

We have been celebrating our Freedom in Christ Jesus this July! In Week One, we declared that we would choose to use our independence as a people to totally depend on God. Last week in Week Three we talked about True Freedom and our freedom from the bondage of sin.

But on Week Two we talked about the Four Freedoms. Freedom of Speech, Freedom to Worship, Freedom from Want, and **Freedom from Fear**.

In a world that’s constantly consumed with fear and anxiety, I thought we should go back and expound on just what it means to be free from fear.

Too many lives are paralyzed by either the regrets of the past or fear of the unknown.

John 8:32 ...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The work of Christ Jesus on the cross has purchased our freedom.

True freedom only comes through Christ.

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (NIV)

Therefore, we understand, that we are not only set free from the bondage of sin, but we are set free from the bondage of fear as well.

Healthy Fear

- **Fear of The Lord**

Mary, the young mother of Jesus, prophesied in **Luke 1:50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.** (This is a healthy respect for the Lord)

EX: A healthy fear and respect of your parents, who loved you enough to discipline you.

In Romans 3:10-18, Paul builds a case that all have sinned. **“There is no one righteous, not even one;”** Then in verse **18** he points out that one of people’s problems is that **“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**

- **Natural Fears**

God given senses that will help protect us. Fear of Heights, Speed, Etc.

But even here we must not let a natural fear turn into a spirit of fear when these things grip you!

Unhealthy Fear

EX: People who live in fear. They always fear that something bad is going to happen to them, bad things have happened in their past or to family members, and they live in a constant state of fear.

- **The Sprit of Fear** Unhealthy, Unnatural, Controlling, and Destructive.

EX: Phobias: Fear of people, fear of Spiders, fear of heights, fear of public speaking, etc.

The Spirit of Fear can grow and spread!

EX: Camp fire ghost stories. Wall Street, Y2K, Hurricanes, Tornados, and gas shortages (toilet paper).

EX: Cancer Wing at the Hospital story.

- **Fear of Sickness**

EX: The singer who built an elevator in her home because she always had a fear that she would one day be paralyzed.

- **Fear of Financial Loss**

Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 **So don't be afraid**; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

- **Fear of Failure** (Probably what Timothy was feeling when Paul encouraged him.)

*"The greatest mistake one can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one."
Elbert Hubbard*

What a loss when people simply won't attempt to do anything because they fear failure.

- The right to fail is as important as the right to succeed.
Behind every great idea is someone saying, "It won't work."
- Failure is not something to be ashamed of. The only shame is when you let the fear of failure keep you from taking a risk, stepping out in faith, and doing what God asked you to do.

No one has ever accomplished anything of any significance in this life and not experienced failure at one time or another.

- **Fear of Death**

Almost every fear we have is ultimately the fear of death. We fear things that will lead to death. Spiders and snakes will bite us, and we will die. Heights, rollercoasters, dark alleys, could lead to death.

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Bold Next Step: Identify what your greatest fears are and consider how they may be hindering you from doing what God has called you to do.

We Are Free from the Spirit of Fear

1. Jesus has not given you a spirit of fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God **has not given** us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. If you are dealing with a fear, stop and ask yourself, "Where is this fear coming from and why?" **REFUSE IT or FEED IT!**

2. You are a Child of God. (This truth should alleviate a lot of our fears.)

Romans 8:14-17 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, **so that you live in fear again**; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

17 Now if we are **children**, then we are **heirs** —**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that **we may also share in his glory**.

Tell your fears, my Daddy's bigger than your daddy!

3. Know that Christ Jesus is always by your side as your helper.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?"

ILL: Bodyguard on a playground.

Psalms 23:1-4 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, **I will fear no evil, for you are with me;** your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

4. Remember that God is for you and not against you!

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

Jesus said... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

5. God loves you with a perfect love!

1 John 4:15-19 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. (God lives in you and you live in God, that should stop some fear!)

In times of fear what do we rely on? 16 And so we know and rely on **the love God has for us.** God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

17 This is how **love is made complete** among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

18 **There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,** because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **19** We love because he first loved us.

Romans 8:34-35 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died —more than that, who was raised to life —is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Romans 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6. We trust God. Bottom line, we must trust God. The lack of trust in God results in fear.

Psalms 56:4 In God, whose word I praise— **in God I trust and am not afraid.** What can mere mortals do to me?

Psalms 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

- At her death in a German concentration camp, Betsie ten Boom told her sister Corrie, “If you ever get out of this place, be sure to tell the world that *no matter how deep the pit, God is deeper still.*”
- In his mid thirties Sidney Lanier was dying of consumption. He took time to rest in Glynn County and there he wrote “*The Marshes of Glynn*” In this poem he pinned these words, “*As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod, Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness of God,*”
- “*God is too good to be unkind. He is too wise to be confused. If I can't trace His hand, I can always trust His heart.*” C.H. Spurgeon

Bold Next Step: Even if I don't understand, even if nothing makes sense, even if nothing seems to be working... I will trust the Lord.

Is there anything else that you trust that's going to bring you peace?

John 6:67-68 “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**”