

THE INFECTION OF FEAR

TREATING FEAR WITH FAITH AND THE LOVE OF GOD

*"Many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds,
are much more bold to speak the word without fear."*

~ Philippians 1:14

1. Fear as a Spiritual Problem

- a. We are treating spiritual problems (sin) with God's word, faith, Jesus Christ
- b. Fear ~*def.* The anxious expectation of evil or perception of impending danger.
- c. Different kinds of fear: careful, worry, nervous, anxiety, afraid, dismayed, dread, terror
- d. Source? Circumstances feed it, enemies use it – but it is within us, a spiritual infection.
- e. It need not be permanent. It is not a "disease" without a cure. Fear can be relieved.

2. The Function of Fear

- a. Fear not always bad. God made us with capacity to fear. Fear can preserve, motivate.
- b. Fear is necessary in battle, for protection, to avoid evil, to obey - Pro 8:13, 16:6
- c. Fear makes your weakness clear. Before God is fear - Lk 23:40, Rev 1:17, Eph 5:21
- d. Fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom (spiritual medicine) - Pro 1:7,9:10, Isa 11:1-3
- e. God made us weak to learn... to fear him, trust him, know him - Pro 29:25, 2Co 1:9,7:1
- f. The function of fear is ultimately to bring us to a knowledge of God.

3. Fatal Fear

- a. Fear is easily and often corrupted, then it becomes sinful, destructive, and fatal.
- b. *"fearful, and unbelieving"* described as those that partake of the lake of fire - Rev 21:8
- c. Fear can paralyze, cripple, stop you from doing good, shake and disturb unstable minds
- d. You cannot think right, you will not act right, it infects your spirit w/despair – Heb 2:15
- e. Fear is sinful when it is ignorant, false, irrational, selfish, or leads to hurting others.
- f. Sinful fear makes you think of yourself more than others, evil is more powerful than all.
- g. Rom 3:14-18 - Destruction and misery come from not having godly fear.

4. Without Fear

- a. "Fear not" "be not afraid", etc. over 100x in the Bible - God wants to save, how?
- b. There is a "terror of the Lord", but God is also loving, gracious (through Christ Jesus)
- c. The enemy of fear is faith, trust, and the love of God (all found in Christ Jesus)
- d. Fear is overcome with trust. The spiritual cure for fear is His power, love, mind 2Ti 1:7
- e. Courage, bravery, fearlessness not innate, but is learned from duty, faith, hope, love.
- f. Why did the brethren gain confidence by Paul's bonds? Phi 1:14 (duty, faith, and love)
- g. Fear directly attacks your faith (what you know of God) his grace is sufficient - 2Co 12:9
- h. People fear trouble, affliction, distress, loss – but with Christ Rom 5:1-5 is true.
- i. You no longer need be bound to fear if you are bound to God - Rom 8:15
- j. The list of things less powerful than the love of Christ is everything you fear - Rom 8:35
- k. You are weak, but he is strong. You are powerless, but he is powerful.
- l. You are condemned by sin, but he through Christ Jesus justifies ungodly sinners.
- m. Can we be inoculated against fear? No. Can we be removed from all fears? No.
- n. Can our spiritual immune system be stronger to combat fear when it arises? Yes!
- o. Walk in in what we know by the Spirit of God. Trust Jesus Christ. Love God.