

LIVING FEAR FREE

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In this message Bertie explains what fear is according to Biblical terms. This message is directed towards establishing your heart in the love that God has for you, resulting in fear free living.

We can just enter into the kindness of God and come to a safe place where those who fear can actually trust God. One of the greatest messages that you can ever hear is the message on God's love, how much He loves you. That is what the gospel is all about. It's the message of God's love, God's work, towards man to save man.

We have had a certain commandment as pertaining to fear and we have thought that fear was a commandment in the sense of, "You shall not fear. You shall not be afraid!" It doesn't matter what storm comes. It doesn't matter what happens to you in this life. If you have cancer, you should not fear. If poverty stares you in the face, you should not fear. In the midst of all those commandments, if we fear of what happened to us, then you would now have fear upon fear because now we would now be afraid of God because we have not obeyed the commandment in not fearing... which is actually ridiculous!

We have come to a place where we are afraid of God because we have been afraid in a certain situation. Now what about having a Father who loves us and who comforts those who live in fear, who has come and sees the pain, and the agony and the torture that people have who live in fear? He has come to comfort those who fear, with a word about God being the Father of people, caring for people, loving people, wanting to love them to the point that fear falls off them! What about fear being something that we are enslaved to that we cannot be free from by our own works and that God is loving to the point that He will set us free from fear.

I remember so many times where I could not actually live a normal life because of fear that grabbed my heart. I was afraid of many things. I was afraid of failure. I'm not talking about when I was "unsaved". I'm talking about a Christian trying to please God. I was afraid that someone was going to go to hell that I had not preached to. I was afraid of not healing the sick. I was afraid of not preaching the truth. I was afraid of not obeying God. I was afraid I could not hear the voice of God clearly. I was afraid of God Himself. Now that is not a good life and sadly many people are bound in a life like that!

Church, I have come to encourage you today, with a message that can set you free from all of that. Before we get into the message, I want to say this: Please get your heart established in not just looking for a quick fix as pertaining to any problem you have. If you have a fear problem, so many times we want to say, "If someone will lay hands on me and cast the devil of fear out of me, or just lay hands and say a prayer and all of a sudden, everything is gone." That's good if it happens that way but let me tell you something: IF YOUR BELIEF SYSTEM IS NOT ESTABLISHED IN THE TRUTH, that fear will simply return to you and you will live in fear again.

The best way to get free from things is when God loves you and you experience His love and see the truth that He brings you, to the point that your belief is reprogrammed. So since the heart, the belief, of man is the seat of our emotions, we will start to feel peace. We will start to feel joy.

I want to encourage you, Church, as your pastor, and I am not saying that I am owning any of you. I am not owning any person, but as a person who wants to care for you by bringing the truth to you, I want to say to you: Settle in your heart that God is going to share His person with you, who He is, with you, and that will bring forth a brand new life which is born from Him. It might sound like this might take too long or you might think, "Oh, my goodness, when is this going to happen?" or anything like that. But let me tell you that when this happens, it is everlasting! It is not something that is just on the surface but it is something that has grown from the depth of your being. As we take time, we invest our lives as Christ has invested His life for us, we invest in the life that God has freely given us. As we discover what He has freely given us, I want to tell you that the perfect love of God will cast out all fear where we would be able to go and stand fearless before God in the Day of Judgment. That would be on account of God's fruit manifesting in us by His doing. (That is the true context of 1 John 4.)

We are going to talk about fear and the importance of all of this is to connect this message of fear with End Time Judgment. Many of us have come out of the Pentecostal-Charismatic background and what we have seen is very deceptive because we have lived with a message that says, "We don't have to be VERY afraid of God but we just have to take care with Him. We're dealing with God here so we don't have to be terrified of God. We just need to fear Him in a way where we reverence Him with a little bit of underlining fear because it might be that we will go to hell." Those are some of the things that we have in our subconscious mind in the depth of our heart. And that is what God wants to set you free from." God wants that away from you, Church. He wants that away from you! When it comes to the End Time Judgment, we would say, "I don't have to be afraid of God in this life but there is still an End Time Judgment and there I'm not really sure there is going to be an End Time Judgment and it will even be a fearful thing to see how God will just come in with a sword and cut to pieces everybody who hasn't obeyed Him. How fire is going to rain from heaven and will burn up the enemies of God and completely destroy them.

