

Overcoming Fear

“Fear” – the very word brings an icy grip that has unimaginable power. For some people *fear* is the one thing that controls them most of the time. Fear of death, fear of losing a loved one, fear of failure, fear of physical attack, fear of emotional rejection, etc.

Some fears are indeed legitimate, such as fear of falling when near a tall precipice, fear of failing a test when you haven’t studied, fear of crashing when you were driving too fast on ice, etc. Fear can be a wonderful tool to keep us from nonsensical and dangerous behaviors. Fear is a healthy friend when it adds to our drive to succeed through vigorous work and wise self-discipline.

But far too many fears are unhealthy, dangerous and can even lead to slavery! Yes, ***slavery***. Consider Hebrews 2:14, 15,

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Did you catch it? Jesus sets free “those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” They ***never overcame their fear of death!*** Obviously that means they lived in fear until they died! *What a terrible life sentence!*

In the face of imprisonment for their faith and even possible death, Jesus gives great encouragement in Rev. 2:10,

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

While on earth we must focus on the eternal “crown of life,” Jesus has for us in heaven with Him forever. Anything less and we will be lifetime slaves through a fear of death.

In Proverbs 3, Solomon shares the confident way to live without fear,

Then you will walk in your way securely
And your foot will not stumble.
When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
Do not be afraid of sudden fear
Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;
For the Lord will be your confidence
And will keep your foot from being caught.

On the cross, Jesus won! Three days later, at the resurrection Jesus won. And on the final day, through the blood of Jesus, we will win! Fear not!

Ray Wallace