



Overcoming Fear

THE DOCTRINE OF CONFIDENCE ON GOD

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Overcoming Fear

FEAR has many faces and sources. The Greek word PHOBIA (phobia) or fear in English is a learned response and can be unlearned through the inexpensive fortification of your soul with Bible doctrine. No amount of behavioral therapy or systematic desensitization (that is psychological therapy combined with hypnosis) can successfully eliminate fear in the mind and heart of a person.

The mental attitude sin of fear is characterized by panic and anxiety concerning real and illusionary threats, danger, peril, hazard and anything that could go wrong. Six major areas that threatened the anxious person:

- Loss of power – from physical to political
- Loss of prestige – from reputation to dignity
- Loss of provision – from money to intellectual
- Loss of people – from loved ones to his very own
- Loss of potential – from skills to talents
- Loss of popularity – from approbation to fame

General Characteristics of divine protection:

- Continuous (Psalm 121:3-8)
- Unfailing (Joshua 1:5)
- Assuring (Isaiah 41:10)
- Persevering (John 10:29-30)
- Satisfying (2 Cor. 12:9-10, Isaiah 43:2)

Divine protection is designed for the following:

- Evil (2 Thess. 3:3)
- Undeserved suffering (1 Cor. 10:13)
- Persecution (Rev. 3:10)
- Enemies (Psalm 56:9, Jer. 15:20-21)
- Falling (Judges 24)
- Dangers (Psalm 91:3-7, Prov. 3:24-26)
- Calamities (Psalm 57:1, Prov. 29:25)

General classifications of fear:

- Fear related to psychological conditions
- Fear related to non-psychological conditions
- Fear related prejudices and discriminations
- Fear related to jocular matter
- Fear related to illusion and imagination
- Fear related to the unknown and uncertain
- Fear related supernatural

Categories of psychological fear:

- Fear concerning living, health and well-being
- Fear concerning reputation and dignity
- Fear concerning social relationship
- Fear concerning security
- Fear concerning the future
- Fear concerning death and dying
- Fear concerning non-observable fact

Our spiritual logistics (logistikos literally means the skill of calculation – without omitting anything) includes:

- God planning our provision
- God acquiring the supply for us
- God storing the provision for us
- God allocating and sustaining the provision
- God designing our position and maneuver
- God dealing with the implementation
- God taking care of our evacuation
- God preparing our hospitalization and recovery
- God managing our momentum and advance

Satan bombarded the entire human race with humanistic viewpoint since the beginning of human history, making man believe his lies and fearful of his schemes. The primary source of fear is the old sinful nature bombarded with satanic lies (that is the combination of satanic and human viewpoints).

Satan is working overtime creating and building up tensions, worries, panic, lies, confusions, and fear in the hearts of men. Here is a shocking truth: religious teaching, philosophy, superstitious, human viewpoint pass fear to human souls.

Words of warning concerning not overcoming fear:

- Overcoming fear is a mandate to every believer and is a skill that everyone can learn and practice, not unless one is like most people who cling to their fear.
- If you refuse to let go of your fear, but obeying it as your master, giving in to its demands because it's part of who you are, then you have been grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit.
- If you are not willing to start overcoming your fear, you probably would not overcome it at all.
- If you think there is nothing wrong with not overcoming your fear, you might die in your fear through sin unto death.

Fear over victory is achieved by turning on God in the following:

- God's power in your weakness
- God's wisdom in your confusion
- God's grace in your unworthiness
- God's mercy in your failure and sins
- God's sympathy in your pains and agony
- God's faithfulness in your unfaithfulness
- God's immutability in your wickedness
- God's happiness in your unhappiness
- God's eternal life in your doubts

FEAR FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM but the Word of God focuses on the divine solution to human problems. The only way to solve human problem is by divine solution. Human solutions to human problems are NO SOLUTION but breeds more problems leading to fear.

Fear exemplifies human viewpoint and obstructs problem solving. God has provided complete victory over fear.

GOD EXPECTS every Church Age believers to overcome his fear through the divine provision and divine problem-solving devices provided at the point of salvation.

NO BELIEVER is left without defense and protection in satanic cosmic systems. It is irrational, illogical and useless to pray for some kind of power to overcome your fear when in reality God has already provided everything we need pertaining to life and godliness. God has provided everything in advance and nothing is lacking or missing.

