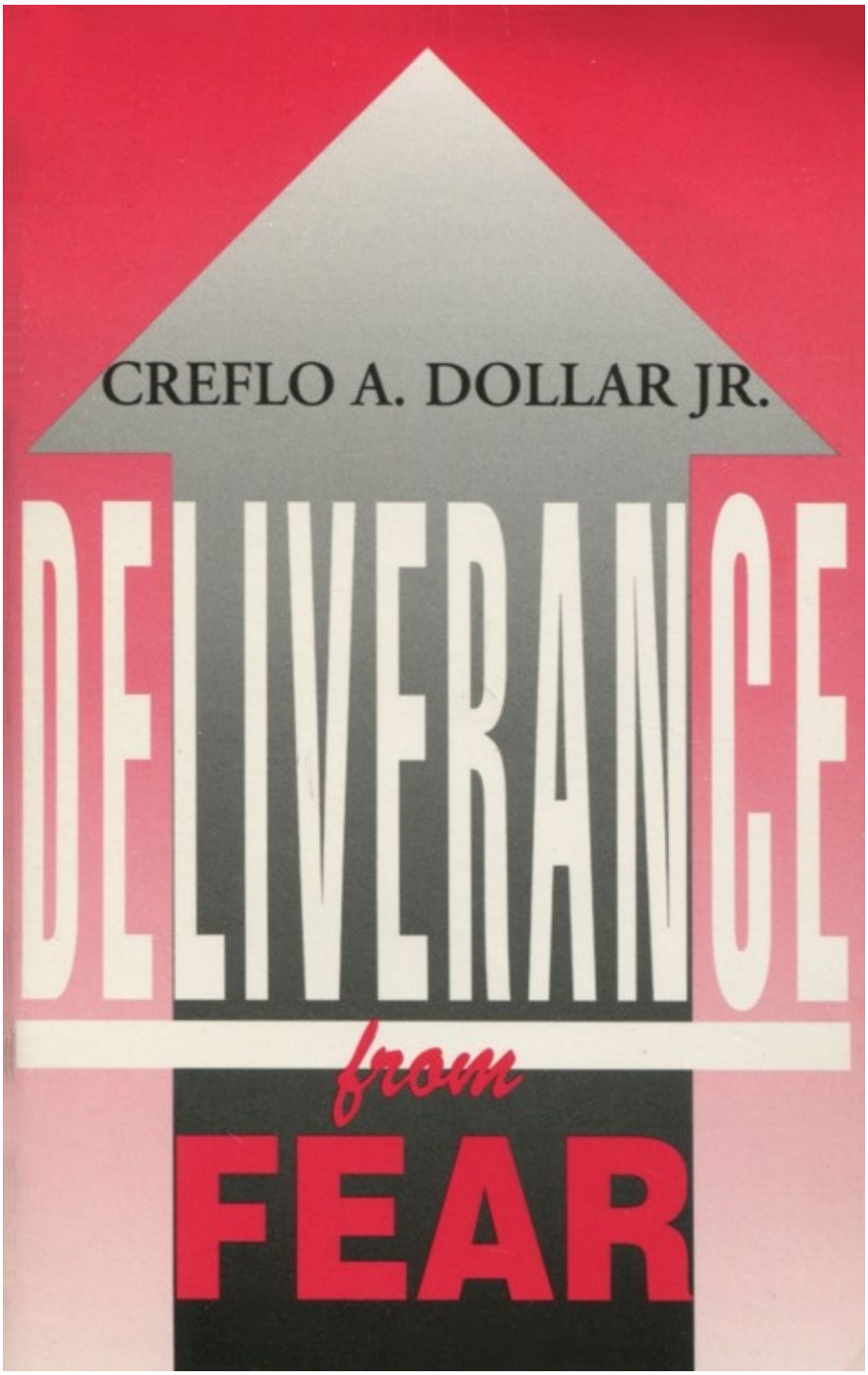
CREFLO A. DOLLAR JR.

DELIVERANCE *from* FEAR



Deliverance From

Fear

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The Enemy of Your Faith

1

Faith. It moves mountains, produces

miracles, transforms lives and changes eternal

destinies. It’s the substance of all things hoped

for. In fact, faith-filled words brought the universe into existence.

There is no doubt about it. For the believer, faith is an absolutely vital part of life in God. Why? Because, without faith it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). Furthermore, all things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23)!

That's why Satan will do anything in his power to attack your faith. If he can neutralize your faith, you're powerless to please God or change your circumstances.

To accomplish this, he has a number of weapons in his arsenal, but none is more deadly to your faith than *fear.* As far as your

faith is concerned, fear is public enemy #1.

