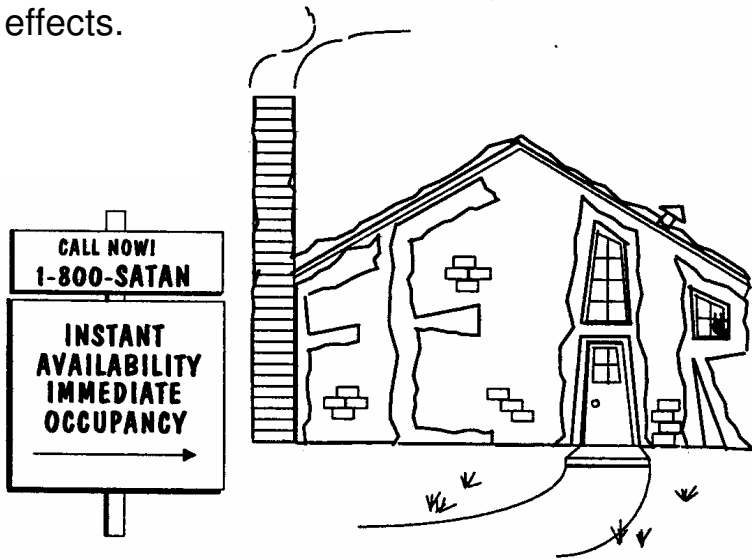


THE LIE OF FEAR

Fear is an instinctive awareness or reaction that can be beneficial in protecting us. However, it can easily become an unhealthy, irrational feeling that works to captivate and block us from the liberty God designed for us. Fear is one of the primary weapons of the devil. He does not have the power to create anything. He takes what God has provided - this instinctive recognition of and response to danger - and perverts it to these unhealthy and irrational feelings. He uses them to intimidate, control and bring destruction to whoever will fall prey to their effects.



A Difference

Many people abide in fear, because they are unaware of the difference between the natural recognition of danger and an unhealthy bondage to fear. God's Word declares that we, as His people, we have every right to live in freedom.

Fear has many names - among them are **"fright, consternation, trepidation, apprehension, terror, panic, dismay, horror, and dread."** By any name, fear influences, paralyzes and destroys the lives of those who live in it. Fear wants to become our habitation - to entice us into living trapped within its walls. Has fear invited you in? Are you living in it now?

There are many kinds of counterfeit replacements for the principles that God wants you to live in and be blessed by. For example:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| • Prosperity | Perverted to poverty | • Victory | Perverted to defeat |
| • Health | Perverted to sickness | • Life | Perverted to death |
| • Love | Perverted to hate | • Faith | Perverted to fear |

Satan's plan is to feed you fear-filled lies. He does this through your circumstances, the voices of others, and the thoughts he brings to your mind. His web of deceit is no less deadly than a spider's web is to its prey. It can entrap and kill! Satan's lies never illuminate the truth, and their effectiveness on his behalf is limited to those who accept them.

It is vitally important that you recognize what is real and what is not. Bank tellers are trained to recognize fake twenty-dollar bills by studying authentic ones. You

must have the ability to do the same with the forces affecting your life. A working knowledge of Scripture, combined with a relationship with the Spirit of God will help you understand what is from heaven and what is a counterfeit from hell! Knowing the truth brings the freedom to recognize the lies that would kill your chances for happiness, steal your future successes, and destroy your very life. Look at what God's Word says about prosperity and health:

(3 John 1:2 NKJV) "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."

(Psalms 84:11 NKJV) "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly."

Look again at the list of contrasts at the bottom of the previous page. Which of these lies that have tried to make a home for you to live in? What are the truths they have tried to hide?

Living Waters • Lessons on Fear

From Genesis 3:8-10 (NKJV)

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?' So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.'"

Adam and Eve allowed their disobedience to take them outside of their protective fellowship with God. As a result, fear was given access to their lives (and ours). When God asked them: *"Where are you,"* the question had deeper implications than just locating their hiding place. God certainly knew they were hiding among the bushes and trees. The real questions were: *"Where are you in your relationship to me. How much reverence have you shown me? Have you trusted me and believed My Word? Will you act on it now?"* They had no answer. By swallowing Satan's lies, they robbed God of His opportunity to be close to them and bless them. **Sin and death sunk its claws into the world.**

You can have a different answer to give God for those same questions. God has provided you with the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus took back the power Adam had surrendered to the devil, and gave it to us, the people of His church. Even so, we are often either unaware of this power, or lack the faith to use it. The lie of fear continues to deceive some of us, and as a result, we continue to sink helplessly into the storms of life.