God has provided a ten (10) line of defense in the soul of the believer against the four (4) intense conflicts which are:

- Temptation of the old sin nature (OSN)
- The pressure stress in the soul of the believer
- The enticement or allurements of false doctrines
- The tendency to trust in human solutions and human viewpoint

The ten line of defense or 10 problem-solving devices are:

- Rebound
- 2Filling of the Holy Spirit
- Faith-rest
- Grace orientation
- Doctrinal orientation
- Personal sense of destiny
- Virtue Personal love for God
- Virtue Impersonal love for man
- Sharing the happiness of God
- Occupation with the Person of Christ

Fear breeds arrogance while the Word of God in the soul nurtures genuine humility.

Fear prevents living the spiritual life while Bible doctrine rejuvenates the spiritual life. Fear obstructs problem solving while the Word of God initiates problem solving.

Basic preparation for overcoming your fear:

- **Consciousness:** You must be conscious that your fear is causing disorder and chaos in your life.
- **Detachment:** You need to understand that you have to detach yourself from your emotion.
- **Identification:** You have to pinpoint each specific fear that has been harassing your soul.
- **Definition:** You have to investigate your fears and define what arouses each fear.
- **Prepare to launch into doctrinal study:** Your only solution to fear is Bible doctrine, so don't turn your back from it.

Religion has succeeded in creating fear in the hearts of men in a very subtle and unsuspecting manner. Religion is the best instrument of Satan in pulling men into the pit of demonic influence. There is a very long list of fear, most of which are illogical, pure superstition and unreal. But the most important thing here is that:

DO NOT BE AFRAID, means that we do not dwell on the possibility of personal injury or death but the objective set before us. As Christians, we do not dwell on losing the battle but we focus on the **VICTORY** we already possessed.

DO NOT PANIC. Some irrational and emotional terror may paralyze the mind and the heart. Bible doctrine alone has the power to clear this panic and fear.

Only the **ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE WORD OF GOD CAN ERADICATE** this kind of panic. But the encouragement from human viewpoint creates pseudo peace and more fear. Tranquility under severe pressure is the overt expression of a courageous soul with Bible doctrine.

5 Uses of faith in the Bible:

- **Misplaced faith:** pseudo-faith –the compromised faith also known as the misdirected faith
- **Saving faith** – at the point of believing in Christ alone by faith alone
- **Inhale faith** – at the point of intake of Bible doctrine (Heb. 4:2)
- **Exhale faith** –at the point application of Bible doctrine (Heb. 13:7)
- **Faith as the body of what is believed** (Col. 1:23, I Tim. 4:1)

Pseudo-faith: the misplaced faith is rooted in three factors:

- Fake salvation due fake gospel (salvation plus something plan of salvation)
- Fake Bible doctrine due to pastors who are lazy to study the Bible from its original languages
- Fake application of Bible doctrine or wrong application due to total ignorance of doctrine

The life of the believer is insured by the Character of God-you are under His security blanket. When you lose everything but not your integrity, your future is secured by the integrity of God not by anything else. Bible doctrine in your soul is the guarantee. God honors his Word wherever it may be found. The life of the believer is secured and protected by the power of God, which is the best and perfect protection in the entire universe. No place is safe except in this world except in the center of God's will. Nothing can guarantee your protection from anything and anyone except the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are several basic categories of fear:

- Fear of future crisis or sudden disaster
- Fear of formidable enemy
- Fear that torture the mind for negative reactions
- Fear that engages in guilt of past failure
- Fear in the midst of severe adversity
- Fear that results from ignorance of God*s Word
- Fear that comes from religious supernatural beliefs
- Fear that results from anxiety or panic
- Fear that results from outburst of emotion
- Fear that results from self-pity and bitterness
- Fear that results from loss of self-confidence or courage
- Fear that results from illusion and mystical (schizophrenic)
- Fear that results from loss of mental control

YOU MUST DEFEAT FEAR BEFORE IT DEFEATS YOU and only then you can defeat your enemy. Fear is your most dangerous enemy. When it strikes, it must not be allowed to ignite a devastating chain reaction of mental attitude sins that always incapacitate thinking, decision-making and actions.

