

# RENOUNCING FEAR

By

Curtis Dickinson

The past three decades have been dominated by an aura of stark fear throughout the world. One of the strategies of the world revolutionaries is to create an atmosphere of fearful expectancy, which at times can be whipped up into terror. It is a tool of Satan and is capable of rendering people completely helpless and bringing about the defeat of an entire nation or of an individual.

Fears about in our present society: fear of war, disease, unemployment, poverty and loss of freedom. Many people, young and old, think of the future as hopeless and face a “meaningless” existence.

But at the root of all such despair, call it fear or meaninglessness, is a question of a man’s relationship to God and His purpose. If one stands in sin, he is fearful, for at every moment he is in jeopardy of being brought face-to-face with the Creator. The hope of receiving immortality in a new creation is totally absent to the one under the burden of sin-guilt. To such a person there truly is no meaning to life. He has no reason to live and is afraid to die.

Christ relieves the believer of all such fear. It is significant that He often met the disciples at the most critical times with the expression, “Fear not.” By taking upon himself the burden of man’s guilt and then paying its penalty by dying, Jesus eliminates the barrier of sin between man and God. The believer is thus relieved of the basis of his fears;. He has been “baptized into Christ’s death” so that the penalty for sin has been met by Jesus. “For he that has died is justified from sin” (Rom. 6:4–7). “There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). He not only does not fear death, but views it as a release from the evil world, and the prelude to the resurrection to immortality.

When the ultimate goal is settled it takes care of all the intermediate fears.

No longer is there any fear of displeasing men, of failing to receive their approval, of losing position in the world, in the club, or in men’s organizations. Jesus teaches us that all such position and glory among man is of no eternal value. In fact, “Whatsoever is exalted among man is an abomination with God”, he said. God is the architect of all good things, therefore whatever is pleasing to God is right, no matter what men may think of it. Furthermore, if it is pleasing to God it also will be pleasing to all those who love God and have understanding of God’s purpose.

No longer do we fear our own inadequacy. Christ is adequate. His grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in our weakness (II Cor. 12:9). Satan may cause us to tremble with continued assaults but Christ has defeated him once and for all. We would save ourselves a lot of time, energy, and disappointments if we were more attentive to Christ than to Satan.

We need no longer fear our own shortcomings, that we fail to attain the holiness for which we long. Salvation is the attainment of Christ by his death and not the product of our own labors. We are saved by grace through faith in the atonement Christ made for us in His death. Whatever fruit of salvation we possess, such as holiness, peace, joy and

love, is not the grounds for salvation, but the fruit of it. The more we grow in His likeness the more glaring our failures and sins will be in our own eyes, but this is evidence that we share God's abhorrence of sin, not a cause of anxiety and fear.

It is a true relationship with God that dissipates all our fears. We are in the world to please God and to serve Him, and nothing in the world can keep this from happening. The continued assault upon us from Satan may cause some fear and trembling, but Christ has defeated him once and for all. We are told to fear him not but to resist him and he will flee.

Christians have a legitimate reason to think that their lives might be in danger, that they might be torn from their loved ones and placed in prison. It has happened to millions in the wake of the world-revolutionaries who believe the Zionist principle that they have a right to displace everyone else in fulfilling their destiny, and today they have targeted American Christians. The same principle was at work in the days of the apostles and evoked the admonition from Jesus: "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do...fear Him, who after He has killed has power to cast into Gehenna" (Luke 12:4, 5). We have only One to obey and to please and we know that He will not fail us but will accomplish the purpose for which we are called through Christ. In answering His call we are not to try to find ways to avoid conflict or suffering but to find ways to imitate Christ in spite of all the obstacles we find in the world.

It is one thing to know the power of the enemy and the strategy he is using, but it is quite another to live in desperation for fear of his advances. If we walk in Christ's way we expect to be attacked by Satan's children (John 8:44), but we do not expect to be defeated. It is through such warfare that we demonstrate the fact that our values are eternal, that we are citizens of and loyal to another Kingdom, that our faith is genuine and that God's purpose and goal is more important to us than all the world offers.

Here is one of the greatest opportunities of all times for Christians to show the difference between faith and fear. The world may live in fear because it sees its temporal pleasures vanishing day by day but the Christian lives by faith and sees His victory drawing nearer daily. If we love the world we will live in fear, but if we love God we will live in faith. "Perfect love casts out fear."

.....  
Copyright © Curtis Dickinson. Formatted and Posted by Ken Fortier Ministries.  
Permission is hereby granted by Mrs. Regina Dickinson to reproduce and distribute  
Curtis' articles to as many as possible. This statement is to remain attached to this article  
for permission to be valid. Vol. XXVI, Number 7.  
.....