

The Evolution of Fear
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by C. Benjamin Dill

1 Samuel 12:24-25

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

Good morning Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?!

Today, as an introduction to where the Lord is taking us, we are going to take a look at the most popular word in advertising.

If you want to get someone's attention, if you want to attract their interest, there is one catch word that does it best. This word has been used for centuries and still works like no other; this word is NEW. If I tell you that today we are going to do something new; most of you will tune me in right away to see what that is.

Usually in advertising it isn't really that new; more often some small something has been changed a little just so they can call it new to capture your attention.

What does it mean when God uses this term?
In what sense is what He is describing NEW?

Hebrews 9:14-15

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the **new testament**, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

What is NEW about the New Testament?

Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a **new and living way**, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And *having* a high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

What is NEW about this new and living way?

2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a **new** creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become **new**.

What is NEW about this new creation in Christ and how does that cause all things to become NEW?

Read with me **John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

What is NEW about this new commandment?

Now, someone out there is no doubt thinking, "Didn't Solomon write in the Bible somewhere that there is nothing new?" Yes, he did:

Ecclesiastes 1:4-10

4 *One* generation passeth away, and *another* generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever.

5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea *is* not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

8 All things *are* full of labor; man cannot utter *it*: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is that* which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun.

10 Is there *any* thing whereof it may be said, See, this *is* new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

Are you confused yet?

John explained this paradox in

1John 2:7-8

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

Jesus is that true light that now shineth!

Solomon understood that in and of itself, every day would indeed be like the one before it; the sun rises, the sun sets; the rivers run, the waters evaporate, the rains and snow fall and the cycle continues.

However, because of the presence of this True Light, what takes place in these days like the ones before them is truly new!

All of this “NEW” that we read about and experience ourselves is actually an evolution of the old. (Evolution is not a bad word, it is just seriously misapplied in our age.)

Most people think that Judaism is the old way and Christianity is the new way: the truth is that true Judaism and true Christianity is exactly the same way! It is now a NEW and living way because Messiah has now come.

It was Judaism that declared that in the fullness of time that Messiah would come: it was Judaism that declared that through His death a ransom would be paid for many.

Now we call it Christianity because Jesus is the Christ; the Messiah, The Son of the living God!

Everything we now experience is but the fulfilment or the product or the evolution, if you will, of the old.

Your new cell phone is an evolution of the one before it brought about by new technology.

In the Old Testament, the primary motivation for serving God was, as it was preached last week; fear.

I Samuel 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”

I. Even now, fear is still a proper and highly effective motive.

A. Fear is an especially good motivator for the beginner.

1. **Psalm 111:10** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth forever.

2. **Proverb 1:7** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

3. **Psalm 34:11** Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

B. It is the absence of fear that allows the presence of evil.

1. This is most evident by observation of the wicked:

2. **Psalm 36:1** ...The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

3. Everywhere wickedness reigns in our society today, there is an evident and obvious lack of the fear of God.

C. Fear is often the only motivation for the unbeliever.

1. **Romans 13:3-4**

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.

2. This is why we have laws to punish evil doers.

II. Because of Jesus, that True Light we read about; fear can evolve!

A. Fear produces only limited motivation.

1. Depart from evil; serve because you must.

2. This works fine in the beginning; that's why you make your kids come to Church; you teach

them the fear of the Lord; but that only takes them so far.

3. When you do what you do because you have to; all you will do is what you have to.

B. It takes more than the motivation of fear to make you what God intended you to be.

1. This is no doubt why the children of Israel failed God over and over and over: fear, even the fear of the Lord, is not enough.

2. Fear alone is not only proven to be inadequate, it has now become unacceptable.

3. **1Corinthians 13:1-3** [charity=love]

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4. Yes, it may take fear to move you **from** your sin; but it takes love to move you **to** what the Lord created you to be for His glory!

III. Fear is meant to evolve into love.

A. So how does it work? How can you get from the fear the Lord, (which only a fool does not have) to serving the Lord because you love Him with all your heart?

1. This concept is not new; it was there all along:

2. **Exodus 21:2** If thou buy a Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.

3. A bond-servant or slave (which is exactly what we believers are - "bought with a price") at least in the beginning; he serves for one reason only; because he has to.

4. And, yes, you do have to: the Lord will chasten you until you do; many of you have learned that; some are going through that process right now.

5. But as the process evolves:

Exodus 21:3-6

3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.

4 If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.

5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:

6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

6. What causes a servant who begins in fear to say, even though he is free, "I love my Master; I will serve Him forever?"

B. It comes with getting to know the Master.

1. You may know Him as your Savior, but how well do you know Him?

2 Peter 1:2-3

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2. John 14:6-9

6 Jesus saith unto him, [Thomas] **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

7 **If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.**

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Show us the Father?

3. It does take time to get to know the Lord, yet some are saved a long time and still don't really know Him.

C. There are basically two ways we get to really know Jesus.

1. One is to know the Word:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. This is why we have such an emphasis on reading and spending time in the Word.

3. The second way of getting to know Jesus is through the experience of walking with Him every day.

D. There are some amazing things you learn when you've walked with Jesus for a while:

1. You learn that He is faithful; He always keeps His promises, no matter what. Have you noticed that?

2. You also learn that He constantly challenges you; He is always stretching you to your limit; and he knows exactly what that limit is. Have you noticed that?

3. You also learn that He knows exactly how to touch your heart. Have you noticed that?

4. Somewhere along the line, you learn that in every command He gives you; which is indeed for His glory, there is also an amazing benefit for you, the servant.

5. Even when He is forced to chasten you; He only does so because He loves you.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

In Conclusion:

1. We all seem to think we love Jesus.

2. We all seem to think we know Jesus; indeed to know Him is to Love Him.

3. If I ask, "How many here love Jesus?" I am pretty sure just about every hand would go up. [But I won't.]

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father,

and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:23-24

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

By this standard, there are among us those who simply do not love the Lord.

(This is remarkable in that not only is it not me saying this to you; it is not even Jesus; this comes straight from the Father!)

Maybe you think you love the Lord but in reality you only fear Him.

That second mile, that other cheek, that Samaritan climbing down into the ditch; that lifetime of faithfulness; that lifetime of soul-winning; that commitment that stands through all circumstances; these things cannot be produced by fear alone.

Not only that; only what is done out of love will be rewarded in glory!

Maybe we ought to be praying what Paul did in

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;