- The more you surrender to fear, the more you go on in fear
- The more you go on in fear, the more you are incline to fear
- The more you are incline to fear, the more you allow fear to control your life
- The more you allow fear to control you, the more you live by fear.
- The more you live by fear, the more you become frightened to live your life.

No believer will survive the cosmic system without Bible doctrine in the soul. God will not remove the problem or the suffering but God will convert the evil that assails us to our benefits. He will build a wall of fire around the believer and protect him by the power of God [Zech. 2:5, 1 Peter 1:5a].

Four lines of divine protection for the believers:

- All believers: divine protection on the ground of the resident perfect righteousness of God in the believer imputed at the point of salvation.
- Some believers: divine protection from the basis of metabolized Bible in the soul of advancing and mature believers.
- Few believers: divine protection on the basis of election, metabolized Bible doctrine and spiritual maturity provided with a wall of fire to make impact and become an invisible heroes.
- Very few believers: Additional divine protection provided to those who are proclaiming the true Gospel and communicating Bible doctrine as they increase intimacy with God.

Ignorance of Bible doctrine related to divine protection:

- Ignorance of Bible doctrine results to misuse and abuse of prayer by most Christians.
- Ignorance of Bible doctrine causes wrong focus in prayer.
- Ignorance of God's Word makes the believer priest outside fellowship with God pray apart from God's will and purpose.
- Ignorance of Bible doctrine makes the prayer of the believer fouls up his prayer.
- Ignorance of Bible doctrine cause boasting for carnal believers outside the plan of God.

How to handle the stress of the battle and pressure of life is something you cannot learn apart from the actual situations. Psychology, psychiatry and hypnosis with positive thinking will not solve the fear that dominates the human souls. Human solutions can only hide those fears for a short time but they will surface sooner than expected. The ultimate remedy and prevention for the mental problems is the Word of God inculcated in the souls of the believers.

Personal love when misdirected toward a person becomes a dangerous gateway for compromise. Compromise divides and it cannot unite anything for good:

- Compromise conviction falls into loss of faith
- Compromise loyalty ends into betrayal of trust
- Compromise priority results to loss of worth
- Compromise of respect turns into aversion
- Compromise of values results to degeneracy

Nothing is too late and nothing is too early, everything is just in perfect timing [Psa. 91:14-16, Rom. 8:28]. Most human anxiety comes from failure to understand God's timing. Satan is in business of pushing and panicking human being for decision when they are under anxiety and fear. When doubtful and confuse, the best thing to do is just to wait upon the Lord (study Bible doctrine) and let no one push you for decision apart from careful thinking based on doctrinal and grace orientation.

There is nothing as accident in the life of the believer-everything is part of His decree, nothing is unknown to God. Nothing we do will ever surprise Him. God delivers and rescues us in His perfect timing. Divine

No believer will die of famine (that is economic recession or depression) or from war (that is disaster, calamity and death) [Job 5:19-20]. No weapon of war will take your life as long as God's plan for your life is to stay on earth. The believer with Bible doctrine in the soul will survive the scourge of the tongues (that is slander, mockery, insults, unfair dealings). There is no such thing as accident for Christians; everything is according to divine decree, the result of human freewill and decision.

YOU WILL LAUGH [Job 5:22a] means to have humor. It is an indication of inner contentment and peace of mind amidst severe tragedy. His sense of humor is the result of sharing the happiness of God that knows the mind of Christ.

The WILD BEASTS is metaphor for the sudden violent disasters. The believer is under instruction not to be frightened by the possibility of violent devastation or changes. God will not drive away the wild beasts but He will make the VENUM or poison totally ineffective against the growing and advancing believers.

FOR YOU WILL BE IN LEAGUE with the stones of the field [Job 5:23] refers to the stones that were designed to use as weapon against you. The same stones will be your friends *they will not hit you. There are bullets without your name on it.

THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD will be at peace with you [Job 5:23b], refers to the effects of disaster and calamity turned into blessing for your welfare.

YOUR DESCENDANT WILL BE MANY [Job 5:25]; means that life must go on for the believer regardless of his situation or condition, regardless of his pains and sufferings. Life must go on. No one and nothing could destroy the believer until his final appointment to depart from this planet. Likewise, the planet earth will be preserved for the purpose of God until at the end of the millennial reign of Christ. Worldwide destruction is impossible because only God has the right to destroy this planet. God created it and He alone has the right to destroy it [2 Peter 3:10-13, Rev. 21:1]. Nobody can take your life without God's permission as schedule by divine decree (Heb. 8:27). Nothing comes into your life without God's permission.

