

Deuteronomy

Loving Obedience to a Loving God

Sunday, March 20, 2106

Deuteronomy 1:19-34

I. Introduction

The temptation to fear is common but can be overcome, as we trust God for all things and in all circumstances. As we remain obedient to Scripture, we will not be hampered by fear.

II. Fear Paralyzes (v.19-25)

v.22 - "Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us, that they may explore the land for us and bring us word again of the way by which we should go..."

Fear is a sin that can paralyze your mind, immobilize your body, and hinder your growth in Christ. Adam and Eve initially committed this sin in the Garden of Eden after believing Satan's lies and subsequently choosing to disobey God.

When you live to please yourself, circumstances that God designs to teach you to trust and obey Him instead become temptations for you to fear.

"Fear is a more dangerous enemy than those that you fear..." Puritan Thomas Watson

III. Fear Deceives (v.26-27)

v.27 - "Because the Lord hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us."

Our fears lie to us and deceive us! The Lord did not hate them. He did not bring them to the desert to die! It was just the opposite.

IV. Fear Exaggerates (v.28)

v.28 - "Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."

"Our groundless fears are our chief tormentors." Charles Spurgeon

V. Fear Denies (v.29-33)

v.32 "Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the Lord your God."

Uncontrolled fear eventually brings forth death and defeat because we deny God's promises. Fear leads to unbelief; we trade in the promises of God for our own sin.

VI. Fear Defeated

Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection has given us the power we need to overcome fear.

John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

We overcome fear by three things: 1) Fear God 2) Trust God and 3) Love Others

1) Fear God

"Fear of God is the one fear that dispels all others." Jay Adams

"Fear of God means reverent submission that leads to obedience. It causes us to submit gladly to His Lordship and delight in obedience. This kind of robust fear is the pinnacle of our response to God." Ed Welch

2) Trust God

Perfect peace is available only to the one whose mind is steadfastly fixed on trusting God. Trust is the result of a decision to choose to believe that God is worthy of our confidence, reliance, faith and dependence. Our trust in God grows only as we become more and more acquainted with Him – with His power, His goodness, and His wisdom.

Psalm 31:1-5; 13-15

Psalm 56:4,11 – *"In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"*

Isaiah 12:2 – *"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."*

Lamentations 3:22-24

Psalm 28:7 – *"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts and I am helped, my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him."*

Psalm 62:8 – *"Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."*

3) Love Others

"The enemy of fear is love; the way to put off fear, then is to put on love." Adams

2 Timothy 1:7 – *"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

1 John 4:9-19

v.18 – "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."

God's love is perfected in you when you sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, remain obedient to God's Word, and love others in the Body of Christ. Love that is perfected in this manner casts out all your fear.

How much time do we spend in doubt-filled introspection when we could have been serving others out of our love for God?

Romans 8:15 – *"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry, "Abba Father!"*