.

Repent of fear as soon as you detect it. Learn to discern fear. Learn to recognize it when you feel the hair on the back of your neck or you sense yourself backing up instead of moving forward in Christ. Is there stress, anxiety, worry, doubt, unbelief or panic? These are all forms of fear. The enemy is there to see that, sense the substance of your fear and rob you of faith right then. Make him pay. Repent of this fear in the most active way possible. Just as Jesus told the lame to take up their beds and walk, and they did; repent of fear by stepping forward to pray for the sick. Lay hands on the lame and tell them to walk. Offer to help them act in faith. This will take faith in your heart. But we all have a measure of faith. So you can do this. Do it and shame the devil.

You have authority in Christ. So, make the enemy wish he had not messed with you. Come against doubt. Determine to let Jesus have His way. Refuse to be defeated by fear. Refuse to do anything in the power of your flesh. Withdraw your flesh by submitting to God. Resist the devil and draw close to God (James 4:6-8). Then wait for the faith of Jesus to rise up within you, listen for direction from the Spirit of God and obey instantly.

### **The Faith We Need Is In Christ. Why?**

**1 Corinthians 2:5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

In Luke 8:25, Jesus asked, “**Where is your faith?**” This is an excellent question. Where is your faith? What does the Word of God say?

**2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.**

**2 Timothy 3:15 that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

The faith we can most surely rely upon is the faith of Christ. He is our Rock and sure foundation. He has all the faith any of us need in any situation. Anything that God asks us to do, we can do through Christ.

**Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

This is the way God intends it to be so that no flesh is glorified. Our flesh is against God, even while we are for Him.

**Romans 8:7, 8**

**7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:29-31**

**29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”**

### **Cart Blanche Instruction**

There are times to wait for the Spirit of God to direct your steps. Know that either God will speak to you or prompt you as to what to do in ministry, if specific instructions are needed. Follow those instructions and watch Him work (John 5:19).

However, you must also know that you are a child of God with instructions already to heal the sick, to cast out devils, to set captives free and to raise the dead. Jesus received these instructions, Cart Blanche, by the Spirit of the Lord (Luke 4:18). Therefore, He moved in authority as He willed. If the Father gave no instructions, He moved according to His will (John 5:21). He passed these same instructions on to us, Cart Blanche.

**Matthew 10:7, 8**

**7 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**



**John 20:23 “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

**Mark 16:17, 18**

**17 “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 “they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”**

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, as John says in 1 John 3:8. He is in us today. We are His body on earth; here to continue that work He came to do. As we let Him live in us, through us, He will destroy the works the devil is doing today. He will do this work through us, by the Spirit of God, just as He did when He walked the earth (Matthew 12:28).

I like to talk about the bottom line of issues. When everything is said, what is the bottom line? The bottom line of this message is “trust.”

**Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard *it*, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.”**

**Proverbs 3:5, 6**

**5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**

If you get nothing else from this message, get this. Trust God to heal you. Trust God to heal through you. If fear is there, tempting you, believe Him to heal. Lean not on your own understanding. Look to and wait on Him. He will direct your every step. Jesus has already healed. Let Him manifest it in and through you.

**2 Corinthians 4:5-11**

**5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 *We are* hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

## **RISE, TAKE UP YOUR BED AND WALK**

Let us look again at John 5 and Luke 5 for greater clarity.

### **John 5:5-14**

**5** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” **7** The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” **8** Jesus said to him, **“Rise, take up your bed and walk.”** **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. **10** The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, **“It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”** **11** He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” **14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. **Sin no more**, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

### **Luke 5:18-25**

**18** Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. **19** And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. **20** **When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”** **21** And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**” **22** But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? **23** “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? **24** **“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”**—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, **arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.**” **25** Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

In John 5:8 there are three key words: rise, take and walk. A study of Greek definitions of these words relative to this event reveals interesting realities.

The word “rise” implies a command to “rise up out of your impotence.” “Come out of your agreement with impotence and unbelief.”

“Take” means to “take up or take away; sail away” as in John 1:29, **“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”** Also, “put away, remove.”