LIKE THE STACKING OF GRAINS in its season [Job 5:26] is metaphor for the security provided by divine logistical grace, which is a guarantee from God.

The believer has no entitlement to be unsecured in the world because God has provided already the remedy. The believer becomes insecure when he focuses on the crisis not on God. God is in business of solving man's problems but He is not doing it without consent. Believers must learn to let God do it.

Correction for wrong beliefs related to divine protection:

- God will not protect a person because somebody is requesting and pleading God for it (2 Thess. 3:1-18). Prayer is commanded but it cannot accomplish anything apart from the Word of God in the life of the believers.
- God will not bless a person because somebody says so (“may God bless and protect you”). It is a big mistake to think that because you are a great prayer warrior that God will do whatever you may request from Him.
- God will not protect you because your religious leaders with their “super faith’ prayed for you. That scheme of prayer makes people feel secured without being protected by God.
- God will not protect you because you prayed to Him. Divine protection is not based on prayer and petition but on the character or essence of God. Your spiritual armor is the Word of God not your sincere prayer.
- God will not protect you while you put yourself in dangerous situations depending on human and mechanical security. Your ultimate security is the Bible doctrine which you despise and habitually neglect.
- God will not protect you by acquiring k-9, weapons, security devices, or private army. What you need is to attain spiritual maturity to employ the divine resources and assets you have in the Lord Jesus Christ and see the divine protection in your life operational.

The silent killer of faith and confidence toward God:

- The slaughter house of confidence is worrying.
- The believers do not have any basis for worrying since God is in full responsibility over our life.
- Worry is rejection of God’s promises, provision and protection.
- Worry is ignorance of grace provision and refusal to use divine resources.
- Worrying is a mental attitude sin, a way of life contrary to the grace plan of God.

Useless cosmic ways of handling fear:

- Taking a deep breath before you do anything
- Telling yourself that you are not afraid
- Using the emotional freedom techniques
- Fingertips meridian points massage
- Questioning yourself while focusing on your fear
- Get into some work to forget your fear
- Hypnosis to program the right thinking
- Eliminating the negative beliefs
- Getting into positive thinking
- Gratefully counting your blessings
- Telling yourself that you are winner
- Writing down your fear on paper
- Find someone who will listen to you
- Talk about how you are dealing with your fear
- Find a good therapist
- Go for neurologist or psychiatrist
- Find a life coach to guide your journey
- Reading books about overcoming fear
- Make action and face your fear
- Watch movies about those who overcome fear
- Change diet and get into good eating habit
- Think positively whenever fear strikes
- Put all your negative thought in perspective
- Surrender to what is more powerful
- Listen or read the story of others
- Help others to overcome their fears
- Convince yourself that there is reason for it
- Find a role model winner to follow
- Pray and ask your God for guidance
- Get into yoga training program
- Keep asking yourself and others about fear
- Understand your failure and keep moving
- Explore the roots of your fear
- Get into meditation and breathing exercises

Compromise common risk factors:

- Failure to recognize our subtle enemies, their weapons, tactics, strategies, weakness and strength.
- Failure to recognize yourself with OSN and its weakness and strength.
- Failure to recognize your own inabilities and insufficient that you can do nothing apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Failure to recognize that we cannot compromise our belief, faith and priority of doctrine without consequential serious damages.
- Failure to recognize that we are in the cosmic system which hostile against believers.
- Failure to recognize that the believers can lost much when they compromise
- Failure to recognize that we have hope to live by and compromising with a world without certainty is very stupid thing to do

When there is no spiritual discernment: (sound doctrine in the soul Titus 1:13), the believers are sidetracked with:

- Truth about themselves
- Truth about God and God's word
- Truth about eternal destiny
- Truth about the hope they have in God
- Truth about personal sense of destiny
- Truth about heavenly things
- Truth about earthly matter
- Truth about anything they have questions

There are four root causes of insecurity in the human lives:

- Lack of Bible doctrine in the soul of the believers
- Ignorance of divine plan, purpose and will for man
- Ignorance of the divine assets made available to believers
- Untrained and unskilled in using the problem solving devices

With the OSN:

- Your tendencies are to compromise with the world, OSN or with the devil.
- Your inclination is to betray the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word and God and embraces human solution.
- Your instinct is to satisfy the OSN and its lusts.