From Mark 4:35-40 (The Living Bible paraphrase)

“As evening fell, Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.’ So they took him just as he was and started out, leaving the crowds behind (though other boats followed). But soon a terrible storm arose. High waves began to break into the boat until it was nearly full of water and about to sink. Jesus was asleep at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. Frantically they wakened him, shouting, ‘Teacher, don’t you even care that we are all about to drown?’ Then he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Quiet down!’ And the wind fell, and there was a great calm! And he asked them, ‘Why were you so fearful?’”

Jesus was asleep in the boat. His disciples rode out the storm with growing fright, consternation, trepidation, apprehension, terror, panic, dismay, horror, and dread (sound familiar?). Some of these men were experienced fishermen who had probably ridden out many such storms on the sea. Nevertheless, **fear gripped them**. They did not understand the power that had been given to them to overcome their circumstances. They did not exercise their own faith (otherwise, they would not have had to awaken the Master). They did not appreciate that God was with them. How often do we do the same?

When the disciples awakened Jesus, he simply commanded the storm raging around him to be quiet. The New King James translation gives His words as, *“Peace, be still!”* Then Jesus said to His disciples, *“Why are you so fearful?”* What He was really saying to His disciples was, *“Do you not know the power I have given you to overcome the fear of the circumstances you are in?”* All too often, it is the same today. We, too, need to listen to the voice of the Master.

“Peace, be still!”

We have already noted that fear is a perversion of faith. Fear is only effective if you accept it - if you allow it a home. The one way Satan can get you to do so is to convince you that it belongs to you, and you belong to it. He does this in the arena of your mind. The Bible says,

(Romans 10:17 NKJV) “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”

Fact: You increase your faith by meditating on God's Word. Similarly, you can increase your fear by meditating on the words of the devil.

“Fear comes by hearing (or taking the thoughts) and accepting the lies of the devil into your mind.”



When you accept the devil’s interpretation of your past, his assessment of your present, and his prediction for your future, **you open the door to fear**. This happens in a number of ways, **but it always sounds the same: “You are going to**

die! You are never going to be happy. Your shame or guilt will never leave. Your life is worthless. You will never again know love.” All of these perverse lies take some of the facts of your past life or present situation and drawn them up into a misrepresentation of present and future truth. The lies are designed to destroy your faith and hope. Think on them long enough and they will become attached to you like leaches and suck your soul dry.

The good news is that Satan cannot tell the truth. It is not in him. **The only way that his words about you can become reality is for you to agree with them** - to say: “Satan, you are right, that’s what I am and all I ever can be.”



Whose words have you been agreeing with?
Whose words will you now agree with?
Whose report will you believe?

(Proverbs 15:30 NKJV) “The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, And a good report makes the bones healthy.”

(Philippians 4:8 NKJV) ‘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.’



“if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

God cannot lie. He values His own Word even above His name, and His Word tells us that He loves and values us. In fact, His Word tells us that He not only loves us, but that He is love.

(1 John 4:16 NKJV) “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

Galatians 5:6 says, ***“Faith works through love.”*** The way to defeat fear is to attack it with faith. You do that through “love” (through “God,” because God is love).

Stop rejecting love and start operating in it! Love puts your faith into motion. Once your faith begins to move, God is on the rise in your life. The fear begins to fall away, and you are on the road to a new beginning. Faith, working through love, makes ***“a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”***

**PRINCIPLE: The fear of losing love
will keep you from using love.**

It's a big thing to suffer the hurt of a broken relationship. It is an even bigger thing to attack that hurt with a show of love. God will give you the confidence and desire to risk loving again. So do not be afraid to love again. Remember, *"The light of the eyes rejoices the heart."* It's time to let your light shine!

Let your light shine!

(Psalm 23:1 - 3 NKJV) "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake."

Our faith is established and maintained in His faithfulness to us.

The Bible says God has a quiet, still, peaceful place for you. In that place He will restore and make whole your mind, will and emotions. He has a path already mapped out for you to walk. It is a peaceful way through the wilderness of life.

(Psalm 23:4-5 NKJV) "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over."

**PRINCIPLE: Our faith is established and maintained
in His faithfulness to us.**

Yes, the wildernesses of life are unavoidable experiences. However, even in the most fearful of places, your trust and reliance on God will keep you safe and free from fear. **God's own rod and staff will comfort, guide and protect you.**

(Psalm 23:6 NKJV) "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."

The next time you get troubled on your way through the wilderness, just glance behind you. **You will see goodness and mercy following you** - always ready to be your supply from the Good Shepherd, who is leading you to the place beside those still waters.

God's Word declares that His goodness and mercy are faithful companions. They are always there, available to rekindle and fuel the fires of your faith. So take hold of all that God has for you. Let your faith, fueled by His love, move you farther down the road of your new beginning - free of fear, full of faith!

(Isaiah 54:14 NKJV) “In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you.”

(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV) “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

(Joshua 1:8 NKJV) “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Please be sure to study the companion lesson, “Kinds of Fear.”

God bless you and take you through with great success.
Dr. Bob Abramson