We are going to look at the fear of God, which is the beginning of all wisdom. We are going to look at all these things and so even when it comes to End Time Judgment, we can have a Good News message that we can preach to people. Some of you might say, "Bertie, now you have become a universalist, saying that everyone is saved." Brother, sister, just listen to what is preached and let us not just jump to conclusions so quickly that we want to categorize everybody. Let me tell you why we want to categorize. The subconscious mind works this way: For it to feel safe everything has to be defined inside the parameter of its basis of knowledge. So if you hear something and you don't know where to put it in, you will kind of force it into a certain package so the subconscious mind can say, "Ah, this is not something new to me," because anything new threatens our belief. It might tell us that what we have believed is wrong. That is why the subconscious mind is not very pro-change. It is pro-stability. That is the way God has designed us because once we are established in the truth, we cannot, it will be very difficult for us to change from this truth.

So let us not quickly categorize. I am not into universalism. I am not against anybody. Even Jesus wept for the Law people. His heart was for those who crucified Him. Even Stephen, who was full of the Holy Spirit, in other words, the full atmosphere, the full spirit that is inside the Trinity, the atmosphere, the spirit of the house of God, was fully in Stephen when he was stoned and he said, "God, don't keep this sin against them!" With his last breath, that is what he said. These were people who were stoning him! So, in Dynamic Love Web Church, and in my ministry, I am not there to try to categorize people and all of that. We just want to preach what we see the Gospel is and see the fruit of this truth manifest in us.

Let's get into the message for today.

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy one is understanding.*

Since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, it is very important to understand what this fear of the Lord is.

What is the fear of the Lord? Let me put it this way to explain what that verse does not say. So many times we read, and this is how I read it: To be cautious of God and that He can just destroy you, makes you very wise. That is not what that verse says! I want to put it this way: To be afraid of God is the beginning of all stupidity!

What is written there is the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. I want to say, "To be afraid of God, to be terrified of God, is the beginning of all stupidity!" When a person is afraid and in desperation, he is very desperate, he will make desperate moves. He will not think straight. Even in a court case, when a person was severely scared or frightened and he hit somebody else or defended himself, there is mercy for those actions. We would say that that person is not really in his right mind because when one is overtaken by this great fear, it forces things to manifest in you which you have no power over.

In the very same way, when we are afraid of God, we will start to do some very desperate things. Let me give you a good example. I am sure it will speak to many of us who came out of the Charismatic background. We have been taught that if you steal from God, God will curse you and you will be under a curse. You have robbed God and you are in the danger of the anger of God because you have stolen from the Almighty. That fear will take a person who has no food to give his children and take that money and give it to a man who is going to buy golden rings for himself and who will book himself some nice holidays with that money. That is crazy! Why would you fall into that form of stupidity? It's simply because being afraid is the root of very desperate measures which can be absolute stupidity!

You might say, "That scripture is clear and it does say that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The tenth verse continues, ***and the knowledge of the holy one is understanding.***

When the Bible says, "The fear of the Lord," I see it as fear towards God, which I will explain, and I also see it as the fear that belongs to the Lord. In other words, the fear that God has in His heart. You might say, "God is not afraid!" If you say that God is not afraid, and you say that you are born of Him and you have the fruit of the Spirit of God in you but we must be afraid of God. But God is never afraid, then how do those things correlate? It just doesn't make sense.

Can you see how wrong wisdom brings shallowness of mind and being led away by unwise arguments and false knowledge? The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, meekness, temperance and faithfulness. It doesn't say that the fruit of the Spirit is shivering in fear of God. When it says, the fear of the Lord, it means the fear that is inside the Trinity plus it says, ***and the knowledge of the Holy One***, that talks about the knowledge about Him but also the knowledge that He possesses. The knowledge OF Him, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. In other words, true understanding is to know what God knows. That is true understanding.

I will quickly recap: Fear for God, or the fear that God has in His heart, is the beginning of wisdom. What is fear? How do we define fear? Fear is easily defined.

Let us go to Deuteronomy and I will go to a verse that Jesus quoted in Luke 4 and also in Matthew.

Deuteronomy 6:13 You shall fear the Lord, your God, and serve Him and you shall take oaths in His name.