The cosmic system:

- Is a society and culture without absolutes
- Has watered-down morality
- Where situational ethic prevails and direct moral action
- Where fallible humanism triumphs and the infallible Word of God is ignored

Satan is manipulating the human race:

- Relativism with no walls (it's ok as long as your heart is right)
- Be functional being (get in touch with your feelings)
- Redesigned your life for maximum expression (let feelings guide you)
- Be integrated into the world (let the world mold your belief and conviction)
- Man is the author of his own destiny (make your own legacy)
- The world is a nice place to live (be infatuated with the world)
- Serve the people (be a servant of the world: false humility)

THE Christian life is a life of victory for we have the VICTOR Himself. We are not aiming, aspiring or fighting for victory but from victory. The victory of the Christian life is not goal, not the objective, not the project but the cause, the reason why we endure, the very purpose why we have to continue advancing is the victory that Lord Jesus Christ has won for us. There is no reason for believers to become losers and cowards in the angelic conflict for the Lord have provided everything we need to become winners and conquerors.

The growing believer who is residing in the will and purpose of God is secured even in the midst of trouble waters, in the worst conflict and disaster. Whenever fear strikes, the believer must resolve to apply the divine solution that is to totally rely and put your confidence on God (Psalm 56:3). The Bible doctrine in the soul of the believer is the antidote for fear.

Not putting your confidence on God results to:

- Worry and anxiety due to lack of capacity to handle the situation
- Hatred toward others and blaming them for his own miseries
- Negative reactions to the given situation
- Guilt feelings from the past failures or sins
- Self-pity because of ignorance of his position in Christ
- Panic due to lack of solutions and capacity in handling the problem
- Loss of control of the soul in distress

God will not remove the cause of our fear but He will reverse the effects of fear by His presence (Psalm 118:6). God designed our regenerated souls to live in the midst of fear and turmoil, but we have no reason to dwell in fear. God has already provided everything we need to overcome fear and every problem in this world. Fear is a mental attitude sin that must be overcome.

DO NOT ANXIOUSLY LOOK ABOUT YOU refers to believers who are seeking human solutions to resolve their problems [Isaiah 41:10]. God in His perfect omniscience knows exactly our problems and the exact solutions. We must look for God who has the solution. Remember, human solution is no solution. The Scripture prescribes virtue from Bible doctrine against fear:

BE STRONG DO NOT BE AFRAID. The souls of the believers are not immune to fear that affects the human will and effectiveness to keep advancing toward the goal [Deut. 20:1-10].

STRONG refers to the power of the spiritual life. Courage is the expression of this strength. Combine strong and courage and you have moral courage.

DO NOT TREMBLE. The fear in the soul cause incapacitating physical reactions or emotional outbursts, that continues to shake the believer for long. Battle courage that comes from the Word of God may not eliminate fear, but allows you to put your training in action in spite of it [Psalm 27:3, 46:6-9, 55:22-23, 140:1-2]. Trembling obscure your focus of divine reality and removes the possibility of good decision. It handicaps the believer from doing the will of God.

GOD IS IN CONTROL of human history and of all events in the entire universe. Nothing comes as accident to believers. Everything is part of the divine decree. Everything is under His guidance and protection.

God in His perfect knowledge of all things related to man keep an eye on every event. Nothing escapes His wisdom. Some events happen because God allows it and some happen because He causes it. To overcome fear, the believer must apply basic principles:

THE PRINCIPLE OF VICTORY OVER FEAR OF DEATH

The death of the believer is exactly God's decision. The divine decision for us to die is victory since God is the absolute authority in life and death [1 Cor. 15:55-57]. The divine decision regarding the believer's death includes the manner, the time and place of death [Psalm 116:15]. The believer is always under God's protection until the Lord takes him home.

Since God is perfect, His timing is perfect in all manners of life and death [Job 1:21b]. Death is the wise and gracious choice of God and always the best for the believer. In death, we are face to face with the Lord. We are in a place of perfect happiness, leaving all the troubles and suffering behind.