“Walk,” means, “to tread all around, walk at large (as proof of ability). Figuratively, it means, “to live” and signifies, “the whole round of activities of the individual life.” Romans 6:4 directs us to **“walk in newness of life.”**

Now look a little deeper. Fear and unbelief are sins that keep us in impotence. When Jesus told these men to “rise,” He was declaring them forgiven of their sins of fear and unbelief. He was saying, “You are forgiven, so rise up.” When He told them to “take up your bed,” He was saying, “You are forgiven, so remove the implements of your sin.” The cots they were carried on symbolized the enslaving mastery of sin over them. Now they exercised substance in their faith to pick up and carry away the tools of sin’s power over them. They now had power to do so.

In John 5:11 notice the Jews accuse this man of breaking the law of the Sabbath because he obeyed Jesus to **“take up your bed and walk.”** Jesus forgives the sin at the root of disease, but He also forgives generational sins or community religious sins (misapplying the commandment of God) to set us free. I have found within myself that my impotence is often linked to a matter of law. Let me add, self-generated law. I have feared that someone’s interpretation of New Testament Scripture would correctly judge me unqualified to pastor God’s people. I had never realized this fear existed within me. When God showed it to me, I had to repent of this fear. “Taking up my bed,” meant recognizing, renouncing and forsaking all behaviors arising out of this fear.

When Jesus told these men to “walk,” He was not only telling them to use their feet to go home, but to enter back into the full range of activities of life. **“Never be restrained by the necessities and habits of your impotence again! Go out and live. Do everything you could not do all these years.”**

In expanded form, Jesus said to the man in John 5, **“Rise up out of your agreement with impotence you have lived in for 38 years. Take up and remove the sin of this agreement with the devil, and live a full life – doing everything you could not do before.”**

In shorter form, **“You are forgiven. Take your authority over sin and walk in fullness of life.”**

Whenever Jesus healed anyone He was forgiving them their sins. He was not waiting for them to pray through, forgiving everyone and repenting of all their sins before He healed them. He looked for faith. When He saw faith He said, **“Your faith has made you well (Luke 8:48).” “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come**

upon you (John 5:14).” When He saw faith He said, “**Man, your sins are forgiven you.**” Then He followed that with, “**I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.**”

Now He gives us these instructions:

**Matthew 10:7, 8**

**7 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**

**John 20:23 “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

Whenever you find a sick person, believe Jesus to heal them now. As they are healed, know that the sin that brought the sickness upon them is forgiven. Assure them, “Your sins are forgiven.” If you then feel led, instruct them to “sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

**James 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.**

If you are not willing to declare their sins forgiven, then do not declare their healing. Do not say, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” But then let God deal with your heart. There may be bitterness in your heart toward someone that you need Christ to help you forgive. Because Jesus loved, He saved and He healed all who came to Him. Let Him fill your heart with His love for you and for everyone who comes seeking the King.

Though God tells us, “Don’t be afraid, only believe,” there is one fear God wants us to yield to and wholly embrace. You guessed it; the fear of God.

## **Helpful Questions**

See if you can answer a few questions based on the text of chapter 10.

Briefly, write what the three ways are to overcome fear and establish faith to minister to someone else?

Where is the faith we need?

What are the Carte Blanche instructions Jesus received by the Spirit of God?

What are we saying, rise, take up your bed and walk means to a fuller extent?

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### FEAR GOD

**Isaiah 14:3** It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve.

**Isaiah 12:1-3**

**1** And in that day you will say: “O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. **2** Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ ” **3** Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

“That day” referred to a day of deliverance for Israel from their captivity in Babylon. Their slavery was a direct result of sin. “That day” was a day of salvation for the nation. This salvation included rest from their sorrows, fears and bondage.

In Isaiah 12:1-3, we read that God is our salvation. In Him is freedom, or rest from all fear. He is our strength so there is no more hard labor in bondage under taskmasters. He is our song, refreshing us with joy and removing sorrow as we draw water from the wells of salvation with joy.

Resting from all fear means that righteousness is established where fear had been. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). As peace is the result of righteousness, resting from hard bondage is the result of resting from fear. The final proof of having entered into rest is joy where there had been sorrow.

Jesus has provided this full salvation for us by taking upon Himself our sorrows, fear and hard labor. He defeated them for us by never yielding to the temptation to sin because of them.

**Hebrews 2:10-18**

**10** For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." 13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

The dilemma is our bondage through fear of death. Our deliverance is in Christ taking on our nature and suffering the death we feared. Having been made completely like us, He is perfectly able to understand and relieve us in our sufferings. He is able to deliver us as we put our trust in Him.

