

BRIDLING THE HORSE OF FEAR PART TWO

In part one; we learned the difference between God fear and fear from Satan. Then we talked about the “*whys*” that open the door to Satan’s fear tactics—NO FEAR OF GOD! I shared in closing that we have one more picture to see in part two— picture #3 that tells of God’s heart for His children.

I don’t know about you, but I want Jesus sitting on that front saddle leading me and the Holy Spirit sitting on the back saddle helping me, because on judgments day I don’t want to be escorted by angels to an eternal hell. *I want to climb the stairway to heaven—enter by the pearly gates and shake hands with Saint Peter as I’m passing through.* What about you?

Make your changes now before it is too late—live holy before God now—then on judgment day you won’t have to stand before God filled with regret because you didn’t have the common sense to fear the Lord. Remember, common sense is one of the ways that God speaks to us. Don’t be deceived by worldly thoughts and ways! You may not yield to common sense to fear Him while you’re looking at what Hollywood puts out and what our nation’s leaders condone and you may be saying everyone is doing it therefore, it must be right. Church, grab a hold of this thought, *nothing is right until God says its right!* He is the judge! When God says it, it is settled! It is a done deal!

Let’s talk about the SPIRIT OF FEAR which is the product of the Prince of darkness. Diseases have killed thousands, but fear has killed its tens of thousands. The spirit of fear births every phobia—phobias that grips your mind with the intent to destroy your life. Your greatest problems will come from the fear of trouble, not the presence of trouble, but the fear of trouble. The **spirit of fear** will break your spirit, it will destroy your defenses, and it will disarm you in the day of battle. The spirit of fear will make your death bed a place of terror. Have you noticed that when the righteous die there is a peace beyond understanding. It is evident by the body language and the facial expressions. Sadly, we see the opposite when the ungodly die. There is often terror in their eyes, a thrashing of the body, and they do not want to let go for they fear what awaits them. They have a fear of the unknown. They are afraid!

There is a difference in *knowing Jesus* and knowing *about* Jesus. If you live with a spirit of fear in your life, faith cannot live there. Hear what I am saying. Release your heart and mind to hear what the Spirit of God is saying to you. Faith cannot live in the environment of fear and fear will not stay in the presence of faith. My first pastor, Brother Patterson, told me 51 years ago to remember this saying and use it whenever necessary, *When fear knocks at the door of your soul, send faith to answer and no one will ever be there.* Amen!

2 Timothy 1:7 – God has not given us a spirit of fear. Read it again out loud—God has not given us a spirit of fear. Paul wrote this letter shortly before his death as he awaits execution in Rome—it’s his final letter—NO self-pity seen here—Paul’s heart was speaking more than his intellect. Paul’s saying that God has not given us a fear of man. How often are we driven by the foolishness of public opinion and not by the admiration of Jesus Christ? We need to make up our minds whether we are going to be God pleasers or people pleasers.

The righteous have nothing to fear on the day of Christ’s return. The reward for our service and faithfulness to our mission in Christ will come from Jesus, our Judge. Our salvation is free. However, for enduring temptation, there is the crown of life (James 1:12); for those who shepherd the people of God faithfully, there is a crown of glory (1Peter 5:14); and for our hard work for Christ, there is a reward in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:14). (Taken from Hayford’s Bible Handbook-Page 417).

Where was the spirit of fear born? If something exists, it had a beginning, right? The spirit of fear came into man’s heart in the Garden of Eden as a product of sin. *Adam, where are you?* Fear struck Adam’s heart! Adam wasn’t afraid of God until he disobeyed what God had told him—Adam sinned.

We are moving into a time where God is calling forth his people to stand up for the holy things of God and not to buckle under society’s opinions, the world’s ways. When I hear God calling, *Katie, where are you?* I know he’s not looking for information. He already knows what’s going on in my life. He’s looking to rule in my heart and life and often has to call me back into that place of hearing His voice, of keeping my heart clean and right before Him, of bringing me back to the right path, because sometime I wander off. God knows where we’re hiding and He knows the things we’re hiding. He knows every secret detail of our lives. There’s no kidding or fooling God; He knows all.

Sin is the mother of the spirit of fear. The spirit of fear rules in man because sin continues to rule in man’s life. Fear comes in through sin(s). The only way to get fear out of your life is to kick sin out of your life. And the only way to kick sin out of your life is through the blood of Jesus Christ and the confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. You cannot do it any other way. Confess! Repent! Turn from even the very appearance of sin. Turn to God! (1 John 1:9)

Where does fear attack you? Fear targets first with negative thoughts in your mind. Fear says you’re too tired to try again, give up! Fear says you’re too weak to win, just stop and surrender. Fear says you’re too exhausted to endure, so quit trying. Fear says you’ll never be a success. Fear says sit down and shut up, you’re nothing but a loser. Fear says no one really likes you, you won’t fit in. Fears say—lies, lies and more lies, BUT FAITH COMES BACK AND SAYS—*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.* The Bible says, FEAR NOT!

Faith says you are a child of God, rise up, you cannot be defeated! Therefore, you need to act like God's child. You need to talk like it. You need to live like it. You need to think like it. You need to take charge of your life for the royal blood of heaven is flowing in your veins. That's a truth to get excited and shout about!

Fear says the disease in your body is fatal. Faith will dash back in and says, I shall live and not die. By his stripes I am healed. Jesus Christ is still the great healer. He is the same today, yesterday and forever. So which voice are you going to listen too—fear or FAITH?

Fear says your business is going to fail. *Faith* shouts back in Proverbs 28:20- a faithful man will abound with blessings. When God walks beside you, He gives you the power to prosper. God is your source of strength and success; He will never fail you as you trust and obey and seek his heart and will for your life. Satan sends fear to drag up your past and fear says, God will never forgive your past and God will never forget it. *Faith* says when sin abounded, grace did much more abound. God's grace is greater than all of your sin. When Satan comes and tries to drag up your past, remind him of his future—he has none. When he reminds you of your secret sin, you tell Satan it has been washed whiter than snow and dropped into the sea of forgetfulness, never to be remembered no more. It is deeper than you can fish.

Fear attacks your emotions and tries to get you to destroy yourself. The strongest men in the Bible suffered with fear. David was a champion of champions, yet the Bible says that in the day of battle, David waxed faint. Elijah sitting under the Juniper tree hiding from Jezebel said, *Lord, take my life, it is enough.* Peter was terrified of an eighteen year-old girl the day that Jesus was crucified and finally when the girl said, *You are one of them,* Peter cursed and said, *I don't know the man.*

Are you allowing fear to drive you? STOP IT! Hear God's command, FEAR NOT! Don't fear the past, don't fear the future—don't fear period. Fear is contagious. Fear spreads on the wings of doubt and unbelief and it destroys like the plague. Guard against it—don't yield to it—resist it and fear will flee.

Without FAITH it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6 – *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. Faith starts out before we know how it's going to turn out. Faith drove Moses into Pharaoh's court to say, *Let my people go!* It drove Moses through the Red Sea, past the walls of Jericho, to a land flowing with milk and honey. David walked in faith when he faced Goliath with only a sling and 5 stones while 40,000 cautious cowards watched. Faith drove Paul and Silas to sing in the midnight hour while chained and in a prison cell.

In PART THREE we will discuss more on FEAR versus FAITH and address the question
What is America's greatest fear?