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Basic things we need to understand about death and dying:

- It is appointed unto every man to die physically (Hebrews 9:27). Therefore we are all terminal, since God alone has the sovereign power and control over our dying and death. No one is in control of the time, manner and place of his dying unless God allows it.
- Death is the inevitable fate for all with the exception of Enoch, Elijah and the Rapture believers.
- The uncertainty of the time of death is common to all. Death can take us at any stage of life.
- The manner and cause of death will always be a question of uncertainty. Even the terminally ill with cancer may die with heart failure, kidney failure, not necessarily with the cancer.
- There is common physical phenomenon both for the prepared and unprepared to die.
- Both the souls of the saved and lost are conscious after physical death.
- Both the souls of unbelievers and believers are eternal and the real issues is whether they are going to spend eternity in Heaven or in hell.

THE PRINCIPLE OF VICTORY OVER SUDDEN CRISIS

GOD is in control of human history. All events in human history are for the benefits of the believers including the worst disaster and calamity. National discipline does not exempt the spiritual believer from sorrows and pains.

Sufferings for the mature believers are not designed to destroy them but to accelerate their growth. The saints are expected to use divine solutions and not to seek more miseries for themselves. Disaster or crisis cause sorrows to the believer that leads to repentance [2 Cor. 7:9-11]. More crisis and disasters are expected before the Second Advent. The believers are expected to endure such sufferings and never give up.

THE PRINCIPLE OF VICTORY OVER SORROW

As believers, we have hope, a real confidence based on the Essence of God [1 Thess. 4:13]. Physical death is not the end of their story (the deceased). Enduring grief and sorrow become an imperative of the Christian life.

You cannot stop normal living because your love ones have died and gone to heaven (hell). You cannot resent others who are enjoying life when you are in a state of sorrow. You cannot demand your relatives and friends to join your extended grief and mourning. You must not tarnish their memory of the deceased by becoming morbid, bitter, resentful or vindictive.

Your grief and loneliness is a private matter between you and the Lord. Your loneliness belongs to you alone, in the same manner; your confidence belongs to you alone. The death of the deceased is a perfect decision of God (no matter how brutal and ruthless the manner maybe). We know very little about them but God is perfectly knowledgeable. To complain and to ask God about His perfect decision is to question His sovereignty and righteousness.

Our sorrow (no matter how grievous) is just temporal and personal matter. It is not the affair of the whole community or the affair of the local church. The believer is displaying his immaturity by asking or soliciting sympathy from others. The Christian life is a life of victory and the believer must appropriate or apply that victory from moment to moment of his sojourning in the world. Remember, we are fighting and advancing from the VICTORY OF CHRIST not to gain our own victory.

Conclusion: There are more than fifteen Hebrew nouns and ten verbs that are translated as fear in the English Bible. Thus it occupied a large place in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the New Testament there is one main noun for "fear," phobos, and one main verb, phobeo.

The element of fright or terror seems to be inherent in these terms, but as is the case in the Old Testament, the idea of reverential trust predominates.

Though the Bible has so much to say about fear and yet it does not in any way propagate or advocate fright or terror but courage toward men and circumstances and confidence toward God. The fear of the Lord is the antidote against anything that creates, employs, causes and contributes to our fear. The world (cosmos diabolicus) is under the bondage and slavery of sin which causes fear.

A common expression is "the fear of the Lord," which occurs fourteen times in the book of Proverbs. It is declared to be "The beginning of knowledge" (1:7), "the beginning of wisdom" (9:10), "a fountain of life" (14:27), and "the instruction of wisdom" (15:33). We are told that "the fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (8:13), that it prolongs life (10:27) that it gives "strong confidence" (14:26) that it keeps people away from sin (16:6), that it leads to life (19:23), and that the reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are "riches, honor and life" (22:4).

It should be obvious that "the fear of the Lord" does not mean being afraid of God. Rather, it is a reverential trust in God that makes us want to please and obey him. And yet there is a wholesome feeling of being sure that we do not disobey or displease him.

Another interesting expression is "the Fear of Isaac" (Gen. 31:42; 53). It appears to be an appellation for God, meaning the one for whom Isaac had fear (that is, reverential trust). Somewhat different is the fear of God spoken of in Gen. 20:11. When Abraham came to Gerar, he thought, "Surely there is no fear of God in this place." This would probably mean being afraid of God.

