

Freedom From Fear

by Cathy Greer

"Fear" - the feeling of terror, fright, a state of dread, the manifestation of such a feeling which causes cowardice (lack of courage in the face of danger or pain) and timidity.

"Fear" - the lack of faith.

Fear is the opposite of Faith because it doubts God's Word and His power in and through our lives.

1. God Doesn't Want Us To Live In Fear

- a. When we are fearful, we are hindered from working efficiently and effectively (Matt. 11:12b).
- b. Num. 13:27-33 - Moses sent men out to spy out the land of Canaan.
- c. Bad report- viewed themselves as grasshoppers (weak and defeated) – and so they were.
- d. Num. 13:1-2 – God gave them the land, so they were guaranteed the victory. They were given a task and had the ability to accomplish it.

2. They forgot the word of the Lord

- e. They, as we, had a choice as to who to listen to

f. The Word of God (faith)

- i. Vs. 30: Caleb believed God with all his heart and encouraged others to go forth.

g. The word of the enemy (doubt/fear)

- i. Vs. 31-33: The people listened to "doubt" and (14:1-4) cried, murmured, looked back and wanted another leader in rebellion against God.

3. Faith, never fear, brings the blessings of God

- a. Num. 14:24 - Caleb, God's servant, had a spirit of belief and trust in God which produces courage and strength. The Spirit of God in us raises us above human fears. Joshua and Caleb were the only two, of all the people, who eventually possessed the land "flowing with milk and honey" (Num. 14:35-38).

4. Fear is sin because it is doubting God - and sin brings death.

- a. Therefore, fear brings death.
- b. Death to the fulfillment of God's promises in a life, the manifestation of His power, and all material and spiritual blessings.
- c. Example – Ghana. “Help my u

5. When fear starts talking it brings death to others.

- a. The unbelieving spies and the Israelites who accepted their report, died in the desert but not those who believed the report of the Lord. Nations, region and cities can be brought down because of fear.
- b. Heb. 11:6 - God needed to raise up a new generation - a faithful, not fearful one.

6. Deut. 31:1-8 - Moses commissioning Israel and Joshua as the leader.

1. God will go before thee: prepare the way, direct the steps of a righteous man
2. God will be with thee: accompany in all journeys, "this is the way, walk ye in it" (Is. 30:21)
3. God will not fail thee: not disappoint, let down. He works it all together for good.

4. God will not forsake thee: continue with you, "lo, I will be with you always, even to the end" (Matt. 28:20b)
SO THEN: Fear not, nor be dismayed (let not your heart faint or fail).

7. Much depends on what we hear and what we say.

1. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God," (Rom. 10:17).
 - a. Joshua saw with eyes of faith (Josh. 1:5b-7, 9).
 - b. Be strong, vigorous and be not discouraged.
2. Vs. 13 - Be reminded of the promise given the land (health, provisions, strength).
3. "Faithful is He who has called you who also will do it" (I Thess. 5:24).
Have no fear during the task as we are resting in the arms of Jesus. Go and take it.
Yes, it is a fight - but God has given the victory.

4. What did the promise land mean? What does our promise land loo

4. Vs. 18 - listen to Joshua, be strong.
 - a. If any disobey and turn in rebellion to his word, they will come to death.
 - b. Joshua in the Hebrew means Savior, deliverer (the Greek name equivalent is Jesus).
5. Caleb - Josh. 14:6-14; Judg. 1:20.
 - a. Caleb received Hebron 40 years later, at the age of 85.
 - b. Defeated the Anakims (giants) to possess the land.
6. Ps. 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I will trust in thee."
7. What did the promiseland mean to them?

II. Where Does Fear Come From?

A. Not from God, but from Satan

1. Satan gets us to fear and not trust God. The result is that we are then in his grip. Luke 21:26
2. II Tim. 1:7 - "...God has not given us a spirit of fear."
3. Power - through the Holy Spirit to be full of faith, courage and strength. Fear inside brings fears outside which results in a lack of power as it paralyzes.
4. Love - sets us above all fears
 - a. I John 4:18 - "...perfect love casts out all fear..."
 - b. I John 4:8 - "...God is love." When we abide in Him, torment is cast out (love vs. doubt). In Him, we:
 - i. don't fear judgment - as we are saved through His blood.
 - ii. don't fear principalities - which are subject to Him.
5. Sound Mind - clear mind, common sense, understanding, good judgment.
Fear brings confusion. We can't think; our mind rambles; we make rash decisions.
The enemy is the author of confusion. Read Isaiah 26:3.

B. Due to guilt or sin

1. Gen. 3:10 - Fear comes through judgment and broken fellowship with God.
2. Man is disobedient and has a fear of getting caught.

C. Lack of faith, often in the unknown

Fear comes when we anticipate something to come in the future with anxiety and reluctance. God never calls you to do something or go somewhere that His grace will not also keep you. Worry is a waste of time.

1. If the feared thing happens - we are not prepared to deal with it because the fear

- itself causes weakness and defeat. Job 3:25-26
2. If the feared thing doesn't happen - the unnecessary fear eats away at our insides, makes us miserable and brings mental anxiety.
 - a. Matt. 6:25-34 - everyday has its own cares; to anticipate and fear is only to double them.
 - b. No one ever sank under the burden of the day.
 - i. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than man can bear... (George MacDonald).
 - ii. God's grace is sufficient.
 - c. Fearing tomorrow only takes from enjoying today

III. Where Are Our Eyes?

- A. Fear always looks ahead. We don't fear the past or the present, only the future.
- B. Matt. 14:24 – Looking at the storm
 1. In the storm - not afraid of it, but rather of capsizing
 2. In the water - not afraid of it, but rather of drowning or being eaten
- C. FEAR ALWAYS HOLDS ONTO AN "IF"
- D. Yet, in the darkest part of the night, one word from Jesus gives Peace.
 1. Peter was no longer looking at the natural, but by faith stepped out onto the water. When he looked at the situation (vs. 30), fear caused him to sink. Jesus immediately rescued him.

IV. Results

- A. Fear brings on sickness - Matt. 4:24; Luke 21:26 (ulcers, stress, lack of sleep, heart attack)
- B. Fear creates bondage - Prov. 29:25 (snare, trap, can't move, desperation, torment)
- C. Fear leads to discontentment, uncertainty, ultimate failure
 1. Judg. 7:3 - can't have fear and doubt in an army or the risk of death is to all.
 2. Deut. 28:58, 67 - fear is not of God and brings consequences.
 3. We must exercise the measure of faith we have been given (Rom. 12:3).

V. How To Overcome Fear

- A. Repent - realize fear is sin, renounce thoughts of doubt and fear "Renounce":
 1. To give up by formal declaration
 2. To repudiate or disown
 3. To give up or put aside voluntarily
- B. Determine to take the victory. Ps. 112:6-8 - Refuse to surrender, declare faith.
- C. Speak the Word over situations
 1. "God shall supply all my needs..." (Phil. 4:19)
 2. "...And with His stripes we are healed" (Is. 53:5)
 3. He is "my deliverer..." (Ps. 18:2, 40:17)
 4. "I can do all things through Christ..." (Phil. 4:13)
 5. "Whom shall I fear" (Ps. 27:1)
- D. Praise and Worship
 1. Put on the Garment of Praise for the spirit of heaviness.

2. The Lord dwells in the praises of his people. Demons must GO!
- E. Seek God - Neh. 4:8-15
Rebuild the Wall: when we work for God, the adversary gets angry and fights, trying to stir up fear. Nevertheless, they prayed and set watch against the enemy (vs. 9). Josh. 2:11

VI. Only Fear God

- A. We are not to "be afraid," but have the fear of God that is an "awesome reverence."
- B. Holy fear produces obedience to His Word.
- C. "Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."- Eccl. 12:13

When we are in relationship with God through Christ, our hearts are pure before Him, and He speaks to us:

"Fear not for I am with thee, be not dismayed for I am your God, I will strengthen you, yes I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." - Is. 41:10