

A discussion of Truth versus Fear will necessarily have a direct link to the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13) and the Spirit of Fear (2 Tim 1:7) both having many references in the Bible which is the Word of God. There is a root of the Spirit of Fear from the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:17) when Adam and Eve committed the first sin by exercising their God given right of having a Free Will of choice and violated Gods commandment not to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen 3:11-19) that was central to the Garden. That sin has perpetuated the actions of mankind from that day forward to this day. Satan henceforth has been the deceiver of mankind and the ruler of this World. But he was defeated at the Cross when Jesus died for our sins and provided salvation for those of us who have chosen to follow Him and have been filled by the Holy Spirit (Gal 1:3-5). To become a Disciple of Jesus we have surrendered our soul of mind, will, and emotions (Prov 2:10) to Him. We also must be aware that God created the heaven and the earth (Gen 1:1), and at that time he also created each of us as an image of Him (Prov 8:22-31). When we became an embryo in the womb of our mother, we knew Him, and He also foreknew the plans and destiny for our life (Jere 29:11 & Habakkuk 2:3). But in that birth, we were subjected to the interface with a world that had all the influences of the sins from Adam and the carryover of possible sins from our parents who had the obligation to raise us and teach us. Our end-of-life on earth (Psalm 90:10 & John 6:44) is just the beginning of our life in eternity with our Lord (John 14:1-3) if we have surrendered our physical and spiritual life to Him. So how do we conduct our lives on earth with the time given us and how do we contend with the forces of evil that come against us so we can be an occupier for Him on this earth? Isaiah says in a warning "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who put darkness for light, and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter". And Luke 11:33-35 says "No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar, nor under a peck-measure, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter may see the light. The lamp of your body is your eye; when your eye is clear, your whole body is also full of light; but when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness. Then watch out that the light in you may not be in darkness". Our life on this earth and the destiny that God means for us is continuously exposed to the light of Truth but yet we are continuously bombarded with evil and the sin nature of Adam, that has us constantly on our guard between Truth and Evil. The Spirit of Fear comprised, most of all by depression and anxiety/worry, followed by stress, anger, temper, failure, temptation, frustration, self-esteem, and many other negative emotions abounds in our society.

Fear is a relentless enemy. All of us express Fear on a daily basis. It can be our greatest enemy and rob us of joy and peace and also paralyze our faith and life purpose. But to deal with fear and not let it immobilize us, we must realize that fear is not of God. In the Word of God there are at least 365 references to fear as in 'fear not' or other phases such as 'do not be afraid'. We have to fight our fear with our faith by resisting it, remaining calm, and calling upon God and His Word which holds the promises that He has given us.

My wife Linda explains fear when being told she had cancer and was given two to three years to live: "you see I never, never had a moment of fear. It seemed to upset a lot of my loved ones, but not me. Then it came to me quickly as to why I was not fearful. The reason was my FAITH. I have always communicated with God throughout each day and never dreamed that God would give me the greatest blessing of my life which was a word from Him three times: 'I will cure you, I will cure you, I will cure you', and He kept His promise. I realized that a positive attitude toward what He told me and knowing that if I died, I would go to heaven to be with Him through eternity or if I lived to have more time with my family, I would definitely know that He was not finished with me yet". A perfect WIN-WIN solution.

Josh 1:9 says "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither should you be dismayed: for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go". Courage in the verse is noted by a quote from Nelson Mandela saying "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over fear. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear". By FAITH and putting on the FULL ARMOR of God everyday provides the SWORD of the SPIRIT at the forefront of your battle. Psalm 91 is the security of one who trusts in the Lord and in verse 5-7 personalized it says "I will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at my side, ten thousand at my right hand, but it will come near me".

Looking back and then looking forward to today our times are so much different which places a lot of pressure on recent generations. As a kid I grew up across WWII. At the age of six to eight years of age in a small town, Waynesboro, PA, of about 5000 people I walked all over the community with or without my friends. It was the Strand Theater on Friday nights for 5-cent admission to the latest cowboy movie or to the ice-cream store for a 5-cent cone of ice-cream or playing lot softball. The most adventurous walks were with my red flyer wagon through many neighborhoods to collect newspapers and magazines to sell to the junk dealer for the war effort. I always had money but had to depend on Mom to haul the stuff to the junk dealer. At the age of nine years old and after the war we moved to St Petersburg, FL where at the age of 9-10 years I was able to deliver the afternoon paper and again made money to buy myself a boat to take up fishing in Tampa Bay. Up to 15 years old I had a lawn care business principally for Snowbirds who went North in the Summer. Then I went to bagging groceries for Publix Supermarket that had just came into existence. I offer this background, and will return to it later, to demonstrate the freedom from Fear in those years. Parents today who care about their children would not allow them to run loose like I did without the Fear of what would happen to them. Even in my young years I seen a major change in freedom and Fear after John F Kennedy was assassinated. That was around the time I obtained an honorable discharge from the Coast Guard Reserve. As the 1970's came in, safety and security concerns caused more Fear when prayer and the pledge allegiance was removed from schools, abortion on demand became legal, women returning to the work to force their children then into daycare, and recently the LBGT and cultural revolutions rose up. These changes have placed many hardships on families with the Fear factor becoming even stronger day by day. Until we meet again here are some Websites to review to emphasize the issue of the Spirit of Fear:

<https://www.naturalnews.com/2021-01-26-lockdown-loneliness-linked-to-depression-anxiety.html>
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/covid-19-americans-are-in-delusional-psychosis-and-policing-each-other-psychiatrist-warns>
<https://mental.news/2020-12-04-coronavirus-fears-causing-delusional-psychosis-in-americans.html>
<https://mental.news/2021-01-12-facebook-harmful-nspcc-abusive-content.html>