

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Fight Fear

Dear Friend,

In 1933, at the height of the great depression, newly elected president Franklin D. Roosevelt made a statement in his inaugural speech that is appropriate for what we are facing today. At a time when farmers were suffering, manufacturing workers were out of work, food was scarce, Roosevelt declared; “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”. Roosevelt was exactly right. I believe fear itself is the main motivating force behind everything we see taking place in our world as a result of the corona virus. Furthermore, I believe that if you get to the very root of who is behind all this fear you will find satan himself.

Fear has the potential of paralyzing a person, or in this case an entire country. Once a person gives into their fear their outlook on life becomes dark and their hope begins to fade. The picture they have within them changes from one of a future filled with endless possibilities to a future of despair, wondering what horrible thing can happen next. It’s like a switch is flipped from on to off and everything looks impossible. Left unchecked a person’s fears can drag them into a hole that they see no way out of until their only solution is suicide. Sadly, many people have taken their own lives because of their fear and hopelessness.

I believe that our present circumstances, namely the corona virus pandemic, is the main reason for this sudden rise in the suicide rate. The week of March 27 here in Knox county nine suspected suicides occurred, eight of which occurred within a 48-hour period. These same kinds of tragedies are being repeated all across our country. Why? Fear and hopelessness have so gripped the heart of people that suicide seems like their only way out.

What I believe to be the biggest culprit for spreading this sense of hopelessness and fear of what’s going to happen next are the endless voices on the news broadcasts that paint the worst picture possible. I’ve been working in homes where the homeowners have literally sat in front of the TV for eight straight hours watching one news update after the next. Each reporter seemed to try and paint a grimmer picture than the last.

So, what did this do inside the person watching? Did it paint a picture of: “All things are possible to him that believes”? (Mark 9:23) Or, did it paint a picture of nothing is possible and we are all going to die? Obviously, all those reports painted a picture of doom and gloom and cultivated fear in the heart of anyone watching. Just multiply that same scenario thousands of times over and you can see why the overall outlook of a large percentage of people in this country is dark and fear is running rampant.

We need to understand how fear operates because it is by far satan’s favorite tool that he uses to defeat Christians. Fear is defined as *a distressing emotion caused by impending danger, evil, pain, whether the threat is real or imagined*. I believe we can say it like this; fear is the expectation of future events or outcomes that we don’t want. Whereas, faith is the expectation of future events that we do want. If that’s the case, then faith is on one end of the spectrum and fear is at the opposite end.

This is starting to make sense to me when I think about faith being the positive force that produces the results that I want to have in my life and fear is the negative force that produces the results that I don’t want to have.

To help put this into perspective consider the fact that we live in a fallen world that is being influenced by the forces of darkness. I think you will agree that it isn’t difficult to be afraid. Fear seems to come at us from all directions. Fear of failing, going broke, dying of corona virus, and the list goes on and on. No one has to struggle to be afraid.

The battle is to not allow fear to dominate our lives. I think you will agree that fear seems to be the commodity that satan trades with, whereas, faith is the force that empowers God to work in our life. So, to make it simple let’s just say that faith is to God as fear is to the devil. That being the case, anytime we allow fear to remain in our hearts we are giving the devil access into our lives.

I generally don’t teach much from the book of Job, but one passage I have found to help me understand what happened to Job is found in Job 3:25.

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.”

I can’t tell you how many times I have been tormented by the devil regarding either a situation or a health issue and the picture the enemy tried to get me to accept inside was that of defeat and failure. His goal was to get me to react in fear. The picture he kept showing me was the worst possible outcome and he wanted me to accept it and respond in fear, much like a fish takes hold of a worm

on a hook. The next thing you know the fish is being reeled into a boat. Likewise, if I were to respond in fear I too would have a hook in my jaw and the enemy could just reel me in. Instead, when I feel myself being lured into the direction of fear, when the image in my heart begins to be shaded by the artful paintbrush of the devil, I say what the word of God says about me and allow God's word to paint a picture of victory instead of defeat.

Both faith and fear deal with events yet to come to pass. For example; a believer may desire something to come to pass and so they confess what they desire, based on God's word, and a picture begins to form within them of having what they desire. Now, apply that same principle in the negative direction. Fear may drive a person to picture horrible future events to the point that all they can see inside are horrible events taking place. Next thing you know, they are speaking about their fear, almost as though they were prophesying their own doom. Before long, they have the very things they have feared. I wonder how many people have said they are sure if anyone gets the corona virus it will be them and just as they prophesied they ended up contracting it?

