

Fear, Doubt and Satan's Vices

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!"

Romans 8:15

In this lesson, we will be studying how the Devil attacks Christians and what weapons he likes to use. Fear is just one of many of Satan's devices. In our theme verse, we learned that we have been delivered from the bondage of fear by the Spirit of God.

Fear is an emotion that we must deal with when serving God. For example, if you do not witness to a person that God has laid on your heart, then you are not serving Him correctly. We all fear things in life. Some fear failure, others may fear rejection. Fear is a very real feeling. We should not fear.

In John 8:44 Jesus warns us of the nature of the Devil. Jesus said, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

There are many Christians and churches in the world today that have been devoured and fallen under Satan's spell. Peter reminds us of what Jesus said in his first letter. 1 Peter 5:8 declares, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Factors of fear

Disapproval, peer pressure, persecution, and uncertainty are all linked to fear. The blind man's parents feared the Jews would put them out of the synagogue in John 9 and the Apostles feared persecution when the Lord went to be with the Father in John 20. The fear of the unknown is used by the devil to discourage us. In the lives of Peter and Paul they faced many uncertain times, but every time they trusted in God's divine providence and His sovereignty. They knew that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28) and nothing happens in the world without God allowing it, for He is in control. Fear is something we must get under control. If we allow fear to rule over us it will damage and weaken our walk with the Lord.

How to disarm fear

When you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). The Holy Spirit will enable you to remove any fear from your mind. Jesus said in John 10:10 that He has come that his people might have life in abundance. Just pause for a moment to consider the meaning of abundantly. God's desires are that the Christian is to live to the full. This means to have Him as your Lord and Saviour and to be in His will. Our purpose in life is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

In John 14:16 and 26 what does Jesus say He will give you?

Turn to Romans 10:17. Your faith and trust in God must be sincere and profound if fear is going to be driven out.

In Romans 10 what comes by hearing the word of God?

Lesson Summary

Sin getting a foothold in your life is the road to failure. 2 Timothy 1:7 encourages us, “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” You must stand strong in your faith and trust God.

We must follow the example of Christ when the Devil tempted Him in Matthew 4. 1 Peter 5:7 says, “casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” When you cast your cares upon Jesus your burden will be lighter. God never promised us a stress free and trouble-free life, beware of people who say contrary to this.

Fear is one of many vices of the Devil to discourage believers. Satan will use other methods such as lies, temptations, and hardship to destroy the spiritual condition of men and women souls. Therefore, it is very important to read the Scriptures, to be grounded in truth and prepared when the Devil attacks.

Remembrance verse

Psalm 34:4

I sought the Lord, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.