The Spirit of the Times

We're living in an age of fear. Messages of fear come at you from every side. The news media sees to that. Every newscast and

newspaper offers you a smorgasbord of fears from which to choose. Fear of new, incurable diseases. Fear of economic collapse. Fear of crime. Fear of being discriminated against. The list is endless.

Perhaps that is why we see so few people truly walking in faith in our society today. Fear, the great enemy of faith, has flooded men's hearts and minds.

Child of God, only when you get fear out of your life will you be able to operate in the faith to which God has called you to walk. You must declare war on fear!

I get furious with the devil when I see what fear is doing in the lives of God's people. Fear is putting people in their graves

before their time. It's keeping people hooked on drugs. It's keeping people in bondage. The good news is, you don't have to live that way. You can be free from fear. The

Bible-based truths you'll discover in the following pages will show you how. Get ready to get the fear out!

Identifying the Enemy

Fear is the mortal enemy of your faith. And to defeat an enemy, you must first learn to recognize him.

Fear, simply defined, is a dread or feeling of anxiety. I know firsthand how deadly this enemy can be. There was a time in the early days of my ministry when I almost let anxiety kill me.

Shortly after beginning the church I now pastor, doubt and fear came rushing in, wanting me to question my decision. "Did you really hear God? What if you fail? What if you make a fool out of yourself?" All the

whispering voices of fear drove my blood pressure to a dangerous point.

Praise God, the Lord showed me that fear,

the enemy of my faith, was operating unchecked in my life and I was able to drive him out.

Anxiety is not the only type of fear believers face. Phobias, irrational fears, and various kinds of terrors also plague many believers. All fears come from the same source. We find that source identified in Romans 8:1, 2:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

We see two basic laws at work in the world here. First, we see the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Secondly, we see the law of sin and death. These are two basic

spiritual laws that affect almost all activity in

the world today.

Now, a law is any fixed or established principle. It's something which can be expected to function the same way every time. For example, the "law" of gravity applies to everyone. You can drop a rock from the top of a building and expect to get the same result every time.

The same thing is true for the two spiritual systems mentioned in Romans 8. If you're living under the law of sin and death, there is no avoiding receiving sin and death-oriented results. Just like that falling rock, it works the same way for everyone.

These two systems are what is known as *reciprocals* of each other. In math, 2/3 is the reciprocal of 3/2. Both are fractions, yet one is the upside-down version of the other. South is the reciprocal of North. They are the same, yet opposites.

Likewise, the Law of Sin and Death is the

upside-down opposite of the Law of Life in Jesus.

For every spiritual force and substance in the realm of Life, there is a reciprocal force or substance in the realm of Death. In “Life”, you’ll find the force of hope. In “Death,” you’ll find its reciprocal—despair. Under the first, you’ll find *agape* love—the kind of love that gives unselfishly. Under the law of death, you’ll find agape’s reciprocal—total selfishness.

Faith’s Reciprocal

There are many forces in the realm of the law of life in Christ Jesus. One of the most powerful of them is the force of *faith.* Faith moves mountains, work wonders and conquers every obstacle. Over and over, Jesus told people who had received healing miracles that it was their faith that made them well.

Does faith have a reciprocal under the law

of sin and death? Yes. As you may have guessed, it is called fear. In fact, fear always

rushes in to fill the void when faith is not present. We get a clear picture of this very thing happening in Matthew chapter 8. It is the familiar story of Jesus, asleep in the boat, as the disciples are weathering a storm.

And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. (Matthew 8:25, 26)

Do you see the connection Jesus makes here? *"Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?"* He attributed their fearfulness to a lack of faith. Mark and Luke relate the same story from slightly different angles.

And he said unto them, Why are ye so

fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

(Mark 4:40)

And he said unto them, Where is your

faith? And they being afraid wondered,

11

saying one to another, What manner of

man is this! for he commandeth even the

winds and water, and they obey him.

(Luke 8:25)

In all three instances, we see Jesus declaring the reciprocal relationship between fear and faith. If you have faith, you won't have fear. If you have fear, it is because you don't have faith. Jesus could not have stated it any more plainly. *Where faith is, fear isn't.*

It is crucial that you understand one thing. Fear gives place to the devil. It allows him to operate freely. This was what was taking place with the disciples in that leaky, storm-tossed boat. Their fear in the beginning stages of the storm gave Satan room to really start

causing problems. Fear allowed the storm to get to a point where it might have destroyed them.

That's why Jesus exclaimed when He woke up, *"Where is your faith?!"* In essence he was saying, "Why is this happening? Why is there water in this boat?! Why have you

allowed your fear to generate this circumstance rather than taking authority over it by faith?"

I remember hearing the story of a rock star in the late fifties who was terrified of flying. He was convinced that the day he went up in an airplane it would crash. Finally his manager convinced him to fly in a small plane to an important concert date.

You guessed it... it crashed, killing everyone aboard. His fear opened the door to the very thing he dreaded.

There is no way for Satan to operate

destructively in your life unless you give place to him. How do you give place to the devil? By giving attention to his words and thereby beginning to operate in fear.

When you get a bad report from the doctor saying you only have three months to live, the enemy is going to be in your face immediately saying, “It’s true! It’s true! You’ve had it!” But you know the Word of

God says *“by His stripes you were healed"* (I Peter 2:24) and *“With long life will I satisfy him.”* (Psalm 91:16)

If you give attention to the devil’s words and the doctor’s report rather than the Word of God, fear will immediately begin to wrap its icy fingers around your heart. Unchecked and unreversed, fear will open the door to the devil to come and kill, steal and destroy and all the praying and wailing in the world won’t make a bit of difference. Why? Because your

fear has given place to the devil to do his destructive work.

Fear cometh by hearing, and hearing by words. It may be the devil's words, whispered into you mind. It may be the words on the television newscast declaring the economy is going down the tubes or that it's not safe to drive the streets at night. It may be the words of well-meaning family members, friends or co-workers bringing a message of doubt and fear.

Guard your gates. Your eyes and ears are

gateways to your mind and spirit. If you allow CNN's constant stream of disaster, calamity and tragedy to enter those gates day in and day out, it won't be long before you're afraid to leave your house, much less do the things God has called you to do.

No matter where it comes from, if it doesn't line up with God's Word, it's an open

invitation to the destructive spirit of fear if you pay attention to it. Without fear it is impossible to please the devil. So walk in faith, not in fear. Glory to God!

Jesus Paid It All

The good news of the gospel is: Jesus has paid the price to redeem you from the control of the law of sin and death.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear

of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14, 15)

This passage of scripture tells us that the price Jesus paid on the cross was two-fold. He came not only to destroy the works of the devil, but also to deliver us from the fear

and the bondage those works bring. The “fear of death” mentioned is the direct result of living under the law of sin and death. The word “destroy” is translated from a Greek word meaning, “to paralyze.” We see, therefore, Jesus came for two reasons. (1) To paralyze Satan who has the power of death, and (2) To deliver us, who through fear of death, were held in bondage.

According to this passage, fear produces bondage. Examine your own life. Are there any bondages holding you back? If there are, there is fear at the root of that bondage. Some people are in bondage to cigarettes because they fear gaining weight if they quit. Others are in bondage to drugs because

they fear facing life while straight.

When you want to kill weeds in your yard, you don’t cut it off at ground level. You pull it out by the roots. That’s just what Jesus

does where bondages are concerned. There are many, many types of bondages but Jesus died to break the power of everyone of them. And He does it by attacking them at the root—fear. Some people mistakenly believe they were born with certain bondages in their lives. They think their problem started on the inside and worked its way out. Actually, the opposite is true. Bondage always works from the outside-in. This is the message of Romans 8:15:

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Notice what the Holy Ghost said here. *"You have not* ***received*** *the spirit of bondage..."* Spiritual bondages are not

produced within the reborn spirit of a man. If they are present, it is because they have been

"received." This truth is confirmed by II Timothy 1:7:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

A spirit of fear has to be given to you and the Word says God hasn't given you one. Rather, He has given you a spirit of power, love and a sound mind. If you have a spirit of fear operating in your life, it's because you've received one from the enemy of your faith. Ordinarily, if Satan wants to plant a spirit of fear in your life, he'll do it by directing your attention to external circumstances. This is precisely what happened to the disciples in the 14th chapter of Matthew:

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It

is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. (Matthew 14:25-29)

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they "cried out in fear." External circumstances—things they could perceive with their five senses—planted fear into them. If you are going to conquer fear, it's vital that you understand one thing—Satan operates and uses things in the natural realm. He uses the material world around you. The things of God on the other hand, are perceived spiritually (I Corinthians 2:14).

The devil's tactic is to convince you that the things you can see and hear around you

are more real than the truth of God's Word. When you start depending on what you can

see rather than what God has said, you are wide open for deception. There is no place for faith in that kind of life. Why? Because *"we walk by faith, not by sight."* (II Corinthians 5:7)

Don't be moved by the things you can see. Be moved by the unseen:

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal [subject to change]; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (II Corinthians 4:18)

When Peter first stepped out of that boat, his focus was totally on Jesus and the word He had spoken— *"Come!"* As long as Peter kept that focus, he was able to operate in the realm of the miraculous. But look what happened

when he turned his eyes toward the
circumstances around him:
But when he saw the wind boisterous,
he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he
20
cried, saying, Lord, save me. And
immediately Jesus stretched forth his
hand, and caught him, and said unto him,
O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou
doubt? (Matthew 14:30, 31)
Peter let the negative circumstances which entered through the "gate" of his eyes produce fear in his heart. "But when he saw the wind —he was afraid."
Most of us do the same thing all the time. You'll start looking at the fact that your bank account is empty rather than the fact that the Word says *"all your needs are met according to God's riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19) The result? Fear.
You'll look at the fact that the doctor says

you have a serious problem rather than the fact that the Word says, *"By His stripes ye were healed."* (I Peter 2:24) When you do, fear grips you and you start to sink.

The good news is, you don't have to let fear into your heart. You don't have to let the

devil in. You can miraculously walk on top of your circumstances the way Peter walked on water!

But even if you do find yourself sinking, take comfort in knowing that Jesus is only a cry for help away. Do what Peter did. Yell, "Lord, save me!" Praise God, Jesus is faithful to answer.

Freedom from Oppression

You don't have to live in fear! Absolute peace and security are your birthright as a child of God. One of the many verses which says so is Isaiah 54:14, 15:

In righteousness shalt thou be

established: thou shalt be far from oppression: for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

Fear and oppression are related. When

you have fear operating in your life, it's oppressive. But when you live under the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, you are established in righteousness and therefore free from oppressive fear.

Notice what else this verse tells us. When terror, fear and oppression gather, God says it is *"not by Me."* In other words, if terrifying circumstances surround you, don't think for a minute that God has sent them to you.

Contrary to popular religious opinion, God isn't the one who sends sickness, tragedy

and disaster into your life. It is the thief (Satan) that comes to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus said he came that we might have abundant life instead. (John 10:10)

I Am With Thee

Have you ever noticed in the Bible that every time an angel appears to someone, the first thing they say is *"Fear not"* ? Why is that? It's because they cannot accomplish what God commissioned them to do in the

presence of fear.

If you will drive fear from your life with the Word of God, you will have defeated the greatest enemy to your faith. And with faith, nothing is impossible for you.

Begin now to fill your heart with the promises in God's Word concerning protection, provision and healing. Scriptures such as Isaiah 41:10:

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be

not dismayed; for I am thy God: 1 will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

God has filled His Word with reasons to "fear not." Faith drives out fear and *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* (Romans 10:17)

When you take hold of the Word of God rather than the word of the devil, faith rather than fear fills your heart and mind. You can't have a mixture of faith and fear in your heart.

When one is present, the other leaves. Either you will walk in faith or you will operate in fear.

Choose to walk in faith. If you will, you'll live in more power and peace than you ever dreamed possible. Best of all, you'll please God because faith pleases Him like nothing else you can offer.

Confession for Deliverance From Fear

In the name of Jesus, I make a decision to walk by faith and not by fear. I understand now that my Heavenly Father has not given me the spirit of fear. He has given me power, love and a sound mind instead.

He has given me His Word. He has given me His will. He has given me His armor. He has given me His name. He has given me His Spirit. He has given me His mind.

In the name of Jesus, I now know that He has not given me the spirit of bondage which leads to fear. Since God has not given it to

me, I will not receive it.

In the name of Jesus, I renounce everything of fear, every spirit of fear, every phobia, every inferiority and all insecurity. I will not fear. I will not give place to the devil.

I walk in faith and I walk by the Word.

I will be strong in the Lord and in the

power of His might. I will fear not because God is with me. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not, because God is with me. His rod and staff, His Word and Spirit, His Name and armor—they comfort me. I shall not fear what man can do to me because greater is He that is in me than any fear that is in the world. I have made a quality decision. That settles it. I'm walking in faith. I divorce fear and in Jesus' name I am free. Thank you Lord.

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Creflo A. Dollar Jr. is Pastor and Founder of World Changers Ministries Christian Center, a non-denominational church located in College Park, Georgia. Formerly an Educational Therapist, he began the ministry with eight people in 1986. He is now an international teacher and conference speaker with a congregation of over 10,000 people. Creflo Dollar has been called by God to teach the Gospel with simplicity and understanding. He can be seen and heard throughout the world on "Changing Your World" broadcasts, via television and radio.

Document Outline

- Deliverance From Fear
  - 1 The Enemy of Your Faith
    - The Spirit of the Times
    - Identifying the Enemy
    - Faith’s Reciprocal
    - Jesus Paid It All
    - Freedom from Oppression
    - I Am With Thee
    - Confession for Deliverance From Fear