



SERMON NOTES

US N^o. 159

Date: October 5th, 2014

Title: We're not given a spirit of fear

1. Review
 - a. Spirit filled living
 - b. We are sons and daughters of God the Father
2. What is fear?
 - a. Distinguishing between fear and fearful, scared, anxious, worry, afraid, etc.
 - i. Fear is defined as *"a strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger; reason for alarm; anxious concern."* Fear often manifests itself by the impulse to escape or run away.
 - ii. Worry for instance is from the Old English *wyrgan* meaning *"strangle."* In Middle English the original sense of the verb gave rise to the meaning *"seize by the throat and tear,"*
 - iii. There are three basic causes of fear.
 1. the possibility of harm,
 2. the possibility of frustration (the failure to achieve),
 3. the possibility of not surviving.
 - iv. The emotional sequence to a given stimuli is usually fear, then anger. When one feels adequate to handle a given threat, he may become *"angry,"* but if he feels inadequate, he may become afraid. Anxiety is often the result.
 - v. Is there anything wrong with fear? The answer: It depends on the way one responds to fear. Fear is an integral part of man's nature which serves as a protective device. The right kind of fear enables us to handle the various problems in life and to insure our safety and mental comfort.
 - b. The short version of Karl Marx's quote on religion is that religion *"the opium of the people."* To quote evolutionary psychologist Nigel Barber, *"For Marx, religion was a real impediment to revolutionary change because the proletariat could feel better about their situation without doing anything to improve their objective circumstances. In countries with a better standard of living, existential anxieties recede and religion fades along with them. Religion may be many different things. Yet, at its core, it serves the same function as tranquilizers. It is a downer."*
 - i. Nigel further writes, *"One might take the thought a step further and note that organized religions have no real incentive to solve practical problems. Indeed there is a perverse incentive because the worse conditions are, the more support religion garners. In addition to alcohol sales, religion is one of the few businesses that prospers in a recession. This is true because religion thrives on misery, taking an opportunistic approach to each of the many sources of misery that can beset us. Whether natural disasters, devastating illnesses, fear of sudden death, fear of occupational failure, or fear of being alone, there is no unpleasant experience that cannot boost religion."*

3. Spirit of fear; 2 Tim. 1:7, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
- a. Again, if someone feels inadequate (an inability to cope with the problems of life) to the issue that caused the fear, resulting in constant worry sometimes leading to a state of panic or paralysis. Such people may often be afraid without knowing why.
 - b. If wrongly dealt with, fear can be debilitating, harmful, paralyzing, and destructive.
 - i. Luke 19 gives us a good example of the wrong kind of fear is found here. What was wrong with this wicked servant? He failed to act on his emotions. He became paralyzed at the prospect of failure and was unwilling to lend out his lord's money. The man really had no excuse; he would have earned some interest for his lord even with this small investment sum. His response to the fear of failure eventually paralyzed him into doing nothing.
 - ii. Prov. 29:25, *"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe."* Many people are trapped by various situations in life because of fear. They are afraid to move out or take a risk. What is the solution? To trust the Lord. When we trust God and exercise faith in His promises, many of our fears and problems quickly disappear.
 - c. Rather than to risk failure, people who are inhibited will not try to accomplish anything. Aside from that fact that some have inherited wealth which has made them appear to be successful, people who are truly successful are generally risk-takers. Many risk-takers are intelligent people who have counted the cost of the risk. Yet they are willing to take the necessary steps, knowing that if they do not they will never accomplish their goal.
 - d. The New Testament emphasizes the need to overcome fear and to be bold in the Christian way of life. Many people are afraid to step out and obey God because they fear what others may think. Men will not judge us in the Judgment, only God will do that.
 - i. Jn. 12:42-43, *"Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."*
 - ii. 1 Cor. 16:13, *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."* It takes courage to stand by one's convictions in the face of opposition. Fear of men and what they think should be cast aside. We must realize that God has all power. We must come to realize that power is available to help us.
 - iii. Overcoming the wrong kind of fear is a matter of exercising faith. The Bible tells us in Acts 14:22, *"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."* We face all kinds of situations that can cause us to be fearful.
 - iv. Ps. 34:19, *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."*
 - e. How can we be bold and cast off debilitating fear? We read in 1 Jn. 4:17-18, *"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear*

involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” Notice, perfect love casts out fear.

i. 1 Jn. 5:3, *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

f. Boldness results also with position:

i. Sons and daughters of the Eternal Father (cf. Heb. 4:16)

ii. Filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 4:24-31)

4. KOG not fear; Marx’s concern. Luke 4:18-19, *“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”*

5. Take-aways

a. Spirit filled sons & daughters

b. Beware of the snares of fear that hurt us and hold us back.

c. Steward your talents in the fear of God.

d. By standing by faith in Christ and you can weather the storms of fear; you do not have live under but above.

e. Faith in Christ is not a tranquilizer to close our eyes to the world of pain, but the catalyst to embolden us to build God’s Kingdom here and now.

f. The Father’s heart is for us and we can be confident in Him.