

Fear

II Timothy 1:7 *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

Fear is a dreadful thing. Doctors tell us that living in fear can be worse than having a medical illness. Many folk have broken down mentally due to intense fear they could not handle.

In the above verse, II Timothy 1:7, the Apostle Paul is writing to young Timothy, his student, admonishing him to not be afraid. Timothy was beginning his ministry. Paul knew that if Timothy became surrounded with fear his ministry would be rendered ineffective. Fear can paralyze a man of God. Fear can paralyze a church. Fear can paralyze a nation. Fear is awful.

Are you living in fear? It is a sick feeling. Do you agree? I had rather be tired than afraid. I had rather be lonesome than afraid. I had rather be poor than afraid.

Fear comes from many directions. It may be caused by uncertainty about the future. What is going to happen tomorrow or next week? It may be caused by misbehavior. You did something wrong and wonder- what will be the consequences? Fear may be brought on by threats from your enemies. Fear of failure is a dreadful source of fear. When I was a lost boy without Christ, I lived in fear of going to hell for several years. This fear was awful, though God used it to draw me to Christ. Every sinner ought to fear going to a Devil's hell.

Fear torments you

I 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.”*

Fear imprisons you

Romans 8:15 *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”*

Fear takes away your power

Could the shepherd boy David have whipped Goliath the giant if he had been afraid? Fear would have defeated David. Could Christ have withstood the howling mob at Calvary if he had been afraid? Today churches have no power, for they fear sin and the Devil. God wants His people to have a spirit of power, not a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7).

Fear will paralyze your Christian life

A person with fear cannot respond. The servant of Matthew 25:25 did nothing with the talent given to him by his master for investment. He was *afraid* he would fail! He became paralyzed. Matthew 25:25 *“And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.”* Fear will stop you from Christian service.

Fear interferes with love

How could a man and woman love one another in an atmosphere of fear? Our love for Christ and for our Christian family is hindered by fear. God wants us to have a spirit of love, not a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7).

Fear takes away a sound mind

A sound mind is “balanced and under correct influence.” Fear takes away soundness. We do irrational things when we are afraid. Some men have committed awful crimes while afraid. God’s desire for His every child is a sound mind- not fear (II Timothy 1:7)

We have all been afraid at some time. Yet, it is not God’s plan for the life of a Christian. Are you living in fear? This is not God’s will. Take your fear to the Lord. *Ask the Lord to kill the fear in your life before it kills you.*