

# NO FEAR

Romans 3:18

Intro. What do you think of when you hear the statement, "No Fear." Several years ago, Olivia and I went to a youth inspiration day where the theme was. "NO FEAR!" What does it mean? What does the Bible have to say about fear? As you study God's word, you are going to find this thought used in several different ways. We will find it used in the sense of God saying to us, "Be not afraid." We will find God saying "fear God." We will see the word used in the sense of people who have no fear of anything, including God, and then we will see people who are afraid to try to do anything. So, you can see that it is word that is used in many different ways. Let's look at it from several different angles.

## I. No Fear (of anything).

- A. Teenagers drive by and gun down a pedestrian.
- B. A man living with a woman physically and sexually abuses the children in the home.
- C. An executive swindles people out of their life savings.
- D. These folks have no fear of God, of what is right, of law and order.
  1. People who are not afraid to sin have no proper regard for God.
  2. Romans 3:10-18
    - a. Paul was discussing whether or not there was an advantage of being a Jew.
    - b. They had no fear of God because they would not recognize the God of heaven.
    - c. The word "fear" here denotes "reverence, awe, veneration," and to show such by our obedience to His will.
      - (1) There is no such regard or reverence for the character, authority, and honor of God as to restrain them from crime.
      - (2) Where there is no fear of God in the hearts of people, there is no practical restraint of any kind upon their deeds.
    - d. This summarizes the entire thought. (vss.10-18)
      - (1) Every sin and rebellion against God happens because we do not have a proper respect for Him.
      - (2) Wherever there is sin, there is no fear of God.
- E. No Fear of God.
  1. Abraham stated...Gen. 20:11
  2. Exodus 5:2
  3. Psalms 36:1
  4. Luke 18:2
  5. Where God is not regarded, human rights are disregarded.
  6. Justice begins with the fear of God.
  7. Why do people steal, lie, curse, kill, commit immorality and practice every kind of evil? It is because they have no fear of God.

## II. Fear God.

- A. Every person should fear or reverence God and turn to him in obedience and service.
  1. Ecclesiastes 12:13
  2. Proverbs 1:7
  3. Noah feared God -- Heb. 11:7
  4. Moses feared God.
    - a. Exodus 3:6
    - b. Hebrews 12:21
    - c. Deut. 10:12
  5. Joshua 24:14,24
  6. Luke 23:40-41...do you not fear God.
- B. The young man Joseph responded to Potiphar's wife the way he did because his value system had the essential component -- the fear of God (Gen. 39:9).
- C. Christians are to fear God.
  1. Acts 2:43
  2. Acts 5:11
  3. Acts 9:31
  4. Psalms 89:7

- D. Results of Fearing God.
  - 1. Keeps us from sin (e.g. Joseph) [Proverbs 8:13].
  - 2. Lack nothing.
    - a. Psalms 34:9
    - b. Prov. 22:4
  - 3. Essential part of true worship -- Psa. 5:7
  - 4. Trust in the Lord--Psalm 115:11
  - 5. Determines our companionship -- Psa. 119:63
  - 6. Motive for evangelism -- II Corinthians 5:11
  - 7. Motive for repentance -- Luke 23:40
- III. Fear (of doing God's will).
  - A. It is possible to have too much fear.
    - 1. Some people are phobic.
    - 2. Scared of people and afraid to do anything.
    - 3. The difficulties of life often bring out the destructive fear.
    - 4. Destructive fear brings discouragement.
      - a. Jeremiah 12:5
      - b. When people become discouraged, they will find many excuses to keep them from accomplishing what God would have them do.
        - (1) Numbers 21:4
        - (2) Nehemiah 4:10
        - (3) This fear will bring doubt.
      - c. Fear controls our lives and causes us to become cowards.
    - 5. The Bible encourages such people not to be afraid, but rather to believe that God really is with us and that we can do what God wants us to do.
  - B. II Timothy 1:7
    - 1. Not a spirit of cowardice, but of courage.
    - 2. Not the natural passion of fear, or a sense of danger.
    - 3. Not the reverential fear of God.
    - 4. A prevailing disposition of terror and timidity, that which destroys our confidence in God.
    - 5. And deprives us of the resolution in doing what is right.
    - 6. God has given us:
      - a. Spirit of power -- courage and energy.
      - b. Spirit of love -- love for God and his benefits to us.
      - c. Spirit of discipline -- sound mind, sober judgment.
      - d. All three work together.
  - C. Hebrews 13:6
    - 1. Context includes verse 5.
    - 2. "We may boldly say." -- without any hesitation or doubt.
    - 3. What can we fear if we have the assurance that the Lord is on our side and that he will help us?
    - 4. When persecution should come upon them, they might lose their worldly possessions, but they would not be deserted.
    - 5. They might be threatened with physical injury (Matt. 10:28).
    - 6. Confidence in God.
    - 7. Psalms 37:25
    - 8. Faith is the key to the fear solution.
    - 9. Psalms 23:4
  - D. Romans 8:31
    - 1. You can think of every terrifying thing that this or any other world can produce.
    - 2. Not one of them is able to separate the Christian from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.
    - 3. Of what then should we be afraid?
  - E. Matthew 14:22-31
    - 1. They cried out with fear. (v.26)
    - 2. "It is I; be not afraid." (v.27).
      - a. Christ often comes to his troubled disciples, walking to them over life's troubled waters
      - b. He may pass them by unless they call for him.
      - c. When the wind was contrary and life was a struggle, Jesus was there to help.

- d. In life, the wind is often contrary.
- e. There are times when we are up against it and life is a desperate struggle with ourselves, our circumstances, with our temptations, with our sorrows, with our decisions.
- 3. Jesus said, "Come!"
- 4. When he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid. (v.30).
- 5. Cried out, "Lord, save me." (v.30).
- 6. O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? (v.31).
  - a. He could walk on water as long as he had faith in Christ and kept his eyes on Jesus.
  - b. When Peter took his eyes off Jesus, and began to consider the difficulties, he began to sink.
  - c. As long as men have respect unto the Lord and behold him in all their ways, they go forward; when men become analysts of the difficulties, they fail.
- 7. Philippians 4:13, 19.
- F. I John 4:18
  - 1. The perfect love-that fulness of love, which he has received, casteth out fear-removes all terror relative to this day of judgment, for it is of this that the apostle particularly speaks.
  - 2. Fear as here contemplated, is not that which the Psalmist declares is "the beginning of wisdom" (Psa. 111:10), a reverential, godly fear, which shrinks from any action which would displease God. The fear which an obedient child has for a loving father (I Pet. 1:17)
  - 3. ...but *terror, dread, slavish fear*, such as is characteristic of a slave in the presence of a cruel and heartless master.
  - 4. We are taught to perfect holiness "*in the fear of God*" (2 Cor. 7:1).
  - 5. To submit ourselves to one another "*in the fear of God*" (Eh. 5:21).
  - 6. To work out our salvation with "*fear and trembling*" (Phil. 2:12).
  - 7. Fear (respect, reverence, awe) of God gives way to love.

Concl: We should have a proper fear of God. We should not fear to do whatever God has asked us to do. Ecclesiastes 12:13f; I Timothy 1:7. Do you doubt God's ability? You can't do it alone, but with God's help, you can serve Him!