

SET FREE!

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SET FREE

FROM

FEAR

Probably the most effective tool that Satan has in his arsenal of weapons is fear.

Fear is such a strong motivational force that it drives people to do all kinds of things - things that steal, kill and destroy.

Most crimes can be traced back to fear. These primarily stem from a fear of lack. Fear doesn't have any faith in the Word of God as our abundant source of all that pertains to life and Godliness.

Fear says, "I don't have what that person has and I need it." Fear will hoard resources. Fear will create panic.

Fear has a target area. It comes primarily against one area of our being.

That area is NOT our spirit because our spirit is born again and filled with the life and love of God.

It doesn't come against our body. Our body will react to fear, but it isn't capable of developing fear.

The area of our being that receives and develops fear is our soul, which is comprised of our mind, will and emotions.

Our **mind** will think fearful thoughts, our **will** chooses to embrace them and act on them. In turn our **emotions** will portray that fear.

In fact emotions can run wild with fear and eventually destroy a person.

Since the mind is the gate way to thoughts of fear, we need to renew our minds and in so doing mature our soul.

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

We are to renew our minds with the Word of God.

John 8:31-32 ³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;* ³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

It is that Word that brings us the truth, and truth brings freedom. Abiding in the Word will cause you to know that you are **SET FREE!**

In Christ we have freedom from fear and all that it brings with it.

Through abiding in the Word, we are in the process, of maturing our inner man, which is the seat of our imagination.

Your imagination is not a bad thing. It's a God given

creative ability. Things would never be invented or built without people using their imagination. Just like fire, it's a good thing if used correctly.

1 Peter 1:13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Where are our loins? It's that part of our anatomy between the thighs and our waist - the reproductive area of our human anatomy.

Peter is telling us to strengthen, gird up, protect, and get into shape the reproductive area of our minds.

That reproductive area is our imagination. There is nothing wrong with having an imagination. When Paul said in:

2 Corinthians 10:5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*

He wasn't saying get rid of your imagination, he's saying get rid of the imaginations, the thoughts, that are contrary to Christ, and that Anointing that removes burdens and destroys yokes.

Fear develops in our imagination.

Although fear is a force, two greater forces outnumber it.

The antithesis of fear is faith and love.

1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

As we mature, or perfect that love through our fellowship with Jesus, we drive out fear.

Galatians 5:6 *faith, which worketh by love.*

We draw that faith from within our spirit by dwelling in the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Faith “cometh forth” and produces.

Love drives out fear and faith keeps it out.

To enjoy our freedom from fear the first thing we need to do is to decide.

Decide!

We need to decide that we will purpose to enjoy our freedom over fear.

Let us decide that we are going to receive what the Word of God has to say about this and to apply it to our lives.

As an anchor for these articles – over the next few issues – we will centre on the ninety-first Psalm.

PSALM 91

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

The “he” that this verse starts with is you and I.

“He that dwells.” To dwell is to live, or to abide.

John 15:4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

We are in union or one, in Christ Jesus. We are living or abiding in Him and in Him is where we are living under God’s protection.

Do you think that Jesus has to fear when He’s sitting next to God the Father? No. Then neither should you.

Ephesians 2:6 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

There you are at this very moment, sitting so close to the Father that your shadow and his match – that’s abiding “in the shadow of the Almighty.”

An American insurance company uses the slogan, “You’re in good hands with Allstate.” We are better off than that. We’re in the “Good hands of the All Great.”

It’s one thing for us to be in His presence, but it’s just as important to live in that **awareness** of His presence.

All of the promises of this Psalm hinge on this first verse. They require one to be dwelling in this secret place. The Hebrew word used here for “**secret**” means “protection, security”.

In the literal translation it gives the understanding of dwelling here habitually. It’s where we live, all the time, under His protection and security.

Like the baby chick under the wings of the mother hen, the child of God dwells securely under the protection and safety of the Almighty.

As New Covenant believers we are secure in our position of being “in Christ.”

Psalm 91:2 *I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

“**I will say...**” This is something that we say or confess. Confession means, “to say the same as.” The Psalmist has given us a good confession here, he says, “**I will say** of the Lord.”

The Hebrew word used here for “**Lord**” is “Jehovah,” the self-existent eternal one. He, the self-existent eternal one is my refuge and my fortress.

A “**fortress**” is a strong place where you are safe and protected, a place where nothing can harm you.

“**I will say of the Lord.**” That is our personal saying when fear comes knocking at the door of our minds. It’s what our faith is centered in.

Remember that old saying, “Fear knocked, faith answered, and there was no one there.”

By confessing that He is our Lord and our protection, we are saying, “Father God, I trust you.”

Today and every day, no matter what’s going on around us, we need to trust Him.

Psalm 91:3 *Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*

A “**fowler**” is an old English word meaning a bird catcher. A fowler sets traps for catching birds.

Fear is like that. It thrives on those hidden fears.

Satan likes to use the fear of the unknown. People are more afraid of the unknown than anything else. That’s why they want to know the future. They figure “if I can see it coming, then I can face it and deal with it.”

It’s not what they can see that scares them it’s more what they can’t see that they fear the most.

Alfred Hitchcock used this kind of thing in his movies. He didn’t show you something scary looking very often instead he kept you in fear of what you didn’t see.

