

# *The Spirit of Fear*

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

- I. We need to refresh our memories again on the definition of the word “spirit.”
  - A. It is the vital principle by which a life or a mind and heart are directed.
  - B. It carries the meaning of “breath” which sustains a life, and “wind” which directs a life.
  - C. So when we are thinking about spiritual matters we must recognize and deal with the powers that are the prevailing influence in our thoughts, our emotions, and our desires.
  - D. The warfare between God and Satan is a spiritual warfare and we are involved whether we want to be, or not, and whether we recognize and acknowledge the fact, or not.
  - E. Our minds are the battlefield where this battle is fought, because we are the prize, or the spoils of this epic war.
  - F. God is a spirit and so God speaks to us in spiritual things.
  - G. Satan uses the lusts of our flesh through our ignorance and foolishness because of our selfishness to gain a stronghold in our mind before we know what is going on.

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

- H. Without the Holy Spirit of God as the major spiritual power in our life we are always off-balance somewhere.
    - 1. This is because our mind is the playground of other spirits, which seek to confuse and enslave us, or as the Bible calls it, to put us in “bondage.”
    - 2. These many different spirits work in our thoughts to stir our emotions and passions, and to lead us away from God and truth and peace.
  - I. Once we learn the truth in this matter and believe it as the reality which it is, we can fight the good fight of faith and begin to see victory and peace and stability in our thoughts and emotions and in our life.
- II. The spirit of fear is one of these spirits that can easily gain control of the mind and put us into bondage.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- A. Again, as with the spirit of infirmity we must realize that there are really infirmities, but to have a spirit of infirmity is a different problem.

- B. Having a spirit of fear is evidenced by the fact that we are focused on all that might go wrong and we are anxious, worried, fretful, and bound with thinking of all this until we have few thoughts on anything else.
- C. Fear is something we all experience and will experience through life, and it is impossible to avoid it.
  - 1. It is one of those mechanisms that is hardwired into us because of the sinful world we live in.
  - 2. It is necessary for survival in the kind of world in which we live.
  - 3. Man's sin has turned every creature into a potential enemy for every other creature.

Genesis 9:2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

- 4. The kind of fear that easily obsesses us and every other creature is a direct result of man's sin.
- D. The problem comes when we become obsessed with fear and get it confused with prudence and wisdom.
  - 1. This "spirit of fear" that is of the devil is very good at making us think we are more spiritual and godly when our thoughts are dominated by thinking and imagining all that can go wrong.
  - 2. When this happens faith is paralyzed and ceases to exist and fear takes its place; pride gives the final approval, and then we are in bondage to fear.
  - 3. Fear is never faith, and faith is never fearful.
- E. On the list of people who will not enter heaven the "fearful" are number one.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

FE'ARFUL, a.

- 1. Affected by fear; feeling pain in expectation of evil; apprehensive with solicitude; afraid.
  - 1. The "fearful" spoken of here are people whose minds were dominated by a spirit of fear and not the Spirit of God.
  - 2. Their lives were lived in bondage to fear because they never trusted God and resisted the devil and found that peace that "passeth understanding."
- F. So, although we all will experience fear and it is a necessary thing in this world, to live with a spirit of fear is certain to condemn our soul!

III. Faith and love drive out the spirit of fear.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

- A. When the dominating spiritual influence on our mind is the Holy Spirit of God part of the fruit of that influence is love, peace,...and faith.
- B. The influence of the Spirit of God is always through the Word of God.
  - 1. No one is filled with the Spirit of God who is not filled first with the Word of God.
- C. Those who feast their soul on the written Word of God regularly and often are not found among the fearful.

- D. The spirit of fear will foster hatred and suspicion of others, because Satan is the accuser. (Revelation 12:10)
- E. The spirit of fear will rob us of any peace of mind.
- F. The spirit of fear will make us impatient and harsh toward others.
- G. So we should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit and desire the true fruit and gifts of the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 5:18-20 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

- H. To be filled with the Holy Spirit of God is to be free from the dominion of any evil spirit.
- I. When we are dominated by the Spirit of God our mind, our emotions, and our passions are brought into a balance that is stable and sensible and godly.
- J. We stop getting sidetracked and blown off course by over-thinking and over-obsessing about certain things.
- K. This brings peace and rest to our soul and spirit and life and the fear that brings bondage cannot find a place to occupy in our minds.
- L. We must learn to be sensitive and aware of what is going on in our mind at all times, and where those voices are coming from that are suggesting those thoughts to us.
  - 1. When we identify where it is coming from we must run to God in prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- M. We must learn to gird up the loins of our mind and think on the things God has told us to think on, and do it on purpose, habitually, and faithfully.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- 1. If you need help with that just grab an old hymnbook and start reading and singing and then come and tell us what happens in your soul and spirit.

Ephesians 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;