Verse 10 says that as the Captain of our salvation Jesus was made perfect through suffering. There is something for us in this that I believe may open up for us more fully in Hebrews 5:7-9. Before we look there, verse 15 says He will "**release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**" In verse 14, He had just said that through the death of Jesus, "**He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**" The devil's destruction does not mean he ceases to exist. The devil's power of death is destroyed. How so? Jesus defeated the fear of death, by providing the promise of eternal life to those who believe. Therefore, there is no more reason to fear death because the one who holds the power of death through fear has been negated.

Take note in verse 15 that it is the fear of death that keeps us subject to bondage. Neither the devil nor death has the power to keep us in bondage. Yet, through fear we remain slaves. Romans 8:14 in the Amplified Version reads, "***For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father) Father!***"

**Isaiah 14:3** It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve.

Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, has come to deliver us from the hard bondage wherein we were made to serve. How are we made to serve? Through fear of

death we are kept in bondage and made to serve. Whoever you fear, you will serve, and he becomes your master.

We know that this slavery to the fear of death includes all our fears that descend upon us, once we come under the devil's authority through the fear of death.

It includes:

Jealousy – the fear of losing someone you love to someone else.

Perfectionism – the fear of rejection because of a fault found in you.

Insecurity – the fear of being told to leave because you do not belong.

In fearing death, we actually worship death. To fear someone is to worship that one. God says to fear no one but Him. When you worship God, you focus your attention on Him. When you fear death, you focus your attention on death. If your particular brand of the fear of death is expressed in jealousy, then instead of focusing your attention on God, you focus on the fear of losing this person to someone else or even to death. This fear has become your idol. Whatever this fear demands of you – you do it. When God calls you to the mission field you say, *“No! I must stay here and guard my relationship with this person, or someone will come along and capture his heart from me.”*

In this worship of death, you are actually paying homage to the devil, for it is he who had the power of death. Now let us look at Hebrews 5:7-9.

### **Jesus Was Tempted To Fear Death**

#### **Hebrews 5:7-9**

**7** who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, **8** though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Jesus faced the temptation to fear death just as we can. He answered that temptation and defeated it the same way we are instructed to.

Verse 7 shows us that He offered up prayers and supplication to Him Who was able to save Him from death. Where have we seen this same instruction to us when we face fear? Philippians 4:6 says, **“Be anxious for nothing.”** It means, *“Do not be controlled by any fear.”* *“Do not bow down and worship any kind of fear.”* All fears come under the same fear of death that Jesus faced.



Philippians 4:6 goes on the same as Hebrews 5:7, **“but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”** As Jesus called on Him Who was able to save Him from death, so we also call on God.

Jesus was heard in that He feared. His prayer was answered in this – He feared. The Scripture tells us His salvation came through this fear. Jesus turned away from the temptation to be afraid of death and focused His attention, His worship, upon God the Father in holy fear. He knew the love of His Father for Him. Therefore, He trusted His Father. In trusting His Father to save Him, He went through the suffering and did everything that was required to purchase our salvation.

Now when we, likewise trust His love for us, we will turn away from what we are being tempted to fear and turn to focus on Him alone. As we hear His direction, knowing He loves us, we can obey Him. We are, thereby, delivered out of the bondage of the fear of death and into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Jesus was heard in that He feared God. He trusted God. We are delivered from fears as we fear (trust) God.

In Philippians 4:5 Paul ends that statement with, **“The Lord is at hand.”** God is here. Trust Him; fear nothing. Let Him hear what you desire with thanksgiving and His peace will overtake you.

**Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ ”**

**“I will trust Him and not be afraid.”** Say that out of your mouth. *“I will trust Him and not be afraid.”*

Jesus is the Captain of our salvation. Whenever you fear anything other than God – turn from that fear – for Jesus has defeated the devil. Draw nigh to God (James 4:8), that is, turn to Jesus – ask Him to still your heart with His peace. Speak to your heart, in Christ, *“Be at peace.”* Wait (Psalm 27:14) for that peace to set up a guard over your heart and mind (Philippians 4:7). Dwell on the good things (Philippians 4:8) of God. As that peace settles upon you – if God tells or asks you to do anything, notice your renewed persuasion that you know you can (faith). Do it (Hebrews 5:8, James 4:7-10) and the God of peace shall be with you (Philippians 4:9).

