

SATAN'S DEMISE AT CALVARY!

PART THREE - FEAR

FEAR is a destroyer of man and presents itself in various forms: The fear of being “different”, “set apart” is addressed by Paul in Romans 12:2 – *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* If you try to live your life according to the world’s standards and if you fall below its standards, it will persecute or it may ridicule you. Think upon this example—a French officer, riding in front of his lines inspecting his troops, was thrown off his restive horse in an ungainly fashion. His troops laughed. The officer went and resigned his commission. He could not stand ridicule. Making a wiser choice to laugh with his men could have saved the situation. Fear is most devastating and is one of the most common traps set by Satan; it can cause a person untold damage if yielded to and left unattended. It can paralyze us to the point that to believe we can have a victorious life is wishful thinking. Fear strips us of positive attitudes. Fear can be described by modern psychology as Negativism.

FEAR of failure can cause a person to live a useless and empty life; afraid to try anything or stretch out into new territories because they are afraid they will fail. Remember the one-talented man (Matthew 25:14-30). He went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his talent. By doing nothing, you are living in a constant state of failure. Fear feeds on failure and failure feeds on fear. Step out, try and trust God for the results. They are in His hands. Be true to the call of God as you know it and remember that God has a way of turning even failure into victory. Stanley Jones in his book *Victorious Living* wrote that *the cross is the world’s supreme failure. When He dropped His head on His pulseless bosom and died, everything had crashed. But had it? Ask your own heart! If it is like mine, it clings to that Failure as the one hope of the race. God has a way of turning the cross of your failure into supreme success. The seed sown fails and dies, but in its failure a new life spring up. Therefore, away with fear and forward with Christ! Where? Anywhere provided it be forward!* Does this resonate in your heart and spirit?

FEAR of destitution in old age is a “biggie” in the earth today. Fear is rearing its ugly head as people look at the world’s economy, health care, the state of affairs of nations, and the natural disasters that are occurring in greater and more frequent portions than ever before throughout the

world. The world's answer—do any and everything you can to provide against it; stock pile, hide treasure away, selfish hoarding, and etc., but Jesus said, *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.* (Matthew 6:33) He has promised food and clothing as we seek His Kingdom first. Rest in His promises to take care and provide for you and do away with fear! Cast it out of your mind, heart and soul.

FEAR of being dependent on others to the point of being disobedient to our calling; We fear the consequences. We can't let fear of inconvenience to our family hinder our obeying God. Do we forget that Jesus' acting on the will of God involved His family? The Cross and also the resurrection, we can be sure, were not envisioned by His family and yet was a needful act of obedience of our Lord Jesus for the salvation of mankind. Sometimes our obedience to Christ is bound to cause suffering to those whom we love, but obey we must. It helps me to know that Jesus sees the big picture while I only see through tunnel vision; I must trust Him and move forward. For the elderly, the fear of old age and being dependent on others is most difficult to wrap our minds around. At the age of 77 I have to consider this fact of life myself and this is my take: if I accept the situation joyously and sweetly, I may be the kind of person others will delight to take care of—and would miss me if they didn't have the opportunity. Am I there yet? NO! But I know what I must do and I am working on changing my attitude and kick silly, superficial pride out the door. It still all boils down to being dependent on God and man, so let's do it joyously.

FEAR is one of the bedfellows with negativism. We all have inner conflicts and often find it hard to be positive in our attitudes and decisions. Therefore, we have to guard against retreating into the negative way of life. Satan and his army of demons jump at the chance to torment and harass a person who falls into this category of a chronic state of "NO!" These people have a difficult time saying "YES!" and following through with a positive attitude. They are always expecting the hammer to fall and things to turn against them. They are negative natures. They are miserable and lonely people. Would you agree with me that to be negative is to be unchristian? The Christian is positive, affirmative, hopeful. I am reminded of Paul and his life. From reading his letters we see that Paul felt the sheer hopefulness, the positive nature of the gospel that he chose to live by and encourage others to live as a "YES!" person in Christ Jesus. Would you agree also with me that to be in Him then, is to work on living a positive life. My

husband's favorite scripture that I saw him walk in day after day and affirm himself in was—Philippians 4:13. A most familiar scripture for believer, and to walk in its truth is to live a victorious life. *I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me* can hold you steadfast in the face of calamity and bring you into a complete place of victory.

I have only touched on a few of the fears that try to destroy God's people, but I pray that I have given you food for thought and that in reading this teaching, you are declaring to God, self and the world that you will work on a "YES!" attitude and tell the enemy of your soul that you will not fall prey to doubt or unbelief. Speak forth God's word in power, truth and authority!

Declare that *Perfect love casts out fear*. Therefore, you refuse to let the devil fill you full of fear. You will purpose to be powerful against his kingdom as you let your heart, full of faith, draw you nearer to God and with boldness you will resist and overcome the enemy.

Let us be led by the Spirit for in so doing we are in union with Christ which enables us to *withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*.

Peter tells us what our right [positive] attitude toward the devil should be—*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith*.

FYI: "Steadfast"—marked by firm determination or resolution; not shakable. Firm and dependable especially in loyalty. This indicates to me that this fight is not a spasmodic (occurring in spells and often abruptly) fight but a long drawn out conflict—it is ongoing—it is spiritual warfare!

REMEMBER

There is no room for fear in the heart of a believer. Fear cannot live in this fire of love—this perfect love of our Lord Jesus Christ and nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ.

O Christ, I thank Thee that in Thy company my negative fears are dissolved and I feel that anything—anything is possible. Help me to catch this spirit this day—from Thee. Amen