You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him. Remember when Jesus was tempted of the devil in the desert? The devil came to Him and said to Him, “Bow down and worship me and I will give You all these kingdoms.” Then Jesus said, “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.” Jesus said, “It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God.” Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6 which clearly states that you shall fear. In that context it means, you shall have reverence for. It also implies that it can bring fear in your heart. But what Jesus does is He comes and He clearly portrays the Word of God in Deuteronomy and He translates that verse into Greek, not as a word that talks about being afraid but actually the Greek word proskuneo which is the word for worship. That word, worship, proskuneo means to lick the hand of the master. It would be like a gentleman going up to a lady and he honors her by taking her hand and kiss it and bow. It also talks about when you come before a person that is of high stature and you honor that person, you bow before him in the sense of just honoring his greatness. That is what that word, fear, means.

The fear of the Lord means to have the very respect that God has in His heart towards others and to have that respect towards God. In other words, it is when we can come to a place where we actually honor God for who He really is. I want to tell you that we are not honoring God for who He really is if we are in a place where we say that God is just this God of anger who is just going to destroy people. He's just going to beat people up and call down fire from heaven and just destroy people. This physical fire is going to come like Sodom and Gomorrah and they are just going to burn to ashes and that's it!

It's almost like a person who is taken captive by some kidnappers off the Somali coast and then you go to save them. While you are on this rescue mission, you say to your friend, “Let's save them and if they don't want to be saved then we will put gasoline on them and we will light them up.” Now that is crazy! I want to tell you thoughts like that are born from people who are very, very afraid. It is not logical thinking inside the platform where God comes and declares Himself as your Abba, as your Father, as the One who cares for you.

We can understand that even in a rescue mission, in a place where you want to save people, if people don't want to partake of that salvation, if they don't want to, we can still see them dying but it is not the savior killing them. The rescuers are there to save them. Even Jesus came and wept over Jerusalem. He said, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, like a hen gathers her chicks...” Look at the beautiful picture He uses. He says, “Come, sit under My wing.” What wing is He talking about? He's talking about the wings of righteousness, the fire of righteousness, where He protects them and gathers them together because they are scattered! They are scattered, They are all over the place... in religion. They are stoning each other, they are completely consumed with jealousy and hatred and bitterness and sin consciousness and clothes and how you must get dressed and all those kinds of things. They don't feel love for one another, the value of people, for the value of the Gentiles, or any of that. They are lost in this death.

How can God come and say, “You are dying out here and I've come to save you and if you are not willing to be saved by Me then I am going to put gasoline on you and set you on fire.” It just doesn't make sense! While I preach this you might want to gnash with your teeth and say, “Oh, my goodness, I don't believe this!”

Fear talks about reverence for someone and God has reverence for man. When we see the value of a person, just who he is as a person, when we have reverence and respect for that, in the very same way we can have that towards God, then that is the beginning of wisdom. The Bible says that Jesus Christ was made wisdom to us. When we have respect, if we can just say, "God, I am just willing to show some respect for Your view and opinion," do you know what is going to happen? You are going to be led to Jesus as your righteousness. You are going to be led to Jesus as your holiness. You are going to be led to a man seated at the right hand of God where we are co-seated with Him. You are going to be led to a place where a man, possessing immortality, declares His life as your life --- and that is wisdom. That is wisdom and as we then, from that wisdom and that honoring God, we start to see the knowledge that God has about us. We see the truth that God has about what has happened to man and sin and how He sees us as His children, how He loves us. When we start to see that, do you know what is going to happen to our hearts? We will come to a place where we say that we are now flooded with understanding. Those who are flooded with understanding, glory to God for the understanding, glory to God for the wisdom, but do you know what will happen to them? They will bear much fruit. That means the love and the opinion and the kindness and the person you behold in God will start to manifest in you and you will co-share in that life. Glory to God! We are talking about the fear of the Lord here, people!

Acts 7 talks about the stoning of Stephen. I am going to give you a good example of the fire of judgment of God, the judgment fire of God that comes upon people and burns them. I have four messages on the vengeance of God, the judgment of God, and the End Time judgment. Please do yourself a favor, go to our website. It might be five years from now. Go into the Search area and click on Vengeance and you will find this series. Just listen to it and let God speak to you. I promise it will leave you flooded with peace. That's what will happen.

Acts 7 is Stephen speaking to some of the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees and the Jews. This is what he said:

:51 You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do you.