**Romans 16:20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.**

Not only will you have peace from God, but the God Who gives that peace will always be right there, no matter what fear the enemy tries to put on you. You will not worship the devil – for the God of peace is with you and you need fear nothing but Him alone.

Now prepare yourselves to put away fear. Let God prepare your heart, in holy fear, to face the thing you fear and let God defeat it in you. Begin now to ask God to prepare your heart to learn obedience through suffering through this trial. Ask Him to reveal to you the core issue of fear in your life. Expect the God of peace to crush Satan under your feet.

### **TO FEAR GOD IS TO KNOW GOD**

**Psalm 25:12-15**

**12 Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. 13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth. 14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant. 15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.**

Verse 14 is very interesting and even more so in the Amplified Version. “**The secret [of the sweet satisfying companionship] of the LORD have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning.**” I suggest you also read 1 Corinthians 2:6-10.

The people who enjoy the revelation and the experience of the sweet satisfying companionship with the Lord along with the revelation and experience of the deeper realities of God’s covenant are those who fear Him. There are deep discussions and sweet companionship for those who will venture past their dark fears into the very presence of God.

Consider Moses coming before the “thick darkness” to approach God.

**Exodus 19:9, 18-20; 20:18-21**

**9 And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.” So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.**

**18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain**

quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20 Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

20:18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. 19 Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” 20 And Moses said to the people, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.” 21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

God is terrible and a horror to those who hate Him. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember the armies of Pharaoh perishing in the Red Sea. Remember the flood of Noah. The children of Israel were aware of these events as they viewed the thick clouds and lightning and heard the thunder over the mountain of God. They were afraid of God. But did they really fear Him? The proper definition of fear highlights the position and attitude of reverent worship.

Now shift your attention to Jesus. During the earthly ministry of Jesus we saw His humanity and His compassion. The Apostle John laid his head on the breast of Jesus at the last supper and Jesus called children to Him often. But also recall how John saw Jesus in chapter one of Revelations.

#### Revelation 1:12-17a

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

God is mighty and all-powerful. No one dare stand before Him to revile Him. With a word He can send you to the most terrible nightmarish pains and horrors. He can, but that is not in His heart. In the New Covenant we have entered into by the blood of Jesus, God does not send even His enemies to horror and pain. They go there by their own choice, rejecting Christ as the only way into God’s grace. Recall that He is love everlasting and unfailing. He did not make us to slay us. He made each of us to know Him in a flow of love and affection. He offers us love that we can always rely on, unconditional love. The only thing He asks of us, so

we can enter into the full revelation of that love, is that we face our fears and trust Him in each one.

Moses was called to approach the thick darkness where God was. The greatest revelations you will ever receive of God's love will come as you approach Him through your greatest fears. To face your great fears in faith in Him, is to approach God and find what Moses found, what Isaiah found (Isaiah 6) and what John found in Revelation 1:17b, **But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."** Jesus speaks peace to our fear and shatters our darkness with the brilliant light of His love. The thick darkness represents your fear. Our faith is exercised as we go through the darkness believing God is there on the other side waiting to confirm His covenant with us as He did with David.

## **HOW DO YOU FACE FEAR?**

### **Numbers 16:1-4**

**Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took *men*; 2 and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. 3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "*You take* too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation *is* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?" 4 So when Moses heard *it*, he fell on his face.**

Two hundred and fifty leaders came against Moses. What would you do? He fell on his face until he heard from God. Then he did what God told him.

### **1 Samuel 30:6-8**

**6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake *them* and without fail recover *all*."**

David was responsible for 600 men and their families. When he and his men returned to find the Amalekites had raided the city and taken their wives and children, the people spoke of stoning him. But David encouraged himself in the Lord and verse 8 says he inquired of the Lord. This is how you face fear, with your eyes upon Jesus. Learn from these great humble men. Do not do what you

think is right; wait on God. When your heart is set to trust Him, then He will deliver you and bring you into His inner chambers to comfort you and counsel you in love. There **He will reveal His covenant to you** and reveal to you the deep things of your heart. **As you press in to Him, through fear, in faith you will discover the deep things of His heart.** Everything you find in His heart concerning you will be good. God is good and everything He thinks about any of us is good. His plans for us are good. He desires that we walk with Him into the best outcome we can ever imagine. Though there are trials along the way, walking with Him will ensure the outcome is good. To help you be absolutely sure of what it's in His heart for you, He would tell you face-to-face.

