The Fear Of Man

*A major enemy we face*

I. I sensed the Lord impressing upon me that, during this tumultuous time, one of the schemes of the enemy against America and the church is the ***fear of man***. I want to talk about different kinds of fear today, and in particular how we can overcome the fear of man.

A. The subject of fear tends to produce a negative reaction; however, walking in victory over fear allows us to experience much more of God’s promises.

B. One time, Mike Bickle said words to the effect of, “When we look back, most of the decisions we regretted making were decisions we made out of fear”. That’s so true!

II. ***Natural fear*** is the kind of fear that is perfectly natural to all of us as human beings. It’s fear we normally experience in certain situations that are frightening. For example: a roller coaster ride, or a soldier going into battle. Natural fear is nothing to be ashamed of. It’s natural.

III. ***Demonic fear***

***2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.***

A. Three marks of demonic fear which distinguish it from the fear of the Lord:

1. Demonic fear proceeds from satan, not from God.

2. Demonic fear tends to hold us back from obeying God. This is exactly opposite of the fear of the Lord which motivates and empowers us to obey God.

3. Demonic fear is tormenting. 1Jn. 4:18 says ***“fear has torment.”*** For example: claustrophobia or elevators.

B. The mark of the Holy Spirit is power, love, and self –discipline. Any spirit that doesn’t have those marks is not the Holy Spirit. Demonic fear is tormenting, enslaving, obsessive, and irrational.

IV. ***The fear of man***

***Prov 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be safe.***

A. The fear of man is distinguished from trusting in the Lord. The fear of man brings a snare. It trips us up. It keeps us from walking in the path of righteousness.

 B. Three marks of the fear of man which distinguish it from the fear of the Lord.

1. It makes man more important than God. People with the fear of man are more concerned about what men think than they are about what God thinks.

2. It holds us back from obeying God.

3. It’s the opposite of trusting God.

***Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.***

 ***Eph 1:6 .... He made us accepted in the Beloved.***

***Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship and by Him we cry, Abba Father***.

C. Paul, in Romans 8:15, is contrasting the spirit of God that assures us that we are God’s children with another kind of spirit: an evil spirit that makes us a slave to fear. One thing we know is that **God never produces slavery in His children**. He doesn’t want slaves, He wants sons. So, the kind of fear that produces slavery is NOT the fear of the Lord, and it is not good.

V. A prophet named Bob Jones saw demonic fear and the fear of man as akin to “having smoke in the eyes”. During a fire, when smoke fills a room, a person gets disoriented. They lose spatial and directional orientation.

VI. The fear of the Lord does the opposite of the fear of man. It inspires us to say what God wants us to say, not what other people want us to say. It inspires us to do what God wants us to do, not what people want us to do.

 ***Prov. 8:13*** [***The fear***](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3374.htm)[***the LORD***](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3068.htm)[***is to hate***](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8130.htm) ***arrogant pride: I hate evil*** [***conduct,***](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1870.htm)[***and perverse***](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8419.htm)[***speech.***](https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6310.htm)

Father, would You grant us the fear of the Ld. We ask that You bless Your church, Your church leaders, our political leaders, our social leaders and influencers and creatives with the fear of the Lord. May we hate arrogance, hate evil conduct, and hate perverse speech. Would You unite our hearts to fear Your Name, Lord. (Psalm 86:11) May the fear of the Lord motivate us to obey You, Lord. And may it produce peace in our hearts.

In Jesus Name, amen.