

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 9043 • KNOXVILLE, TN 37940

October 2016

Fear Is The Enemy's Weapon

Dear Friend,

Imagine being in a war with an enemy, but having no idea what they looked like or the type of weapons they were using. You knew they were there and advancing against you, although you had no clue where they were hiding. You could see and feel the effects of their weapons, yet somehow it was as though your enemies were able to hide right in your presence without your knowledge. Even more alarming might be just how successful they were at convincing you to use their weapons against yourself.

What I have just described is the reality of most Christian's lives. Since the devil isn't running around in a red suit with a pitchfork in his hand and horns on his head, naïve Christians mistakenly think he is nowhere to be found. All the while, the enemy and his cohorts have successfully sown seeds of doubt and fear in the minds of those who are oblivious to his attacks. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

“Lest satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

Sadly, all too often we have been woefully ignorant of satan's devices and have had to pay the price for our ignorance. In some cases we have paid the price through sickness or disease. In other cases, fear has so dominated our lives that it has rendered us unproductive. **Worrying** and **fretting** over the least little thing has become a way of life to so many believers that their lives are consumed with fear. All of this has given satan direct access to the innermost thoughts of their heart to the point that he is in fact controlling their lives through fear. This is absolutely not what God intended.

Here's an example of just how ignorant of the truth some Christians can be when it comes to satan's devices. I remember preaching in a church one time and saying that **worry is a sin**. After the service, I was questioned by a church leader about the validity of that statement. Ultimately, the leader had the statement removed from the recorded message because they did not agree. I

was made to feel as though I was wrong for speaking the truth, which was meant to intimidate me into retracting my statement. Yet, in Paul's letter to the church at Philippi he wrote: (Philippians 4:6-7)

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (7) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Being **full of care is worrying** and Paul is saying, through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, that we are not to worry about anything. Does that sound like a commandment or just a suggestion?

There is a very good reason why God does not want us to be full of care and worry. Worry and fretting are gateways the enemy uses to gain inroads into our innermost thinking so that he can control us. You see, satan knows that in order for him to control your life he has to control your thoughts, which he does through these inroads provided by our fears.

Jesus does not want you or I to be controlled by anyone. The fact is Jesus has already accomplished our complete and total deliverance from any and all the power of darkness. Notice how Paul stated this (Ephesians 1:22-23)

“And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.”

God the Father put all the power of darkness and spiritual death under the feet of Jesus. When we are born again we are reborn into the body of Christ and are above all the power of darkness. That being the case, why in the world do we worry about anything? The devil has nothing that he can use against us that we haven't already been delivered from. Unfortunately, too many Christians are oblivious to this truth and spend their lives being controlled by the enemy when the truth is that they are already free.

The next question most believers have after hearing that statement is; “Why am I not free?” Freedom is ours, but it must be received and appropriated by faith. People have difficulty here because they want to see something before they believe and faith doesn't work that way. First, we must believe we are free and receive our freedom and then we will walk in the fruit of our believing.

“So, how do I appropriate my freedom by faith?” We must take God's promises to us, believe they are true, and receive them into our lives even while the natural circumstances don't agree with our confession of faith.

For example, the word of God says: “By whose stripes you were healed”.

(1 Peter 2:24) So, one day a Christian reads this verse who is suffering with sickness in their body. They think to themselves: “I’m not healed. This can’t be true.” Then comes the enemy to help convince them that the Word of God isn’t true. Maybe he drops some suggestive thoughts in their mind about how they are going to die and how this promises of healing is for everyone but them. The enemy will most certainly try to bombard their minds with a litany of other things to worry about, in addition to their fear of dying. If they don’t cast down these thoughts their imagination will begin to paint pictures of their kids being destroyed, families suffering a horrible demise, and themselves suffering and dying.

What the enemy wants to do is to keep the person in worry and fear because that will feed his presence in their lives and stifle faith from ever rising up in the promises of God. You see, a believer may **try** and read the promises of God, but when they are full of fear and their mind is running through all the possible negative scenarios it is impossible for them to see themselves receiving God’s promises. The reason for this is simple; the image of defeat painted by the enemy’s suggestive thoughts in their mind is greater than the image of success. They may want to be free, but wanting freedom and believing they are free are two completely different things. Believing you are free is not difficult, but you can’t believe you are free **and** meditate on your problems at the same time.

Whereas faith is the belief in the fulfillment of God’s promises in your life, fear is ultimately the belief of the enemy’s victory over you. Just like reading and meditating on God’s word fuels faith; fear no matter what the fear is of, is fueled by meditating on the problem that is presenting itself as your failure. I know this for a fact, when you change the image inside of you from doubt and fear and failure to the image of victory described by God’s Word you will have victory.

God isn’t holding one single thing back from us. In fact, He has done everything He can to put victory in our hands. But, we must receive what God has done for us in Jesus in order to see the fruit of it manifesting in our lives. As long as a person insists on meditating on failure and defeat and death that is exactly what they are going to have in their life. In addition to that, thinking and meditating and worrying about their particular situation will result in them speaking the problem instead of the promise.

You know as well as I do that the topic of most people’s conversation is generally negative. They range from who’s sick, who’s dead, what child has been arrested, how bad the country is doing, etc. On and on it goes until finally all hope of success is gone. You might be a person who is learning and growing in

the things of God, but if you surround yourself with negative influences it is just a matter of time until you are singing their song.