An interesting combination is that found in Exod. 20:20: "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.'" The people were not to be afraid of God, but they were to have a proper sense of reverence that would include a fear of displeasing him.

A favorite phrase in the New Testament that occurs also in a number of places in the Old Testament is "Fear not," or, "Do not be afraid". This occurs especially with the sudden appearance of angels (Matt. 28:5; Luke 1:13, 30; 2:10). Here it seems to indicate the feeling of terror or fright that the angel's presence brought. The Lord Jesus used it in the sense of being afraid of the future.

He comforted his disciples with the words: "Don't be afraid: you are worth more than many sparrows" (Luke 12:7). In verse 32 of the same chapter he says: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." Fear as a preventative has value. But fright or terror has no place in the Christian's life, at least in his relationship to God.

We are encouraged and commanded not to fear anything or anyone. We are mandated not to fear the presence of God but to have confidence toward God (Heb. 3:6, 4:16, 10:19, 35, 2 John 28). Fright or terror in the presence of God is not a virtue, and so with courage toward God. Courage toward God is misdirected virtue and it is blasphemy.

Fear will diminish from the soul of the believer gradually according to the pace of doctrinal input into the kardia. The soul must be renewed with Bible doctrine replacing the human viewpoints, negative mental attitude sins, religious and supernatural beliefs, illusions and mystical information, and demonic doctrines. There is no instant way to overcome fear but it requires a long process. Every normal person, believer and unbeliever has his own fear in some particular aspect.

It is normal for unbelievers to dwell in fear but never for believers. Fear toward men and circumstances have no place in our relationship with God. It is an insult to God for believers to dwell in fear. Arrogance hides fear behind the bushes of lies and deception.

There are three phases of arrogance:

- Arrogance toward his fellowmen
- Arrogance toward established authority
- Arrogance toward the Bible and God

The arrogant believers are:

- Exhibits an attitude of superiority
- Adds his good works to God's system of grace
- Adds something to faith
- Seeking to establish his own righteousness
- Blind to the grace of God
- Stepping out of God's provision
- Living a life of deceit and lies
- Skillful liars and deceivers
- Living in false impression of himself
- Disability to handle critical situations
- Uses people to achieve his own selfish ambition
- Resent and reject authority
- Demonstrates disobedience to God's Word
- Blindly follows his own plan apart from God
- Engage in self-promotion
- Makes bad judgments
- Refuses to take responsibility for his own decisions and actions
- Builds self-glory with the monument of human viewpoint
- Always looking for human approbation and recognition
- Exalts himself as a model of piety and devotion
- Cultivates his life of weaknesses out of illusion and fantasy
- Over-estimates his capacity and totally depends on it
- Thinks that his suffering is unique and that he alone is suffering.

To overcome fear, the believer must apply the four basic principles for all believers:

- Rebound to adjust to the justice of God
- Reside and function in divine system
- Rehearse faith-rest exercise
- Renew your mind with Bible doctrine

The pace, speed of the doctrinal input varies because the volition of the believer varies from one another. The doctrinal frame of reference (the amount of Bible doctrine in the soul) will determine the pace of your spiritual momentum. The bigger is the amount of Bible doctrine in the soul, the lesser the believers succumb or give in to fear. The believers tend to surrender to fear when there is basically very little Bible doctrine in the souls.

There are numerous categories of fear but none is without antidote from the Bible. None exempts the believers from responsibility of overcoming fear. No alibi is logically acceptable for not overcoming it. As long as the believers are in the world, fear will continue to harass them. The believers are free to overcome fear but not to be overcome with fear. The freedom of the believers is for living victoriously in Christ, not to be defeated by fear, and therefore losing their spiritual rewards.

God solving your problems vs. you solving your problems:

- If God solves your problems, you have nothing to worry about. If you solve your problems, you will be in state of constant anxiety.
- If God solves your problems, success is sure. If you solve your own problems, you will be failing.
- If you solve your problem while out of fellowship with God, all your decisions and action will fail. If you let God solve your problems even the unsolvable, things will turn on favor of you (Rom. 8:28). God will solve your problem if you let Him.