When the Bible talks about the Judgment Day of the God, the Terrible Day of the Lord, I don't want to replace it with the End Times when Christ is coming back. Something is going to take place there as well. But when we read Malachi 3 and Malachi 4, it talks about a Day of Judgment. It talks about a day of fire. It talks about a day. When we talk about a day we talk about the dawning of a day. When the day dawns we see the sun come up and the Bible says that the sun of righteousness will arise. In other words, this flaming ball of fire will arise and whoever will be able to stand in the day of His coming, for He will be a refiner, a purifier, and He will burn away. That's what He will do. But it says it will have healing in His wings. Those wings or those tongues of fire will be flooded with healing. What will happen is that fire will consume and heal.

How does this consuming work? The Bible also talks about when the fire comes or when we are in the fire, it talks about a gnashing of teeth. It says, "You will gnash with your teeth." We are going to look at what I believe is a good example of that. Some of you might differ with me but that's okay. My identity is not in how many people agree with me although I would just like to make a point and bring forth some light on the subject of the consuming fire of God.

Jews found their identity in, "We are the people of God. We are for God. We are the holy people. We are standing for God. And here comes a man, name Stephen, and he said, "Let me tell you the truth about you. Let the day reveal who you really are in your actions. You were the people who killed all the prophets who prophesied about Jesus and you even murdered Jesus. You killed Jesus!" That's what he said to them. He said, "You are stiff-necked. You are uncircumcised in heart. In other words, you don't want the flesh, which is this Judaism System where you are righteous by your works, to be cut out of your belief. You always want to do something to qualify before God. You are uncircumcised in ears. In other words, you don't even want to listen to a message that is free from flesh or free from works where the flesh and the works have been cut off. You always resist the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that wants to declare holiness. As your fathers did, so do you.

52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One (Jesus); of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers:
53 Who have received the law by the direction of angels, and you have not kept it.

What he is doing is, he is shining the light on what that System brings forth and he is saying, "You think your holiness is in what you do. I want to tell you it means nothing, it is actually filthy! So He is burning it up with the fire of the truth!

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.
55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly gazed into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
56 And said, Look, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.
57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears

Do you see the uncircumcised ears there? They don't want to see freedom and here he comes and what he is talking about was happening exactly. When the truth is revealed when, God comes with His love, when God comes with His message of acceptance, when God comes with the message of, "Listen! You are resisting what God really wants to do. Jesus comes. He wants to be good to sinners. He wants to show love towards people. He wants to burn up the revelation, or the mindset of, "God is against people." He wants to do away with all of that! He wants to burn up the System of two kinds of people, Jew and Gentile.

"I want to burn all of that up! I want to come and declare myself as the Father of mankind. I want to declare people as Mine. I want to bring the message of innocence. I want to bring the message of acceptance. I want to bring the message of how we have been included in what Christ has done and that no nation, no person has been excluded from the death of Christ and what He has done for us. That's what Jesus wants to bring. They didn't want to hear that. What does he do? He tells them as it is. He comes and declares, "This is the truth!" When they heard the truth, what did they do? It burned them. It cut them to the heart.

So I think that the fire that comes upon people, when the Bible says that we will be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire, we see it right here. Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, when he was full of the Holy Spirit, what did those who were against the Spirit, experience? They were burning with anger in the depths of their heart to the point that this truth hurt them to the point that they were gnashing with their teeth. They were saying, "I don't want to hear this! I want to be outside of this flame! I don't want to hear this!" And what did they do? They stopped their ears. In other words, they didn't want to hear that and they continued with what they were born from which was the ministration of death and they stoned Stephen.

Then Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, came and what he did in the midst of all of that was:

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he knelt down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, do not charge them with this sin. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Do you see the Spirit of God even toward those who stoned Stephen? He said, "This is the Spirit in which God operates. I'm not keeping charge. I'm not going to do that because these people are already in the ministration of death, which will destroy them and when this truth is revealed to certain people who do not want to hear this truth, it will burn them."

So when we look at the judgment of God, when we look at the End Time judgment of God, my friend, I want to tell you that we don't have to be afraid of God! He is the God who is going to say, "Let's not keep charge against them. Let's love them. Let's declare, in the midst of them, that are against it, that want to kill us, let us still say, "I am seeing a man at the right hand of God, standing at the right hand of God!" When Stephen said, "I see a man standing at the right hand of God," when he saw a man standing there, these people who were gnashing at him, who wanted to kill him, that were against Jesus, that man there was also talking and being the very place God has prepared for them! And in the midst of that, He continues to bring this fire that destroyed the lie and what happens? These people are experiencing this truth as a destruction of their own System and they are dying in that.

