

Isaiah 7:1-9

“How to Kill Your Fear”

1 Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to *wage* war against it, but could not conquer it.
2 When it was reported to the house of David, saying, "The Arameans have camped in Ephraim," his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind.
3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller's field,
4 and say to him, 'Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because of these two stubs of smoldering firebrands, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah.
5 'Because Aram, *with* Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying,
6 "Let us go up against Judah and terrorize it, and make for ourselves a breach in its walls and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,"
7 thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass.
8 "For the head of Aram is Damascus and the head of Damascus is Rezin (now within another 65 years Ephraim will be shattered, *so that it is* no longer a people),
9 and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not believe, you surely shall not last .""

Introduction

Fear is one of the most common emotions known to mankind. We are all afraid. Anyone who thinks that they do not live with fear is not comprehending the scope of fear. If someone says, "I am not afraid of anything," they usually mean that they are not afraid of snakes or heights, etc. Things that we commonly think of when we think about fear. Yet, put that person in a situation where someone threatens them and they may experience profound fear. Or, put them in a situation where they lose their job, their health, or a loved one and they begin to feel the fear that we all experience. It is not a matter of whether we are fearful, but with what we do when we are afraid.

Usually we worry. To compensate for our worry, we plan more or work harder, hoping to avoid what we fear happening altogether, or at least being more prepared for it if it does. In other words, usually when we fear, we attempt to face it ourselves, in our strength, with the weapons that we have available on our own. When we have a lot of worry and when we have perceptions of others upon us, we call it stress. We are stressed. Sounds much better than saying, "I am a coward and I am afraid of failing and afraid of what you will think of me when I fail." No, I am not afraid of anything...I am only stressed. Too bad that calling fear and worry by another name doesn't solve our problem of being afraid.

So what does solve the problem of worry and fear. Let me mention one simple thing first. Today, many people try to keep their fears under control. This is not the Biblical solution. It is not to control your fear. It is to kill your fear so that you do not fear any more. In fact, what is the most common command of the Lord Jesus in the Bible? "Do not be afraid." He does not say, "be afraid, but do not let it control you." The standard that Jesus is calling us to is a higher calling.

In our text, the people of Judah were afraid and they shook with fear like trees in a forest shake from the wind. They were terrified. God sends Isaiah to the king to tell him that they will not fall to their enemies. God has Isaiah take his son whose name means "a remnant will return" to remind them of His promises. He tells Isaiah to tell the king that this siege against Jerusalem will not succeed. He gives some reasons why it will not succeed, but nevertheless, God tells them to trust in Him and everything will be fine. He says that if they do not trust in Him that they will be destroyed. Faith was the difference between success and failure, between life and death. So it is with us.

How can we put our fear to death? How can we kill it? It can be killed by replacing it with a greater fear, the Fear of the Lord. We are going to explore what it means to fear the Lord in the context of not fearing anything else. If you fear God, you will not fear man and you will not fear the situations of your life. The fear of God prevents this kind of fear. It puts earthly fears and worries to death.

The Fear of the Lord

1. It is to be treasured (**Is. 33:6**)

6 And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; The fear of the LORD is his treasure.

2. It is a fountain that gives life (**Prov. 14:27**)

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.

3. It gets God's attention (**Ps. 33:18**)

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness,

4. It gives us hope in God's lovingkindness (**Ps. 33:18**)

This is not a fear that paralyzes us, but causes us to place our hope outside of ourselves, into the lovingkindness of God.

5. It causes God to store goodness up for us (Ps. 31:19)

19 How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of men!

6. It is the same as taking refuge in God (Ps. 31:19)

7. It causes God to surround us with angels who watch over us (Ps. 34:7-11)

7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.
8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
9 O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.
10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

8. It causes God to supply all our needs (Ps. 34:9)

9. It can be taught and learned by listening to another's teaching (Ps. 34:11)

10. It reminds us that we are forgiven (Ps. 130:3-4)

3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

11. It is not natural to fear God, it must be learned (Rom. 3:9-18)

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;
10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;
12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."
13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, " "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";
14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";
15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,
16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,
17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."
18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

12. It is the same as loving God and walking in His ways (Deut. 10:12)

12 "Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul"

13. It will help keep you from sin (Ex. 20:20)

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."

14. It is the opposite of terror and fear that causes worry (Ex. 20:20)

15. It causes the blessing of God to be upon a person (Ps. 128:1)

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways.

16. It is the same as obedience (Ps. 128:1)

17. It causes us to hate evil (Prov. 8:13)

To fear the Lord is to hate evil.

18. It causes us to avoid evil (Prov. 16:6)

And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.

19. It causes us to purify ourselves and live more holy (2 Cor. 7:1)

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

20. It is based on believing the promises of God (2 Cor. 7:1)

You can kill your fear of man and fear of circumstances by fearing the Lord. This means trusting that He is good and that He holds the future. Trusting in His love. Listen to the following verses about the love of God for you and your love for God.

The Love of God

Matthew 13:44-46

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Song of Solomon 6:3

I am my beloved's and He is mine.

Exodus 19:3-6

3 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Deut. 26:18

18 "The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments;

Deut. 7:6-9

6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth .7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery , from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

We find that Jesus is the special treasure that we love and that is worth giving up everything for and this is right since He is God. However, our loving Him as our special treasure is only in response to being loved by Him as a special treasure. There is a cycle of love and value that is begun by God Himself. Part of fearing God is realizing that we are surrounded by the faithful love that He has for us!

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials ,7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.