Believers who are fearful are most likely to die of sin unto death due to absence of Bible doctrine in the soul. The basic characteristics of sin unto death:

- Maximum insecurity, fear and anxiety
- Maximum self-righteous arrogance
- Maximum panic and confusion
- Maximum negative mental attitude
- End of opportunity and privilege to advance and growth in the plan of God
- Total loss of blessing in time and eternity
- Maximum pain and agony of the soul
- Maximum regret and remorse
- Deception of sin unto death:
- Fake peaceful death – false serenity and peace
- Fake happy death – false happiness
- Fake satisfaction – false fulfilled life

Factors that leads to sin unto death:

- Rejection to receive daily doctrinal instruction
- Rejection to retain and metabolize Bible doctrine
- Rejection to apply Bible doctrine to life experience
- Refusal to pay respect and concentrate to the Word of God
- Resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit to rebound and continue in the Bible doctrine.

Prescription to avoid sin unto death:

- Consistent filling of the Holy Spirit
- Consistent intake of Bible doctrine
- Concentration (recall and retention) of doctrine
- Consistent application of rebound and recovery
- Constantly yielding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit

Nominal Christianity is illusion without reality. To be become a real Christian before the eyes of God demands reality. Here are some principles related to facing the reality of spiritual life:

- Reality will not allow you to substitute anything to replace spiritual life.
- Reality demands that when we encounter spiritual dryness that we let spiritual hunger push us to seek the Lord (and not to grab the rituals of religions).
- Reality will not allow you to make the distance between you and God far enough to lose your connection with him.
- Reality demands effectiveness of our spiritual life from the point divine power and resources.
- Reality cannot accept misapplication of truth by slipping into the comfort of religious rituals.
- Reality is always painful to pursue because Satan cannot tolerate the operating divine power.
- Going back to reality is costly and the price is very high.

Reality will not allow us to substitute (some commitment confusion of nominal Christians):

- Saying for doing
- Confessing for being
- Professing for acting
- Promising for coming
- Willingness for doing

Reality is finding our all in God and leaving our all in His grace to fulfill.

Reality is dealing with the disconnection that keeps us far from God. WE – if we are faithful with the process of connecting to God all the time.

GOD – is faithful with fulfilling us in His time –in His way

The catch of the devil's vicious traps:

- The arrogance Christians – thinking they are too smart to fall into the devil's snares.
- The ignorant Christians – not knowing the subtle and dangerous schemes of the devil.
- The pseudo-spiritual – thinking they are stronger than the fallen angels.
- The spiritual believer – who lost concentration and focus on his priority of Bible doctrine.
- The undiscerning believers – who cannot see the multitude of snares the devil has laid in waiting.

The Protection of the Believers Against Demonic Influence:

- Residence, momentum and function inside the pre-designed plan of God which is also known as the divine dynasphere.
- The divine dynasphere is the believer's dynamic power system where all the spiritual resources, spiritual problem solving devices, assets and the spiritual weapons are operational and functional.
- The divine dynasphere provides total protection against the fiery missiles of the Satan for Church age believers who choose to be occupied with the Word of God and with the Person of Christ.
- The Word of God is the believer's most powerful weapon when under operation in spirituality that Satan and all the demons cannot mock.

Satan frustrating the will of God in the life of believers:

- Satan frustrates the operational will of God (what God wants me to do: James 4:7-8) in the life of believers by encouraging them to involve in the things of the world deeply and seriously.
- Satan frustrates the geographical will of God (where does God want me to be: 1 Thess. 2:18) in the life of the believer by bringing them in places where there is no Bible doctrine but with all the pleasures to gratify their lusts.
- Satan frustrates viewpoint will of God (What God wants me to think: Eph. 4:14) in the life of the believers by constantly polluting their mind with the worries and concern of the world.

The confident believer under failure and defeat:

- Although he failed, God will not fail him. In his failure God is gracious and never withhold His help from him to recover and gain momentum.
- Defeat and failure is never an issue before God for His love does not depend on how bad or how good we are but on His perfect nature.
- Winning spiritual battle means overcoming not only one but multiple issues all at the same time.
- For example, Abraham military victory in Genesis chapter 15 involved magnanimity toward Lot, right mental attitude toward wealth, priority and motivation in life.