



No. 2

FEAR: THE ENEMY'S WEAPON

Trusting in God's love takes away fear

In Psalm 56:11 the psalmist writes:

"In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. "What can man do to me?"

This is an awesome testimony to the power of trusting in God. Regardless of what happens, the psalmist trusts in God because he knows and understands the love and power of God. **The key to overcoming fear is total and complete trust in God.** Trusting God is a refusal to give in to fear. It is a turning to God even in the darkest times and trusting Him to make things right. This trust comes from knowing God and knowing He is good. Once we have learned to put our trust in God, we will no longer fear the things that come against us. We will be like the psalmist who said with confidence "I shall not be afraid"!

It is easy to say "I trust in the Lord." In reality, though, very few believers actually trust our Heavenly Father totally, without reservations. Trusting God with our lives, our possessions, our family, finances, health, etc. is the result of faith in God's promises, without any doubt. This is something we need to challenge ourselves with. Knowing our weaknesses, fears, insecurities, limitations, and knowing also that **without God we can do nothing**, it is crazy to then trust in our own capabilities, "wisdom", emotions and thoughts.

The Tree of Righteousness, dependence on Jesus

John 15:5

As for myself, I am the vine. As for you, you are the branches. He who maintains a living communion with me and I with him, this one is bearing much fruit, because apart from me you are not able to be doing anything.

Psalm 5:11-12

"But let all who take refuge in You be glad, let them ever sing for joy; and may You shelter them."

The Tree of bondage: Fear, worry and anxiety, dependence on self

Matthew 7:18

An intrinsically good tree is not able to produce rotten fruits, neither is a rotten tree able to produce beautiful fruit.

A rotten tree always bears bad fruit. Fear, worry and anxiety are branches of the same bad tree bearing bad fruit. **We need to be alert and not allow a bad tree in our minds and hearts.** Even in the most challenging situations we need to keep our trust in God alone. Allowing fear as part of our lives will affect our entire soul. **Fear is darkness; only the light of God's Word can remove fear from our minds and hearts.**

John 14:1-2

Let not your heart continue to be agitated. Be putting your trust in God. Also be putting your trust in me. In the house of my Father there are many dwelling places. Indeed, if it were not so, in that case I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you.

The fear (Reverence) of the Lord will lead you to apply God's wisdom

The fear of the Lord is simply giving respect, reverence and honour to God. The fear of the Lord is not being scared of God, but rather, knowing how wonderful, awesome and loving our Heavenly Father is and how important and powerful His instructions in His Word are. These considerations will make all the difference and will lead us to embrace God's wisdom. The fear of the Lord means you love God's Word, this alone will deal with fear from the enemy. God's wisdom brings us to victory, boldness, courage and discernment to make decisions without fear.

Psalm 111:10

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

*Fear is connecting with the flesh: you are automatically depending on self instead of the Holy Spirit and God's Word. **Christians should be trained to never allow fear to enter their souls.** As much as we respect red traffic lights, we should see fear as a **"red light"** never to be trespassed. There are always consequences when we trespass a red light. The red light means danger, fear also means danger. We don't drive through red lights because we don't want the consequences, i.e. being killed, damaging the car, getting a fine, harming somebody else, etc. In the same way, we need to anticipate the consequences of fear and refuse to embrace it.*

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you;

Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,

Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

The Bible tells us more than 100 times not to fear. God is consistent in His Word in warning us, this shows us how important it is to refuse to allow Satan to interfere in our lives.

Philippians 4:4-9

Stop worrying about even one thing, but in everything by prayer whose essence is that of worship and devotion and by supplication which is a cry for your personal needs, with thanksgiving let your requests for the things asked for be made known in the presence of God, and the peace of God which surpasses all power of comprehension shall mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things have the character of truth, whatever things are worthy of reverence, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are attractive, whatever excellence there is or fit object of praise, these things make the subject of careful reflection. The things also which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things habitually practice, and the God of peace shall be with you.

The principle to follow to overcome fear and any other bondage is to become a doer of the Word, i.e. to take the Word and apply it into our lives. The Word of God without action will not be of any benefit at all, just head knowledge, but not the experiential knowledge required in the Bible.

James 1:22

"Moreover, keep on becoming doers of the Word and stop being hearers only, reasoning yourselves into a false premise and thus **deceiving yourselves,"**