Fear comes in all forms, shapes and sizes. I have personally dealt with a variety of fears in my own life and have seen victory over many of them. That's not to say that I have conquered all fear in my life, but I am at least heading in that direction. I have seen some fears eradicated from my life and I now walk in freedom in those particular areas. Although, that doesn't mean the enemy still doesn't try and lure me back into fear. I have learned that the answer is God's Word! By meditating on God's promises in the midst of satan's efforts to convince me to turn loose of His Word I am utilizing the most powerful weapon I have to ensure my victory.

One of the fears that I have achieved some measure of freedom in is the fear of man. This is an insidious fear that holds the person hostage to the thoughts and opinions of others, like that leader who was trying to pressure me into compromising my statement about fear being sin. In your case, it may be a boss, a spiritual leader, a spouse or even a friend that is trying to manipulate you through fear. When the fear of man is present it causes a person to acquiesce to the thoughts and opinions of others in order to gain their acceptance. And when those with whom you are trying to gain acceptance are themselves suffering from a controlling spirit that drives them to exert pressure over and manipulate others to perform according to their wishes, it creates an invisible prison for both people.

I experienced this first hand and the funny thing was that I did not recognize it for the prison that it truly was. I was hungry for the acceptance of others, particularly spiritual leaders, and afraid of losing their acceptance. So much so that when the truth of God's Word that I was preaching ran crosswise to their opinions I struggled with whether or not I was going to hold fast to God's Word or turn loose of it for the sake of acceptance.

My freedom came after God had directed me to go on a longer fast. I was not doing the fast for any particular reason other than I knew that God definitely wanted me to fast. Once I completed the fast I could tell that something in me was different. Debbie commented later that she could see a freedom in me that had not been there before. God then led me down a path which culminated in the end of my relationship with the very individuals whom I had feared the loss of acceptance. In looking back, I see clearly what happened and why it happened and I thank God for my freedom. (Proverbs 29:25)

“The fear of man brings a snare: but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

I won't say that I am totally free from the fear of man, but I'm at least heading in that direction. More and more I am losing any fear of what others think about me. The only person who really matters quite honestly is God. We have become so co-dependent, a common buzz word in the world, on the acceptance of others that we put their opinions of us over God's Word to us. This is wrong. No one is to have the kind of sway in our lives that their opinion can overrule God's Word to us.

We must confidently hold fast to what God has made known to us through His Word, which is a trait that seems lacking in the body of Christ today. Instead, we are so easily swayed by the opinions and beliefs of others that we doubt what the Holy Ghost has revealed to us. Add to that the fear of losing the acceptance of others and it makes for a confusing mess in which no one has any spiritual backbone to be able to stand up and say this is what God is saying through His Word. It is especially true if, as was my experience, what we know God is saying through His Word contradicts a particular dogma being purported as truth by someone who views themselves as being in charge. Fear of man will hold us in bondage to their wrong beliefs and render us powerless to say or do anything that contradicts them. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

“For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

The writer of Hebrews sums up fear's hold over mankind and our freedom from fear in Jesus. All fear is ultimately rooted in death. No matter what the nature of the fear its roots are not drawing nourishment from the life of God, but instead from satan and spiritual death. Anytime a person allows themselves to operate in fear, or any of its friends like worry and fret, they are drawing from the wrong source and opening a door to satan in their lives.

Paul wrote this in his second letter to young Pastor Timothy, who apparently struggled with the fear of man. (2 Timothy 1:7)

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

When we were born again we were reborn with a spirit full of the power of God and the love of God and **not fear**. In other words, fear is now on the outside trying to get in. But, we can open the door to fear by allowing our minds to ponder fearful thoughts, worry, or fret about unwanted future results or opinions.

The fear of man is one that I believe is going to increase exponentially in the last days as more people depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. (1 Timothy 4:1)

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

This trend is already taking place and will only get worse. National denominations are waffling on moral issues and afraid to make a stand for righteousness. They are forcing their constituents to accept behavior that the Bible clearly affirms as sin, all for the sake of being politically correct. Making a stand for righteousness might cost you something and rest assured that the price will only increase. Will the fear of society’s rejection silence you? Will worrying about the possible consequences for saying what the Bible says is right or wrong keep us from sharing the truth and helping people to be free?

By allowing fear into your life, even in a small measure, you are giving satan inroad into your innermost thinking. You might believe it’s just a small, insignificant, amount of fear and there’s no harm. I believe there is no safe amount of fear. There is no “healthy fear”. Fear is fear no matter how you cut it and we better do everything we can to get it out of our lives or it will eventually hurt us, stop us, keep us from doing what we truly believe is right.

In conclusion, there is one antidote for fear, described by John. (1 John 4:18)

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

Love is the cure for fear. Are you worried about not making ends meet? It’s because you don’t know how much your Father loves you. Does fear dominate your life? It’s because you don’t know how much your Father loves you. When God’s love for us becomes a living reality to us, fear loses its stranglehold on us. Love, the perfect love of God, is the cure to fear. Focus on God’s love and allow His love to become the center of your attention and everything else, all your worries, fears and cares will become small in comparison to His love for you.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins