

“Do Not be Afraid” (1 Pt 3:14)

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Introduction: The kind of faith that we have will be shown by the kind of fear we possess.

- A. There is a good kind of fear that we call “Reverence for God”. We cannot go to heaven without this fear. **(Prov 1:7; Acts 13:16, 26)**
- B. There is a fear that can cause us to disobey God. The lost have this fear. **(Rev 21:8)**
 - 1. This fear is from a lack of faith. What does God’s help mean to you? **(1 Pt 3:12-14)**

#462 – God Will Take Care of You - 1,2,4

- 2. How many have backed away from what is right because of men? **(Gal 6:12)**
- C. What is fear?
 - 1. a. A feeling of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger. b. A state or condition marked by this feeling; living in fear.
 - 2. A feeling of disquiet or apprehension. - American Heritage Dictionary

I. The Source of Fear

- A. It is based upon ignorance. **(1 John 4:18-19)**
 - 1. When we know God and his promises we can see what are the true dangers of life. **(Luke 12:4-5)**
 - 2. When we know the presence of God we can face the unknowns of our lives. What did Jesus often tell His disciples and others? **(Mark 4:39-40; Jn 14:27)**

#605 – Master, The Tempest is Raging - 1,3

- B. It is based upon dwelling on the bad things of the past. **(Phil 3:13-14)**
 - 1. When one cannot forget the bad things done to him, he becomes its slave!
 - 2. When one will not act because of his past failures, he will always fail.
- C. It can be taught and shared by others.
 - 1. What was the great sin of the ten spies Israel sent? **(Num 13:32-14:4)**
 - 2. Sometimes the “leadership” of the church is like this.
- D. What is the good kind of fear based upon?
 - 1. True knowledge.
 - 2. True wisdom based on faith in God and His warnings.

II. The Fruits of Fear

- A. **It will sell you short. (Matt 25:25)**
 - 1. What was this man afraid of? What did he get?
"Fear makes come true that which one is afraid of."
 - 2. We must act and not sit during difficult times.

#407 – He Leadeth Me - 1,2,3

3. Without proper leadership a church often follows the example of fear. Ex. - “Let us avoid any trouble!” Often this means running from our problems and sitting and doing nothing.

B. It will cause you to forsake reason. (Matt 25:25)

- 1. Fear painted a picture here that blocked reason.
- 2. If he has laid out all options then he surely would have chosen the right path.
- 3. Fear is blinding because it *only sees the harm* and stops all action.
“No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear.”
- 4. Consider the power of this fear. **(Matt 28:4; Lk 9:45; 21:26)**

C. It will cause you to strike out based upon your fears.

1. What was one reason the Jewish leaders killed Jesus? (**John 11:48-50**)
2. Too many strike out against others without there even being a threat!

III. The Occasions of Fear

A. Fear of becoming a Christian. (Acts 24:25)

#330 – Just as I am - 1,3

B. Fear of rejection in dating.

C. Fear of death. (Heb 2:14-15)

#72 – Be With Me Lord - 1,2,4

D. Fear of my brethren. (1 Cor 13:4-6)

1. It is better to trust our brethren rather than follow the illogical paths of our fears.
2. How many have said: “Everyone in the church is talking about me!”

E. Fear of facing the truth. (John 3:19-20)

F. Fear of facing my sin. (1 Tim 5:24)

#560 – It is well with my soul - 1,2,3

G. A Leadership of Fear

1. “There are some who are going to leave if...”
2. True leadership acts upon principle not fear. Fear makes men believe the worst.

IV. Freedom From Fear

A. A clear view of the power of God. (Rom 1:16)

“Relinquishment of burdens and fears begins where adoration and worship of God become the occupation of the soul.” “Courage is fear that has said its prayers.”

#386 – Jesus is coming soon - 1,2

B. Action based upon our faith and in spite of our fears. (1 John 5:4-5)

“Many of our fears are tissue-paper thin, and a single courageous step would carry us clear through them.” - Brendan Francis

#273 – I’m not ashamed to own my Lord - 1,2,3

C. Develop the right kind of fear. (Heb 12:28)

“The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.” - Oswald Chambers

D. Build a faith in God. (Heb 11:6)

#70 – One Step at a Time - 1,2,3

E. Deal with all sin in your life. (Prov 28:1)

“Fear is tax that conscience pays to guilt.” - George Sewell

F. Do not accept the past ways simply because this is what you have always done!

“We all live in the protection of certain cowardices which we call our principles.” - Mark Twain

Conclusion: There is much God can do in our lives if we would but trust Him.

A. Some would rather live with fear. They may be lost.

B. When we act by faith, in time we will look back and see what God has done!

Inv. #279 – He is able to deliever thee - 1,2,3