### **Helpful Questions**

See if you can answer a few questions based on the text of chapter 11.

When God's word instructs us to fear God, what do you believe is on God's heart?

What is the proper understanding of fear?

What does God promise to those who fear Him?

How can we face fear and receive God's desire for us?

## CHAPTER TWELVE

# FACE-TO-FACE WITH GOD

**Psalm 23 A Psalm of David.**

**1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.**

**3 He restores my soul;**

**He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for You are with me;**

**Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

**You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.**

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I  
will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.**

David is known as the shepherd king. He learned how to be a shepherd from God. Obviously, he learned as a young boy from his father and brothers. Yet the shepherd we see in David is of a higher degree than man can teach. His family provided a good foundation so God did not need to undo a lot of wrong thinking. He learned how to protect and care for the sheep tenderly. But God teaches us things based on what He knows we will face in our walk with Him.

I remember the months after I was born again. I read the Bible through twice. I bought books and commentaries I thought I needed so I could prepare myself to give an answer to any who would question my faith in God. God spoke to my heart one day. He said, "You don't need to know everything there is to know. I know what you will need to know. I know where you will go and who you will meet. Just study the things I put on your heart to study." Peace came to my heart and I did what God said. I have found that He knew what He was talking about. God has even taught me how to do some things the morning I needed to know them. He is true to his word.

God was the same with David. He showed him how to kill the lion before the lion came. When the lion came, David knew that God was right there with him and he just did what God had shown him. The same thing happened before David met the bear (1 Samuel 17:32-37). David was the shepherd for other shepherds to learn from, because God was a shepherd to David

The sheep under David's care belonged to his father. They were safe, secure and free with David as their shepherd. All their fears were quieted when David was with them. For David, it was the same when he saw Goliath. He had no need to fear. God was his shepherd.

From this heart at rest with God, David became a shepherd king over the nation of Israel. He could kill tens of thousands while defending Israel because he knew God was with him. He led the nation through the time of war into a time of peace. The marvelous thing is that David enjoyed this relationship with God though he was not perfect before God.

#### **Psalm 32:5-8**

**5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden.**

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"**

**And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah**

**6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You**

**In a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters**

**They shall not come near him.**

**7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble;**

**You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah**

**8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;**

**I will guide you with My eye.**

There were times when David sinned greatly against both man and God. But he had such confidence in God's goodness and mercy that when it came to a choice of suffering at the hands of man or at the hands of God, David chose God. He knew what it meant to be forgiven of not only his transgressions, which are the outward sins; but also the iniquities of his heart, from where the sin sprung. He was restored to the relationship with God in which he knew what it meant to be guided by what he saw in God's eye.

This is what God wants with each of us, just as He walked with Adam in the cool of each evening. Just as He walked with Enoch, with Abraham, Moses and David in close fellowship. They could look Him in the eye and ask difficult questions and God would answer.

#### **Psalm 31:19-24**

**19 Oh, how great is Your goodness,**

**Which You have laid up for those who fear You,**

**Which You have prepared for those who trust in You**

**In the presence of the sons of men!**

**20 You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence**

**From the plots of man;  
You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.  
21 Blessed be the LORD,  
For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!  
22 For I said in my haste, "I am cut off from before Your eyes";  
Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications  
When I cried out to You.  
23 Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints!  
For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person.  
24 Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart,  
All you who hope in the LORD.**

Jesus showed us this relationship in His own walk with the Father. And demonstrated what it was to be like for us as He related to His close followers. Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, sat at Jesus feet and heard Jesus tell Martha that she, Mary, had chosen well and He would not deny her that choice merely to have her serve tables (Luke 10:38-42). She had been sitting at His feet looking into His eyes. She knew this is where He wanted her to be.