A person's fear can paint a picture within them of all kinds of horrible outcomes, to the point that the horrible things they see on the inside, the thing they fear the most, becomes an all-consuming thought. There is nothing rational about fear. We fear things that haven't yet happened to us, and yet with the help of our imagination it's as though they have already come to pass. Parents can be bombarded with horrible thoughts about terrible things happening to their children. Wives and husbands can be plagued with fear filled thoughts about something happening to their spouse. People can fear everything from the dark to getting stuck in a tight space. Being tormented with a thought here or there is much different than allowing that fear filled thought to grow and grow inside until it is all consuming.

I am sure that some of the events we have watched unfolding over the past few weeks, are the result of **fear** that has been allowed to go unchallenged. Now we see people wearing the things we are told will keep us safe from contracting the virus, the virus which doesn't appear to have a known cure. My question is this: "Do these same people who have been telling us all the things we need to do to keep us from contracting and spreading corona virus believe in the Name that is above all names?" I'm less inclined to accept instructions from someone who has never believed God and experienced supernatural healing for themselves. Furthermore, I am certainly not going take advice for how to live my life from someone who is in favor of the killing of unborn babies. They clearly are not operating in the wisdom of God.

The key to arresting the fear that has been allowed to run rampant in our society as of late is to turn our focus away from all the voices of fear and doom and gloom and turn our attention to God's word. Remember, those who are telling us the way things are in the natural aren't looking to the supernatural, which is evident by the fact that the one place in society that promotes the supernatural power of God has been told to stay closed.

It is time for believers to be "believers". In other words, instead of accepting what some man says about a virus being incurable, how about seeing what God's word says and choosing to believe it instead of allowing fear to rule you? Take a look at this verse from the 91st Psalm and decide if this includes the corona virus. (Psalm 91:10)

"There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

If I truly believe that no plague comes nigh my dwelling then do I really need to wear a mask and gloves everywhere I go and hose myself down with disinfectant? Remember, the people promoting all this have most likely never believed God and watched the flu symptoms instantly leave their body. They have probably never been diagnosed with some incurable disease like lymes disease and believed God's word and watched the symptoms leave their body once and for all. They most likely have never been diagnosed with incurable eye disease and stood in faith until the symptoms left their body. Not only have I experienced all these things, but many more times I have had the opportunity to stand on God's word and see His word come to pass in my life. Was I afraid? There have been times when I could feel my insides shaking because fear was trying to overwhelm me. It is one thing to have fear trying to come upon you, but it is something completely different to give in to the fear and allow it to overtake you.

Second Timothy chapter one verse seven says:

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Fear is not of God and anything we do that is motivated by fear is absolutely not of God.

I have heard other spiritual leaders who have talked about following the instructions of those who have been placed over us. The one thing that comes to mind to me is the ministry of Jesus. The times that He laid hands on people who

were lepers, or when He walked into the crowds and laid hands on the sick and they recovered. What would Jesus do today? Would we see Jesus with a facemask, gloves, and Peter squirting hand sanitizer in His hands? I have a hard time seeing Jesus this way, how about you?

As an individual believer you are going to have to make some decisions for yourself. Are you going to continue to do the things that promote fear inside of you or are you going to do the things that promote faith? I believe that if we will speak God's word over ourselves and our family that we can walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil for God is with us. (Psalm 23:4)

How a person chooses to live their life is a personal decision. A person is free to live bound up with all kinds of fears and phobias if they choose or they can live free from fear. God has not given me the spirit of fear so I am going to fight fear and every turn. When I sense that someone else is trying to get me to join them in their fear, I'm going to decline. If someone chooses to allow themselves to be influenced by those who have no belief in the power of God, then they are limiting themselves to only what can be accomplished in the natural. I choose to be influenced by faith in God's word, which builds hope within me.

The only thing to fear is fear itself. Fight fear like you would fight a rattlesnake coming into your house. Refuse to do anything that will in any way promote fear in your life. Put God's word first place in your life. Focus on His word and His word alone because His word produces the results you want.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins