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No. 6

THE DEVIL'S FEAR

If anybody has fear it is Satan himself. He is fearful because he knows his defeat at the Cross was total and final. He knows he is destined to hell and therefore tries to take as many people as possible with him. Satan has a good reason to fear, but we don't.

He attacks Christians and wants to instill his fear and lies into them to oppress them and make them ineffective.

Remember that fear entered the world at the Fall. Fear is from Satan and we are to have nothing to do with it. This is why God in His wisdom has **forbidden** us to entertain any fear and promised to protect us.

Our destiny

In His Word, our Heavenly Father has shown us our inheritance and destiny in order that we may have hope and faith and nothing to fear. He is totally in control of our lives. We are now God's possession, He bought us with a price and He is responsible for us; the more you submit your life to Him, the more protection and blessing you will experience on earth.

God's possession

1 Peter 2:9

"But as for you, you are a race chosen out, king-priests, a set-apart nation, a people formed for [God's own] possession, in order that you might proclaim abroad the excellencies of the One who out of darkness called you into participation in His marvelous light."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Or do you not know that your body is an inner sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were purchased at a price. Now therefore, glorify God in your body."

1 Corinthians 3:23

"and as for you, you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God."

Fear links us with the world

Fear lowers us to the level of the unsaved. The world needs to see Christians living differently, not demonstrating the same lacks and struggles the unsaved experience. We are to be a light in the midst of darkness. When we live our lives like the unsaved, we bring shame to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The light in many Christians is dim if not extinguished. People need to see Jesus and His works in us.

Fear has been ruling this world since the fall

Fear is the reason why wars, divorces, division, discord, sin, sickness, disease and so much more happens. Fear makes humans react defensively disregarding others and any damage done.

When fear entered the world, the animal world changed

The Fall of Adam changed the animal kingdom. Before the Fall, man-kind and the animal kingdom were in harmony. When sin entered the world, the animal kingdom then began fighting and killing for survival.

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Humans also have the instinct imprinted in them that they must fight for survival.

People also fight for survival and are afraid of being hurt by others; they live with the fear of being controlled or taken advantage. While this is true in the world, Christians should not live with fear. First, we are not of this world and second, we are protected by our Heavenly Father. All we need to do is to live according to God's Word and dismiss this bondage once and for all. We don't have to "survive," we have the life of Christ in us and we have overcome the world with Him.

Some Christians are afraid of the devil

The Bible teaches us that the devil has been defeated. We now have authority over the devil and all his works. We need to take a stand and refuse to be intimidated by Satan and his demons. We are in charge! This is the truth and we are to live as victors, not as victims. When Jesus died at the Cross, Satan and his demons started to celebrate the victory, but then Jesus rose from the dead and offered us His victory.

We have triumphed with Christ

Colossians 2:15

"having stripped off and away from himself the principalities and authorities, He boldly made an example of them, leading them in a triumphal procession in it."

1 Corinthians 15:57

"But thanks be to God who gives to us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 2:14

"Now, thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and makes known the aroma of the experiential knowledge of himself through us in every place."

John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you in order that in me peace you may be having. In the world you are having tribulation. But be having courage. I have come off victorious over the world with a permanent victory."

Romans 8:37

"But in these things, all of them, we are coming off constantly with more than the victory through the One who loved us."

What power caused the Apostle Paul to endure all his tribulations?

Paul trusted God 100%. He did not waver or doubt because he had experiential knowledge of God's love and power. Trusting God unleashes the power of God. The moment we put our trust in God we unleash His power; in that moment God exercises His love, power, wisdom to intervene in our situation.

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to not fear. There is <u>no instance</u> in the Bible where Paul succumbed to fear or distrust. He was bold and courageous because he knew the love of God. It is not just that God can protect us, but that God, in His infinite love, is eager to protect us.

It is the sacrificial love of God that gives us boldness:

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

"God's love does not rejoice at the iniquity but rejoices with the truth, endures all things, believes all things, hopes all things, bears up under all things, not losing heart nor courage."