John 12 talks about when the judgment of God was on the earth.

John 12: 31 Now is the judgment of this world: (What is this judgment of this world?) **now the prince of this world** (the ruler of darkness) **is cast out.**

Do you see this judgment? Do you see that in this truth, we can see who is born of the truth and who is not born of the truth? Can you see that? Can you see how a message like this truth can be a fearful day if it is revealed?

Let's look at the Umbrella teaching where you are under the covering of your pastor and if you don't honor the man of God, you cannot be blessed. If you come with the truth on how you are covered by Jesus, it will be painful to all those who believe in that Umbrella message. They will be gnashing with their teeth and they will want to destroy you if they don't submit to that truth. It will be a fire burning in them.

If you have fear in your heart, if you have pain in your life with fear, afraid of your health situation, afraid of your children's future, afraid what is going to happen to your parents, if you just live by fear, I want to give you some good advice in how to get rid of that fear. To take the Bible and say, "I shouldn't have fear about that I am going to try not to fear," is not going to work. I just promise you now that it is not going to work. What you need to do is get information that brings your heart to a place where your heart finds no reason to fear.

I was one of those people who thought that we need to be afraid of God. I remember preaching that. Now when I hear a message of being afraid of God or fearing God, not in a reverence way but in having a little bit of uneasiness not being sure what's going to take place with Him in the End Time judgment, I look at that and when I try to fear, my heart doesn't find enough reason to allow an emotion of uncertainty or discomfort or what we would call fear because in the beginning when I look at this fire burning on the mountain, as I came closer I discovered that this is the very glory of God which is love, joy, peace, God's longsuffering, He's merciful, He's gracious, His kindness towards man, His willingness to forgive sin. It's a fire that shakes the very foundation of the world's system and the Bible

says that the elements of this world shall be consumed (2 Peter 3:10)

Elements in the Greek means the basic principles of this world will be consumed with the principle of God's goodness towards man in the resurrection and in what He has done for us. That is what it means! So when we look at all of that, and we see this, and I look at who God is, and I try to fear, I find the bucket that says, fear, is empty. There is nothing that can fuel my fear inside God. What the person of God fuels in me is trust! What it fuels in me is peace! What it fuels in me is a passion to preach the Gospel the way I am preaching it! What it fuels in me is a spreading of the message, loving my children, loving my wife, kindness in my heart. That is what it fuels.

The Bible says in **Romans 8:15, We have not received the spirit of bondage to fear again, but received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**

We are not in a place where we are in bondage to the Pharaoh where we are afraid to be punished with him or in the true context of Romans 8, we are not afraid of death anymore for we (talking about the Believer) shall not enter into eternal death but we have the glorious hope of the resurrection! Hallelujah! When this spirit, this belief, enters us it sets us free from fear.

In Matthew 6, Jesus comes and says, “Do not fear about what you will eat or worry about what you will eat, what you will drink, or what you will wear. You have a heavenly Father Who knows you have need of these things.” Do you see how the fire of God's love comes to consume our concepts? Do you see how God comes and He brings the spirit of Abba and the spirit of Abba brings forth comfort and removes fear from our hearts.

I want to tell you this: In this world you will find that there are many things that you are afraid of but the last thing you need to be afraid of is God. Just have respect for His opinion about who you are and what you are. That is it! If you have fear, what will you do? You can run to your Father! You don't have to think, “I just had fear so now I have disappointed God and now I need to be afraid of God. “ That's not the way God intended for you to live!

I trust that this message has deeply impacted your life. It's great to bring this message to you!

Let's pray together:

Father, thank You so much that I can bring this Gospel to people! Thank You that people can be deeply impacted by this message and that lives can be changed and the truth can be revealed.

I pray for every person who is hearing this message that they are experiencing deliverance and freedom. Thank You for that Father. Thank You that people can be touched that way. I see people just opening their hands and saying, “Glory to God! Thank You, Father! Thank You for Your goodness and thank You, Lord, that we can see that and be one with Your people.

I pray for these people and I thank You, Lord, that Your people are strengthened and encouraged. I thank You, Lord, that they are flooded with Your Holy Spirit in their lives and they will see the fruit of Your life manifest in them, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen!