

Overcoming Fear Part 4 - Blueprint of Fear

Overview: The devil is not a creator. He is a copycat and a deceiver, trying to get us to obey him through fear because we focus on ourselves (Rev 12:9). God wants us to obey Him through faith because we love Him (John 14:21).

A. Review:

- **Thoughts of Fear** - Mental focus on failure or problems, Doubt, unbelief, uncertainty, Inferiority or Feelings of failure, Confusion, panic, nervousness, Dislike or persons, places, food.
 - **Other Related Words of Thoughts of Fear** - Anxiety or Worry: strain, stress, tension, alarm, anguish, cold feet, desperation, discomfort, dismay, distraction, distress, disturbance, dread, edginess, foreboding, franticness, hand-wringing, jitters, jumpiness, misgiving, panic, suspense, torment, upset, vexation, (Merriam-Webster.com).
- **Fear is a learned trait.**
- **Don't tell God how big your problem is. Tell your problem, how big your God is!**
- **Acronyms of FEAR:**
 - **F**alse **E**vidence **A**ppearing **R**eal
 - **F**ace **E**verything **A**nd **R**ise (with the Word of God)
 - **F**ocus **E**quip (yourself for battle) **A**ct (for God is with you) **R**emember (Perfect Love casts out all fear)

1. Part 1

Faith is believing that God will do what He promised.

Fear is believing that the devil will do what he promised (i.e., threatened).

2. Part 2

Generally, fear causes us to lose our joy, peace and patience.

Specifically, fear can be identified through our thoughts, words & actions.

3. Part 3

Fear comes from separation from God and leads to fear of physical death.

Jesus redeemed us from the bondage of the fear by abolishing death.

B. The Process of Faith and/or Fear

1. We cannot serve God and mammon. We cannot look at both sides of a coin at once. We must choose blessing or cursing. We must choose faith or fear.
2. How Faith Works.
 - a) Faith renews (changes) our mind when we hear and mentally agree. Rom 12:2
 - b) Faith is deposited in our hearts when we act on that mental assent. James 1:21-26
 - c) Faith impacts our souls as we speak that which is embedded in our hearts. Prov 6:2
 - d) As we speak words of faith, we call things that be not until they be. Rom 4:17
3. How Fear Works.
 - a) Since fear is faith in the devil, the process of fear works the same as faith.
 - b) Fear is faith in the destroyer who had the power of death. Heb 2:14
 - c) As we keep speaking words of fear, that which we fear comes into being. Job 3:25
 - d) Our words are creative and so we can frame our world with faith or fear. Deut 30:19

C. The Way of Life

1. Now abides **faith, hope, love, these three**; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:13
Hope is the blueprint for faith because any promise of God can create a hope in you; then we exercise our faith to manifest the promise for which we are hoping. Hope is the blueprint plan and faith creates the building.
2. God's desire is that we have faith in Him and His Word so that the Living Hope of the Gospel will guide us into receiving His love, in loving Him and in choosing to live a life of love. 1 Peter 1:3
3. The devil's desire is that we have fear (i.e., our faith in his words) so that our doubt in God's Word will guide us into sin and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. Jesus said, "Fear not; only believe." Luke 8:50
4. But we have not received **the spirit of bondage** again to fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Rom 8:15
5. By abolishing death, God has delivered us, who through fear of death were all our lifetime subject to the bondage of fear. 2 Tim 1:10
Heb 2:15
6. Since Jesus destroyed him who had the power of death, satan, then we shall not all die but we shall all be changed. 1 Cor 15:51

D. The Blueprint of Fear

1. When the Word is sown, unbelief blocks mental assent & hardens our heart. Heb 3:15
If the sown Word reaches our heart, satan comes immediately to steal it. Mark 4:15
2. Once the Word of God reaches our heart, satan's tool for taking it out of our hearts is doubt, which is why anything that is not of faith is sin. Rom 14:23
3. There are **these three, fear, doubt and death**; and the worst of these is death.
4. Doubt leads the way.
 - a) Doubt is the blueprint for fear because doubting a promise of God opens the door for the alternatives to the promise (e.g., doubting that Jesus heals today).
 - b) Doubt leads the way by creating a fear of the undesirable alternatives (e.g., being bed-ridden or dying).
 - c) Doubt also leads the way through the lust of desirable alternatives, which will produce the fear of judgment (e.g., getting high on marijuana or cocaine to forget temporarily the challenges). 1 John 3:20
5. Doubt is the beginning of a separation from God's Word and therefore from God. Separation from God is spiritual death, which leads to physical death. Gen 2 :17
6. But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. James 1:14,15

Summary: Doubt is not a simple, harmless questioning of God's Word. Doubt is a major demonic force designed to open the door to fear and eventually to lead to death. Avoid it like the plague!!