

Fear and Faith

"The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 13:6

"Fear imprisons; Faith liberates. Fear paralyzes; Faith empowers. Fear disheartens; Faith encourages. Fear sickens; Faith heals. Fear makes useless; Faith makes serviceable. Most of all, Fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while Faith rejoices in its God." - Henry Emerson Fosdick -

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman	12 Donna Hart	23 Shannon Hudson
6 Susan Hudson	16 Alana Hudson	26 Stori Hoffman
11 Dolly Cashion	17 Belva Meanor	30 Aaron McCollum

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

(Note: if anyone is "missed" here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher
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Fear

(from Memorydelight.com)

Nenien C. McPherson, Jr., says that the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises are the only fears that are natural to us.

There are only two, he says, and all the rest are learned. McPherson then quotes well-known psychiatrist Dr. William Sadler who said that "the only known cure (for fear) is faith".

And in Romans 10:17 says: "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" In short, there's no other way to develop our faith in God by regularly reading and studying the Bible.

But the problem is...most Christians are not reading their Bible consistently. We would like to grow our faith but we're not willing to discipline ourselves.

It's like trying to lose weight without exercise and diet. There's no shortcut to growing our faith.

Fear of Failure

By Wade Webster

He struck out 1330 times. But that isn't what we remember about Babe Ruth. His 714 home runs completely obliterated the strikeouts. Pitcher Cy Young accumulated 511 victories, a mark that never has been threatened. But what is generally forgotten is that Young lost almost as many games as he won.

Many people let fear of failure keep them from doing great things for God. No doubt, you remember the man in the parable of the talents who was given one talent. Although he had the ability to do something with the talent that he was given, he let fear keep him from doing so. When examined by his lord, he confessed, “*I was afraid*” (Matthew 25:25). Although the Lord is known for His patience, He has no patience for those who do not try. Please note that his lord called the man “*wicked*”, lazy, and unprofitable (Matthew 25:26, Matthew 25:30). Please consider the contrast in the context between the one-talent man and the other two:

They were called good (Matthew 25:21-23); he was called wicked (Matthew 25:26). They were faithful (Matthew 25:21-23), he was fearful (Matthew 25:25). They heard, “*Well done*” (Matthew 25:21-23), while he heard what he should have done (Matthew 25:27). They were invited to enter into the presence of the Lord (Matthew 25:21-23), while he was to be cast out (Matthew 25:30; cf. Revelation 21:8). They were to experience joy (Matthew 25:21-23), while he was to experience weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30).

They were to be rulers over many things (Matthew 25:21-23), while the one thing that had been committed to his care was to be taken from him (Matthew 25:28). Each man in the parable faced the same possibility of failure. The difference between the men was not what they faced, but how they faced it. The five-talent man and the two-talent man faced the future with faith and gained the victory (1 John 5:4). In contrast, the one-talent man faced the future with fear and lost everything.

Today, we need to be reminded that God has not given us the “*spirit of fear*” (2 Timothy 1:7). He wants us to attempt great things for Him.

The Word of God...

(continued from memoryhelp@memoryverses.org)

The Inerrancy of the Scriptures

The Bible is flawless and contains no factual errors whatsoever in anything it speaks of or alludes to. This applies to the original texts as first written, but not the copies. None of the originals are available to us today - only copies. However, the science of textual criticism has shown that the text of the Greek and Hebrew Bibles we have today is approximately 99.5% the same as what was originally written and no fundamental doctrine rests on a disputed reading. God's inspired word has been preserved for us today. The manuscripts we have are the careful combination of a great many copies that we have found over time so the result is a nearly perfect representation of the originals.

What about translations to other languages such as English? The short answer is that a translation can be considered God's Word as long as it is translated properly. Put another way, we can say that a translation is God's word the extent to which it teaches the same thing the original does. In the English language, we have many different translations available to us today. This is a blessing from God because there was a time when you could not get a Bible in English, you had to read Latin or Greek or Hebrew. For the most part, all the translations say the same thing, but some are better than others. For example, versions which rely on the wisdom of only one person are more prone to error than those translated by a large team. Some translations are written to be paraphrases while others attempt to maintain as much of the grammatical structure of the original as possible. However, mistranslations such as the 'New World Translation' of the Jehovah's Witnesses have been polluted and should not be taken seriously. The safe course of action is to study from a few different versions. For example you may wish to use the NIV for devotional reading, but when you wish to study a passage in detail you will want to read the selected passage in several different versions.

And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. Psalm 12:6