

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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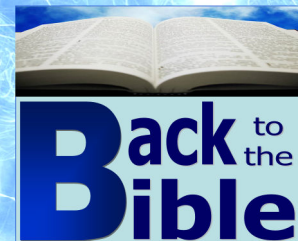
FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	22
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Offering	\$2227

**Do NOT let
your PRIDE
keep you
from obeying
the Lord.**

**"Pride goeth before
destruction,
and an haughty spirit
before a fall"
(Prov. 16:18)**

PRIDE



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?

Tim Canup

Every person has a fear of at least one thing. Some of the top things people fear are, #1 fear of flying (aerophobia), #2 fear of public speaking (glossophobia), #3 fear of heights (acrophobia), #4 dark, #5 intimacy, #6 dying, #9 spiders, #15 snakes, #16 needles, #22 clowns. God does not want us to be dominated by fear, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (I John 4:18); rather, God wants us to be led by our faith (I John 5:4). Fear is used in Bible in two senses, yet they are connected. Let us study this subject to see how can we overcome our fears?

DEFINED & WHAT'S INVOLVED:

Let us begin by defining fear. One of the words that is translated "fear" in the New Testament is from the Greek word, *phebo*, from which get "phobia." The word means, "to terrify, to frighten...to fear, dread...to fear reverentially, to reverence...to be afraid to do a thing...to be reluctant...to be apprehensive,... anxious" (Perschbacher, 430). One online definition said, "an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat." There is a connection between being afraid of something and reverence of a thing. For example, a child may be fearful of bully because he believes the bully is stronger than him or her and can inflict harm. We are to be fearful of God; however, we know He is no bully. God does not

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unjustly do harm to us like a bully does, but we know there are consequences of disobedience to His will. Most of us have a fear of electrocution. Why? We know the consequence of electricity and therefore respect the laws of electricity. One reason there is so much lawlessness in our land is that there is no respect for law because there are no consequences for breaking the law.

Also notice some things involved in fear and reverence. There is the belief that someone or something is greater than we are and can do us harm, inflict pain or threat to us (I John 4:18). For example, some are fearful of a single bee, because they may be highly allergic to them. Yet some are not, because they know a single bee has very little effect on them; however, they are fearful of a swarm, knowing the potential harm they can cause. You see, to some, one's fears may be irrational, but to them they are not because something happened to them to cause that fear. Fear is often connected with one's past experiences.

A loss of control is also involved in our fear. One may fear a thing because it takes away their feeling of being in control. For example, one may fear the dark because they do not have control of knowing where we are or what is there with them. Rejection also can be involved in our fears. We are social creatures, and we do not like rejection. Being rejected causes us fear and many times can alter one's actions; we call it peer pressure.

PROPER & IMPROPER FEAR:

First, notice a proper fear that is acceptable. A proper fear is a good thing; it can keep us safe. Fear involves the respect of the consequences of disobeying or violating certain laws, such as the law of gravity or the laws of electricity. Fear can guard us from harm. Most citizens of a nation obey the laws of the land because they know the consequence of disobedience. When there is no consequence for our actions, then fear disappears. In the Bible, we have been commanded to fear God. The wise man wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (cf. Acts 10:34-35).

Second, notice an improper fear is one that keeps a person from doing what God has commanded. If a person is faced with his two worse fears, and there is no other option but to face one or the other, what will they choose? Would it not be the one they considered to be the lesser of their fears? Our fear of God, that is, our respect for Him, His laws, and the consequences of disobeying them, should move us to do His will (cf. Matthew 10:28; I Peter 3:14-15; Revelation 2:10; 21:8; Acts 5:29).

BIBLE EXAMPLES (both proper & improper):

I wonder about Moses when God called him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt? He began to make excuses. Was it because he was fearful? When God commissioned Saul to destroy the Amalekites and he did not, "Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice" (I Samuel 15:24). Then there is Peter when he denied the Christ because pressure had been put on him. The disciples on the Sea of Galilee

in Mark 4 were fearful when the violent storm arose. Jesus rebuked them for their lack of faith. The Religious Leaders of the first century were fearful of the people. Consider two examples. First, in Matthew 21, when they had asked Jesus about His authority for cleansing the temple, He turned it back on them by asking them about John's baptism and they refused to answer Jesus' question correctly because they "fear[ed] the people" (verse 26). Second, in Acts 5, when Peter and John were arrested for preaching Christ in the temple, verse 26 tells us that "the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned."

How about Noah when God gave him the task to build the ark. Surely he must have known about what was coming because in Hebrews 11:7, we read: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house..." There are several examples of a proper fear in the book of Daniel. In chapter 1, when Daniel and his friends refused the "king's delicacies," they were more fearful of God in defiling themselves and in the consequences of whatever King Nebuchadnezzar could do to them. In chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego boldly refused to bow to the image knowing they would be cast into the furnace, their fear of God was greater than that of fire. In chapter 6, by Daniel's faith his fear of the lions could not be compared to his love and reverence for God. The early church in Acts 5 when God struck Ananias and Sapphira dead for lying, we learn that "great fear came on all them that heard these things" (Acts 5:5, 11). Then there is Paul. While traveling to Damascus, saw the bright light, the resurrected Lord and fell to the ground. There "he trembling {the result of fear} and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). Read Romans 8:31, 35-39; I Corinthians 2:4; II Corinthians 4:7-8, 16-18; II Tim 1:7, 4:14f sometime.

OVERCOMING FEAR:

Go back to the account in Mark 4:35-41 and the violent storm on the Sea of Galilee. On that ship with the disciples were four experienced fishermen, and yet they concluded that they were in serious trouble. At that time their faith was weak and still growing and developing. At least we can credit them for knowing where to go. In verse 40, Jesus asked them, "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" You see, faith is the victory! (I John 5:4). We know that, but how can faith overcome fear? We know that God is greater than anything that could threaten us here and we must trust God's providence. So it is our choice to live in fear or in faith. Let us build a proper, strong, biblical faith that can overcome any fear we may face here in this life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Nov 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Nov 28 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell