

DOCTRINE OF FEAR

May, 1981

- I. Fear as a mental attitude sin (Gen. 26:7 “When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, ‘she is my sister.’ For he was afraid to say ‘my wife,’ thinking, ‘the men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.” Gen. 32:7 “Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and the camels, into two companies.”
 - A. It is a characteristic of spiritual death (Gen. 3:10 “He answered, ‘I have heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked,’”; Rom. 8:15 “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”; Heb. 2:15 “and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”
 - B. It is not to control the believer (Ex. 20:20 “Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.’”; Deut. 7:18 “you shall not be afraid of them, you shall remember what Yahweh your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt’ (Deut. 20:3).
 - C. Believers are told not to fear (Gen. 15:1; 21:17; 26:24; 1Pet. 3:14 quoted from Isa. 8:12 and applied to hostile negative husbands).
- II. Things the believer is not to fear:
 - A. Living grace provision (Mt.10:31)
 - B. Tomorrow (Matt. 6:34)
 - C. Persecution (Mt.10:26,28; Lk.12:5,7,32; Heb.13:6; Rev.2:10)
 - D. Intimidation (Gal.2:12)
 - E. Sudden danger (Prov.3:25 ,26)
 - F. War, depression, verbal maligning (Job.5:17-24; ; Ps.27:3; Isa 51:7; Lk.21:9).
 - G. Death (Ps.23:4; Matt. 10:28)
 - H. Retaliation (Matt. 12:41; Jn. 19:28; 20:19)
 - I. Things in the night and in the day (Ps. 91:5).
 - J. Bad news (Ps. 112:7).
- III. The expression "fear of the Lord" constitutes sanctified fear.
 - A. Positive volition to BD (Prov.1:7, 29; 9:1; 15:33; Acts 10:35)
 - B. Application of BD (Ps.112:1; 119:63).
- IV. Characteristics of the "fear of the Lord." (or how can you evaluate yourself or others despite the rhetoric).
 - A. "Clean" based on intellectual honesty (Ps.19:9)
 - B. It is the first principle of wisdom (Prov.1:7).
 - C. Confidence (Prov.14:26)
 - D. Avoidance of evil (Job 28:28; Prov.3:7).
 - E. Prospering of negative volition (Prov.23:17ff).
 - F. Contentment Prov.15:16)

- V. Some blessings associated with the fear of the Lord, Ps.115:13.
 - A. Long life (Prov.10:27; 14:27)
 - B. Material prosperity (Prov.22:4)
 - C. Deliverance (Ps.34:47; 25:12-15; 33:18-22; 34:7)
 - D. Desires of the heart (Ps.145:19)

- VI. Inner peace and faith-rest is the antidote to fear (Jn. 14:27; 16:13; Phil 4:6; 1Pet. 5:7).

- VII. Love (FHS) casts out fear “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”).

- VIII. Legitimate or sanctified objects of fear.
 - A. God (Eccl.12:13,14).
 - B. Rulers (Prov.24:21; 1Pet.2:17,18).
 - C. Failure to attain the crown (Phil.2:12).

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Ps 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Ps. 49:5 Why should I fear in the days of adversity, when the iniquity of my foes surround me

Ps 118:6 Yahweh is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

Prov 3:25 “Do not be afraid of sudden fear nor the onslaught of the wicked when it comes.”

Isa 41:13 For I am Yahweh your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you ‘Do not fear, I will help you.

Matt 10:28 “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in genna (LOF).”

Matt 14:26 “When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost?’ And they cried out in fear.”

Ps. 56:3-4 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Matt. 8:26 “He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?’ Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, it became perfectly calm.”

Jn. 14:1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”

Jn. 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world do I give it to you. Let not your heart be troubled, not let it be fearful.”

Jn. 16:13 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you might have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

END: Doctrine of Fear
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