

# PERFECT LOVE

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## IN THE "FAITH OVER FEAR" SERIES:

October 5: *Perfect Love*

October 12: *Truth and Wisdom*

October 19: *Courage*

October 26: *Faithful God*

November 2: *Eye on Eternity*

## Two Biblical Truths:

1) **God does not want us to be** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)** (10) Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

**Joshua 1:9 (NLT)** (9) This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)** (7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

**John 14:27 (NLT)** (27) "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

## What is the root cause of fear & anxiety?

a) **It is possible your anxiety is a** \_\_\_\_\_ **that needs medical attention.**

b) **Anxiety and fear are rooted in an** \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 John 4:16–18 (NLT)** (16) We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (17) And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. (18) Such love has no fear, because **perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.**

**THERE IS A SPIRITUAL ROOT TO MOST OF THE ANXIETY AND FEAR WE EXPERIENCE IN LIFE.**

2) **Choosing to believe in** \_\_\_\_\_ **and accept it helps us overcome fear and anxiety.**

## What makes God's love perfect?

a) **We see God's perfect love in** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 5:8 (NLT)** (8) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

**John 3:16 (NLT)** (16) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

**Romans 8:32 (NLT)** (32) Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

**b) We see God's perfect love in His choice to provide a way for us to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Galatians 4:4–7 (NLT)** (4) But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. (5) God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. (6) And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." (7) Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

**Romans 8:15–17 (NLT)** (15) So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." (16) For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. (17) And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

**c) We see God's perfect love in His promise to help us address \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 6:25–26 (NLT)** (25) "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? (26) Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?"

**Matthew 6:31–33 (NLT)** (31) "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' (32) These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. (33) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

**2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NLT)** (16) That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. (17) For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! (18) So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

**Romans 8:28 (NLT)** (28) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

**d) We see God's perfect love in His \_\_\_\_\_ when we sin.**

**Luke 15:18–19, 20-24 (NLT)** (18) I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, (19) and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." '... ..(20) "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. (21) His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' (22) "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. (23) And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, (24) for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began."

**Romans 8:31–32, 35, 37-39 (NLT)** (31) What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? (32) Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?... .. (35) Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?... ..(37) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. (38) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. (39) No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at [info@otterbeinchurch.org](mailto:info@otterbeinchurch.org), or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "Next Steps > Jesus" on our website at [www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org).*