

FEAR NOT LITTLE FLOCK

In Luke 12:28-32, Jesus said we're not to worry about the provisions we'll need for life. The God who looks after the plants and creatures, will look after His people. He said we are of greater value than they, and if we seek Him and put Him first, He's committed to meeting our needs. And, we'll be well provided for. You see, the Lord already knows what we need to get through life, and unnecessary worrying about such things only leads to fear, so that's why He said: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." [32] With this promise in mind we don't have to let worry or fear rob us of the blessings of God.

When I was a kid growing up, my parents sometimes used fear tactics to keep me in line. For example: the boogy man in the closet, mice in the sewing machine drawer to keep me from digging where I shouldn't be digging; mice that would nibble my toes if I got out of bed instead of staying in bed and going to sleep. During my last semester of Bible School in 1960, a problem arose in the men's dorm one night that gave me a fear of demonic activity. That fear stayed with me until I mentioned it to another brother who was also there that night; then I gained victory over it.

Fear is a crippling spirit that can subtly infiltrate even a believers heart and mind. I know from personal experience; I've had to conquer fear with the Word and prayer on more than one occasion. It is also a tormenter, and often disrupts the clarity of reason and faith; it can be a paralysing hindrance in our walk with God. Possibly the apostle John knew something about that, for somewhere in his journey with the Lord he learned the antidote to fear is the perfect, unconditional, love of God. He wrote in 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."

The apostle Paul experienced fear as he served the Lord. He also discovered Timothy had fears, so he wrote him saying: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." [2 Timothy 1:7 nkj] The devil is a fear monger, and knows about the power of fear, but he doesn't know about the power of God's love, that enables us to keep our minds healthy and overcome fear by solidly anchoring our trust in the truth and promises of God's Word.

If your life is disrupted by worry and fear let God step in with this powerful promise: "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." [Isaiah 41:10 nkj] Claim it! When fearful times come, and they do come, it's tremendous to know God is present to strengthen and uphold you.

I'm glad for Jesus' encouraging words: "Do not fear, little flock..." Fear not disciples. Fear not Church. Fear not saints. Rather than listening to Satan's fear tactics, take Jesus at His Word. Claim His 'Fear nots' in Scripture. They'll bring peace of mind in spite of what's going on in your life.

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