John lay his head on Jesus' bosom after their last meal together (John 13:23). This shows a special relationship between Jesus and John. When all the others ran and hid while Jesus was being tried and crucified, John stayed close by. He was standing with the mother of Jesus at the foot of the cross when Jesus released His Spirit and breathed His last breath. And John outlived all the other disciples. Even when they tried to boil him in oil, God protected him and he died years later of natural causes. He was the one who wrote, "There is no fear in love" (1 John 4:18). He knew because he experienced that kind of love from the One who is love.

### **GOD IS INVITING US INTO THIS KIND OF RELATIONSHIP.**

**Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."**

Jesus is asking us to invite Him into our hearts. I see a picture here of sitting across the table and talking with Jesus as we dine. When you sit across the table from Jesus you can look Him in the eye. This is wonderful. I have experiences in prayer in which Jesus appeared to me (John 14:21) so close that He put his forehead against my forehead and looked me in the eye. I was not afraid of Him then, but neither was I afraid of anything else at that moment. I knew He loved me (1 John 4:18).



Yet Jesus did not pay the high price of His life's blood so we could look He alone in the eye. He was sent by God the Father to eliminate every hindrance, to pay for all our sin and defeat all fear so the Father could have His desire.

**John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."**

Because Jesus has reconciled us back to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:19) now our Father in Heaven can make His home in us. We can look across the table at Jesus and at God our Father as well. This is His desire. God wants us to have a face-to-face relationship with Him.

**Psalm 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."**

**Psalm 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!**

One day Jesus told me to look toward the Father. It took me two weeks to get the courage. But when I did I saw His wonderful smiling eyes. He wants us to see His smiling eyes. There is a great treasure of peace and joy in His eyes for us. But you will never know the joy of His smiling eyes until you see them smiling at you.

In His eyes there is no judgment, no anger, no punishment, no need to perform; just loving, smiling, fun-filled eyes; loving you and really, really glad you are there. No rush for you to leave. You can take as much time as you like. He enjoys you!

The real you was created by God in His image to relate to Him face-to-face, eye-to-eye so that you really know God and thereby you really know yourself. You were created by Him for Him. He made you for Himself. That is why all attempts to know who you are, are futile until you look into the eyes of your loving Creator, Father God.

You can see in the writings of Smith Wigglesworth that he had this kind of relationship with God. He said in one message, *"If you know that men have gone in and have seen the face of God, who have had the vision revealed, have had the whole of the Scriptures made life in their lives, never rest till you come to it. You say, "Have you a Scripture to prove it?" Yes, the Scripture says, "That ye may apprehend with all saints what is the depth, length, breadth and height of the love of God." (Ephesians 3:18, 19)."*

**Ephesians 3:18, 19**

**18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

Paul could write this to the Ephesians because he understood the truth he wrote to the Romans.

**Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

To understand this is to open the door into the liberty of the relationship God is inviting us to enter with Him. A relationship that is open, with lots of smiling and talking heart-to-heart. No fear. No performance. Free. The way two young children who like each other talk and play and have no fears. Neither one controls the other. Both are free to express their hearts to each other (Luke 18:16, 17). There is no fear of death to those who are in Christ, as He has fully paid all the consequences of all our failures under the law. In Christ we are free to come to the Father and discover that His love has no strings attached.

Coming into this place, this relationship of love and security with the Father, prepares us to receive anointing, authority and responsibility to set the captive free.

Knowing how great God's love for you is will make you courageous like a lion in the face of fear. Fear will become terrified of you as it sees Christ in you; the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! He is a terror to all His enemies and the lover of your soul.

Sleep well, Child of God.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person's silhouette with their arms outstretched, standing in a park-like setting with trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The person is positioned at the bottom center of the frame, with their arms spread wide to the sides. The trees are dark and leafy, framing the person and the sky.

# *Fear No Evil*

Fear is bondage. All of us have felt fear. We have heard the noise of fear and most of us succumb to it without realizing that we have yielded to an enemy of faith. Fear robs us of faith and peace and prevents us from doing the things that we are called to do. *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7). The word of God is full of admonitions to *“Fear Not,” “Do not be afraid,” “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* Philippians 4:6, 7. Fear is at the heart of all that torments us. But the love of God is perfect and *perfect love casts out fear* (1 John 4:18). Learn to walk in faith, trusting God, not worshiping the things you fear. Now I can say to myself and to all,

“Relax and rest, be confident and serene, for the Lord rewards fully those who simply trust in him.” Ps 116:7 TPT

Kevin Martin