

The Doctrine of Fear: Principles on the Escalation of Fear, 6-7; Solution to Fear

(REVIEW)

B. Principles on the Escalation of Fear:

- 1- The more things you surrender to fear the more things you fear.
- 2- The extent to which you surrender to fear, the greater is your capacity for fear.
- 3- The greater the capacity for fear, the more you increase the power of fear in your life.
- 4- The more you increase the power of fear in you life, the greater your failure to execute the mechanics of the spiritual life.
- 5- Fear is an emotional sin and therefore has no true courage but rather produces cowardice.

(NEW)

- 6- **You cannot be afraid without putting abnormal emphasis on yourself.** This incorporates sins from the arrogance complex with those associated with fear:
 - 1) **Jealousy:** As a sin of **arrogance**, jealousy motivates sins of emotion. As a sin of emotion, jealousy becomes irrational. It is expressed in six ways:
 - (1) **Hysterical:** Includes fear of rivalry, fear of losing someone's affection, fear of unfaithfulness in some form--worry, anxiety, panic, consternation, irrationality, dissociation. Jealousy is irrational in its resentment and hatred of others.
 - (2) **Hatred:** includes uncontrollable anger, implacability, bitter resentment, vindictiveness, loathing, animosity, tantrums, violence, and even murder.

*[Note: Sin is an **emotional** sin that can fire off this whole cluster of sins – snowballing and escalating is left unchecked.]*

- (3) Self-centeredness: [*Putting SELF as number 1, making everyone else number 2 or lower*] Includes self-pity, egotistical irrationality, and certain expressions of dissatisfaction including gossip, slander, maligning, and vilification. This is **arrogant preoccupation with self** and irrational implacability toward the object of jealousy.
- (4) Reaction: Includes **combining the emotional sins** with the **arrogance** complex of sins. Jealousy is related to both complexes of sins. Jealousy is a part of revenge motivation and revenge tactics. [*Emotional REACTION as opposed to RESPONDING through thought*]
- (5) Guilt: Jealousy results in an irrationality which the person often **regrets**. He feels guilty about the things he has done.
- (6) Self-righteousness: jealousy is a major factor in the function of **crusader arrogance** and therefore becomes a producer of legalism and, when Christians do this, it's called **Christian moral degeneracy** [*this is evil meeting evil*].
- 2) Bitterness: the Greek noun **πικρία** / *pikria* / always refers to animosity, hostility, jealousy, and is developed from unresolved anger. Bitterness as a noun in the English language means something that causes animosity and reaction.
- 3) Vindictiveness: Having a revengeful disposition involving retribution and punishment. Comes from the Latin *vindicta* which means “vengeance and punishment.” This mental attitude is what gives motivation to the *first* negative mandate of Leviticus 19:18.
- 4) Implacability: Incapable of being appeased, irreconcilable; refusal to be assuaged or mitigated; unappeased enmity or resentment. This mental attitude is behind the *second* negative mandate of Leviticus 19:18.

Leviticus 19:18 - “You shall not take vengeance [**vindictiveness**], or bear a grudge [**implacability**] against the sons of your people.”

- 5) **Revenge Motivation**: A series of thoughts, decisions, and actions which seek through retaliation to get even or gain satisfaction for past wrongs, **real** or **imagined**.
- 7- Fear allows circumstance to overcome the believer and unchecked leads to personal disaster.

C. **Solution to Fear**:

- 1- The **plan of God** is designed to remove all fear from the life of the believer and replace it with confidence in His Word which leads to courage toward man and circumstances.
- 2- This **courage becomes a mental attitude** which reflects one's spiritual self-esteem in relationship to people and circumstances.

[Spiritual self-esteem is based on your personal sense of destiny meaning you KNOW who you are before God. So don't be distracted by what others call you or think of you – you can ignore it if you're in fellowship and you're living your life the best you can according to God's Word.]

- 3- This means that true courage finds its source in one's personal love for God.

[Who are you? As a believer, you are related to the God of the Universe, and He is FOR you. Harmonious rapport with God becomes more and more frequent and powerful as you grow and stay in fellowship.]

- 4- Spiritual self-esteem, personal love for God, and confidence in doctrine motivate courage toward man and circumstances. This courage is expressed by sound thinking under pressure, decision-making from a position of strength, and action founded in thought not emotion.

[Keep your eyes on Jesus – the Author and Finisher of your faith. You are a royal priest – an ambassador for Christ - a citizen of Heaven, not this place – we're just visiting. We can have unconditional love for all mankind even when they're wrong / they wrong you. You are not distracted – you can make sound decision making under pressure.]

The Christian Way of Life is built on thought not emotion.

- 5- Courage manifests the application of the tandem problem-solving devices of **personal love for God** and **unconditional love for mankind**.

[Matthew 22:37 - Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.']

- 6- These two expressions of love are virtuous and drive fear out of the soul.

1 John 4:18 - [CTL] Fear does not exist in virtue love [Matt 22:37] but virtue love drives out fear, for fear causes punishment. In fact, the person who is afraid has not been matured by virtue love.

- 7- The mature believer is able to eliminate fear by equating living with dying and adversity with prosperity.

[John 16:22 - I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering but take courage--I have conquered the world. "']

- 8- Fear of death destroys capacity for life. No believer has any control over the manner, time, or place of his death.

[All our days were ordained for us before we were born (Psalm 139:16), God knows absolutely everything about us, every minute of our lives (Psalm 139:1-6), and he orders His angels to watch over us (Psalm 91:11)]

- 9- The death of the believer is the imposition of the wisdom of God over his volition.

- 10- The death of the positive believer involves a transfer from time into eternity by means of dying grace.

- 11- Dying grace may be defined as follows:

- 1) Dying grace is the experience of physical death under special provisions of grace, whereby the mature believer experiences both blessing and happiness while dying. It removes the fear of death according to:

Psalm 23:4 - When I walk through the death-shadowed valley I do not fear the adversities of dying because You are with me.

- 2) Dying grace takes the sting out of death according to:

1 Corinthians 15:55 - "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

- 3) Dying grace begins the process of converting escrow blessings in time into escrow blessings for eternity.

2 Timothy 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

v 8 - In the [Eternal] future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day [**the judgment seat of Christ**] ...

- 12- **When you realize there is nothing to fear in death then you begin to realize that there is nothing to fear in life.**

- 13- Unless fear of death is resolved by means of one's confidence in God's Word then the believer receives no pleasure out of living.

- 14- Instead, he is constantly limited by a fear of losing his logistical support, losing his prosperity, losing his life.