



No. 3

FEAR AND UNBELIEF

The devil knows fear leads to doubt and unbelief

On a daily basis we encounter situations which can bring fear, worry and anxiety into our lives. The opportunities for us to fall into the trap are many. The question is, are we ready for the challenge? When the attack comes, we need to be ready to respond God's way: we need to be ready for the battle!

We need to learn from the life of the Apostle Peter:

In the flesh, Peter boasted that he would die for Jesus. (He said it in the flesh because he was not yet indwelt by the Holy Spirit).

Mark 14:31

And he kept on saying with more vehemence and iteration, If it should be necessary for me to die with you, I will positively not deny you.

When the time came for Peter to make a stand for Jesus, he was overcome by fear and denied Him three times. **Fear is in every human being because of the sinful nature.**

Luke 22:56-60

And having seen him seated facing the light, a certain young female slave fixed her searching gaze upon him and said, This man was with him also. But he denied, saying, I do not know Him, woman. And after a little while, another having seen him, said, And as for you, you are one of them. But Peter said, Man, I am not. And about an hour intervening, another certain one asserts confidently, saying, Of a truth, this man also was with him, for indeed he is a Galilaeen. But Peter said, Man, I do not know what you are saying. And immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

Contrast this with Peter, on the day of Pentecost after he had received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit took away fear and Peter was free. As a result, he preached boldly and over three thousand people were saved.

This is a lesson for us! We need to recognise that it is not our strong will, nor our determination or our own strength, but the power of the Holy Spirit. When we depend on the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit in us will repel fear. Fear can have power over a carnal Christian, but not over a spiritual Christian.

A spiritual Christian has power over fear and any other stronghold.

We need to be aware of how fear manifests in our minds:

Fear of what "might" happen in a situation that never happens

Fear of the unknown, the possibility of things that "could" happen

Fear comes from entertaining toxic thoughts and imaginations

Fear comes by looking at circumstances according to the flesh

Fear will "shut down" the Holy Spirit's leading

Fear of death when being insecure about being saved

Fear of being rejected

Fear of losing relationships, jobs, etc.

Unbelief, resulting in fear that God will not fulfil His promises

Unbelief

Unbelief is believing something other than what God has said. You can believe Jesus was raised from the dead, you can believe He is your Lord, you can believe He is coming soon, but if you don't trust Him, you are operating in unbelief. You can believe in Him, but still not believe what He says. Unbelief will always lead to disobedience and fear.

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.'

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

People think they can have control of their lives. This is a common misconception. To try to control our lives, environment, situations, etc. always brings stress, fear and insecurity.

Fear produces more fear

Because it is impossible to control anything or anybody, **the reality is that fear produces more fear.**

It is endless. Only faith and trust in God can break the power of this spirit. Believers have the power of the Holy Spirit to pull down this stronghold and the faith to keep fear away.

The reason why we should not fear is because God is watching over us. He is protecting us and He wants us to trust Him. If we don't trust Him we will surely experience fear, worry and anxiety. If we try to control our lives we will be fearful, but if we acknowledge that God is in control, we will have no fear.

Mark 8:34-35

And having called the crowd together with His disciples to himself, He said to them, If anyone is desiring to come after me as a follower of mine, let him at once begin to lose sight of himself and his own interests, and let him at once begin to take up his cross and carry it, and let him start taking the same road that I travel in company with me, and let him continue to do so moment by moment. For whoever would desire to save his soul-life, will lose it. But whoever will lose his soul-life for my sake and the gospel, will save it.

This passage of Scripture is about salvation, but it also applies to our soul-life. It means that we need to submit our life to Jesus. From this perspective we see how important it is to deny ourselves; we should decrease and Jesus should increase.

John 3:30-31

It is necessary in the nature of the case for that One to become constantly greater but for me constantly to be made less. He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth is of earthly origin and nature, and from the earth as a source he speaks. He who comes from heaven is above all.

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one is pursuing.

But the righteous are bold as a lion.

CONCLUSION

We believers have the choice. Either we are free from fear or we allow the enemy to oppress us. Fear will also produce worries and anxiety and other repercussions. This is Satan's plan to make Christians ineffective in the proclamation of the Gospel both in word and in deed. **Either you live by faith or you will live by fear.**

CONQUERING FEAR MEANS EXPERIENCING THE WONDERFUL, AMAZING PEACE OF JESUS.