Many people are afraid of the dark. The dark has nothing in it, but it’s the fear of not knowing if there is something there that you can’t see and that it will bring harm to you.

You can walk into a place a dozen times a day when it’s light and not think twice about it. But at night, and the lights are all out, you are suddenly afraid. It’s the same room nothing has changed, same furnishings, same everything. But as soon as the light is gone, fear comes.

This is all just another case of being afraid of the unknown.

That is what our society is afraid of - the unknown.

“What’s going to happen to my job, how will I live without it? What if we get sick, where will we have to go to get help and can I get in when I get there? Will I be able to afford this and that? What are we going to do if the social safety net isn’t there?”

When we feel like we are all alone in the dark we need to know the Word of God to allow the light of God’s Word to light up our path.

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

Psalm 119:130 *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

When I was a kid I had a clock in my room that had those phosphorescent dials on it. Just before I’d turn off the light, I’d hold it close to the light until it absorbed as much as possible. The longer I held it there the longer the numbers would shine after the room was dark.

As we allow ourselves to be saturated with the light of God’s Word, the more we will glow when Satan tries to put us into a dark place.

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

The more we submit to the light of God’s Word, the more we will be able to see in the dark places and resist the fear of the enemy.

The second half of this verse (**Psalm 91:3**) says: *“And from the noisome pestilence.”*

The word “**noisome**” means: injurious to health, noxious, disgusting.

No deadly, disgusting, noxious, disease can touch you. Disease, that which is contrary to ease. Dis - ease, things that put you ill at ease.

So many people become sick by being worried or afraid of becoming sick. They sound like Job when he said, (**Job 4:25**) *“I feared a fear, and it came upon me.”*

The news sources are telling us lately that we are in for an avian flu pandemic. They are giving statistics of thousands being infected and likely dying throughout the world.

On the TV commercials they say “The flu season is upon us so you had better buy our product to protect yourself.”

You never hear them say: “The wellness season is upon us and everyone will be getting well this season.”

We don’t hear them saying:

3 John 2 *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and **be in health**, just as your soul prospers.*

(The sad thing is that we don’t even hear that said in church much either.)

Let’s keep our minds renewed to the Word of God.

1 John 4:18 *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.*

Let us perfect our love through our abiding in that “**secret place of the Most High**,” fully aware that we are “in Christ.”

Let us develop our faith in His love.

Love drives out fear and faith keeps it out.

As we abide “in Christ” both in position and in awareness, we will come to know that we are SET FREE from fear!

PURPOSE & POWER

There is a series of books out these days by Rick Warren called Purpose Driven.

Lately I've been reading the Purpose Driven Life. Brother Warren writes some terrific things about intimacy with God and worship. He writes that our purpose for being is to bring glory to God. Good stuff!

There is one area of his teaching that I have a problem with. He teaches that one of our basic reasons for daily living is to go through life as a test. He believes that every day God is watching our every thought and deed looking to see how we handle each issue that comes our way. Then after we have been evaluated we will be rewarded in heaven by how well we did in all of those tests.

It makes me think of a mouse in a maze. The scientist watching and observing to see how the mouse will handle each obstacle in order to get his cheese at the end of the path.



It's very much a rewards centered philosophy. This is what the Muslim and Jewish faiths are all about. Work hard here and God will reward you later.

These and other world religions, as well as his perspectives, focus their attention on one **doing** the right things so that we can make spiritual progress – develop character and in the end gain God's blessings.

The life "in Christ" is not a works and rewards game – it is a love relationship.

The Christian life is **not** about **doing** but rather it is about **being**. Our life is to be centred on **being** "in Christ" and **allowing Him to live His life through us**.

One might be thinking, "If Christ is living through me then I have nothing to do." The "in Christ" walk is anything but passive. It's a lifestyle animated by Divine life. It is a life marked by both **purpose and power**.

Christians who have been saved by grace and justified by faith are people of destiny. We have a divine mission, to glorify God, and are equipped with the Divine life of Almighty God Himself to live it.

Just because the "in Christ life" isn't built on **doing** that doesn't mean that nothing will be done. That we don't do any work or that the fruit of the spirit doesn't grow on and out of us.

Jesus wants to do some divine things **through** you. He wants to bless those around you **through** you.

We don't, however want to get caught up in the dead works of self-righteousness seeking to get our eternal rewards through our personal efforts.

Never underestimate what God can do through the one who is **submitted to His divine purpose and power**.

Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now **to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**"

Just remember that it is Christ doing it and not you.

To the one who is "in Christ Jesus" he has **purpose for living**, allowing God to be glorified rather than his personal efforts to pass tests and build personal character. He also has the Christ indwelt **power** to glorify God through his life.

How is God glorified in us? Driven to pass the test of life or "in Christ" submitted and empowered? It can't be both.

When we live the love life submitted to being in Christ Jesus, we are SET FREE from the endless efforts of attempting to please God through our good works.

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you." Gal. 5:1 MSG

SET FREE
Is a complimentary ministry, prepared for you, by:
Rev. Ray Sargent

All scripture passages used in this edition are from the King James Version. Now that's a switch!

In the next edition of **SET FREE** we will continue our study of Psalm 91 – "Set Free From Fear."