The Spirit Called "Fear"

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

THE SPIRIT CALLED "FEAR"

Bible Text: Revelation 21:8

Teacher: Moses O. Adewuyi

Prayer

Father in Jesus name, Our Righteous Father we Thank You and appreciate You for another privilege and opportunity given unto us to gather in Your presence this hour, Father be thou exalted in the name of Jesus, we pray this hour that as we go into Your Word , You will go with us in the name of Jesus, Both the speaker and the hearer will be blessed in Jesus name. Let Your Word deliver us from destruction tonight, Let Your Word bring healing and salvation to us in Jesus name (Amen).

Introduction

We are welcome to today's study. May our eyes of understanding be enlightened today in Jesus name, amen.

Study

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

There are a lot of spirits that are prevalent these days, out of these spirits are some which stand out. One of them is the spirit of fear! Merriam Webster dictionary describes fear as an *unpleasant, often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger*. It also gives another definition which is an *anxious concern*.

However, as deadly as the spirit of fear is, we have another dimension of the word 'fear' which is its good side and it's also stated in the dictionary as *'profound reverence and awe especially toward God'*. However, one is a spirit and the other is an attitude or state of reverencing God. Therefore, in tonight's study, we will look at two major things;

Fear as a spirit and Fear as a state of reverence towards God.

I would want us to patiently follow keenly as this spirit of fear has caused a lot of damage and is still causing a lot in the lives of many. If only many had control over this spirit, they would have breakthroughs and some wouldn't have even died before their time. This spirit has triggered a lot to see life as a threat to them that they end up taking their own lives. This same spirit has tampered with the emotions of a lot that have been rendered incapacitated bodily. It's very essential that we address this spirit. This spirit has stopped many from praying and drawn away from Christ. You will wonder how come, you will get to understand when we delve deeper into the study. One thing about this Spirit is that it can find its way into the life of anybody, whether a Christian or not as long as the person permits it. Note the word "permits"! It only takes a child of God who understands the works of this spirit and does not permit it in his life to override and gain dominion over it.

Revelation 21:8:

"But the *fearful*, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

You would wonder why the fearful are enlisted amongst those that will have their part in the lake that burns with brimstone. That is because the opposite of fear is faith/courage, which means that anybody under the influence of fear definitely lacks faith. And, can a faithless man enter into the kingdom of God? Let's see!

Hebrews 11:6:

"But *without faith* it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

According to the verse above, without faith, it is impossible to please God. If someone lacks faith because of being fearful, it literally means the person will be unable to please God because of the absence of faith in him. So, if a person does not please God, how will such a person get to heaven? Which definitely tells us that such a person belongs to that lake that is being described in our text, the lake of fire. May we not get there in Jesus' name, Amen.

So, let's look at the two areas of fear. Fear as a spirit and Fear as a state of reverence towards God.

FEAR AS A SPIRIT

Like I said, this spirit is very dominant in the lives of many today. What is the full meaning of the word, fear?

FEAR means;

F- FALSE

E- EVIDENCE

A- APPEARING

R- REAL

Fear= False evidence appearing real.

What does this mean? It means something that someone has is false and has not come to pass but a person keeps bringing it to reality through various thoughts and meditations.

Do you know how fear works? This is how it mostly works. It starts from the brain first then it proceeds to the heart and the person starts processing a situation that has not even occurred as though it's occurring already. A person will always think of an incident yet to happen and the fear of it happening starts gripping such a person's heart. That's how it works. A picture that is still in the imagination world being thought about as though it's real. False evidence (something not true, not realistic or real. Something imaginary) appearing real (looking much more real than an imagination). One thing about this fear of a spirit is that, in most cases, what we think about does not really come to pass as bad as we think they would. Check those things you were very fearful about some years back and see how they later turned out to be. Did they match the bad thoughts that sprang up in your hearts then? Certainly not!

According to researchers, human beings are born with only two types of fear.

1. **The fear of loud noises**

Why is a human born with the fear of loud noises? It's majorly because when we were babies, we lived in the womb for 9 months and the womb was a

very silent place. So, when we are born, it's not easy to quickly adapt to the noise that comes from this Earth. This is why when an infant hears a loud and unexpected noise, the infant generally experiences an acoustic startle reflex and starts crying. Just because he/she was born with the fear of loud noises.

2. **The fear of falling.**

Also, in the womb, there is nothing like falling from any height. They are always enclosed in a small place and guarded from falling. So, when a baby is born and feels any sensation of falling from any height, the baby gets scared and tries spreading his arms and might start crying because he is not used to falling from any height.

These are the two fears a baby is born with. But as we began growing, we started developing and learning other fears through our sense organs and the things happening around us. If you give birth to a child and allow the child not to be exposed to the outside world but you are always feeding him and he doesn't lack any food, such a child will never develop any fear of what to eat because he is not introduced to it in any way. So, as we started growing, due to our adamic nature, the Spirit of fear started gaining ground inside us.

Let's look at those things that allow the spirit of fear to gain its ground in us, what the bible says about them and the solutions. Most times, we allow the spirit of fear to get in just because we do not stay connected to the word of God and know what the word says concerning those things. Let's quickly go through them now.

Major things that cause fear in humans and the solutions to them:

1. **Fear of the unknown:**

This fear comes as a result of what the kingdom of darkness projects that they will do. For example, when a person hears how somebody shouted from the dream and died instantly, they suppose it was caused by the dark world and fear creeps in. It's now so disheartening that some christians too are guilty of this, despite the power in them. They so much fear darkness to the extent that they lose their authority and dominion over the works of darkness. This shouldn't be! We are supposed to take charge by fire and not them dominating us or causing fear in us.

Proverbs 3:25:

"Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh."

No matter what happens to others or around us, we should stand against sudden fear. One thing the devil tries to do first is to make a genuine child of God lose his authority through the spirit of fear. He projects this Spirit into such a person by displaying physical destruction. And, once the person allows the sense organs to take its toll on him or her, such a person begins to give in to the spirit of fear gradually. This is why we ought to walk by faith and not by the signals our sense organs give us. Whenever we as christians find ourselves in this position whereby the works of the wicked come, we should learn to rebuke every sudden fear that might spring up in us instantly, not giving room for it to take over our hearts. By doing this, we shield our hearts from the arrows the spirit of fear fires at us.

2. **Fear of what people say about you:**

This particular one has dealt with a lot of people. The fear of what people will say, some live their lives in fear of the reproach men would give them. This has hindered a lot from living a Christ-like life, they will begin thinking about how their friends will make jest of them and call them "SU" (The name given to a serious christian).

Some christians even find it hard to go out for evangelism or even evangelize to their friends and colleagues at work because they don't want to be humiliated. They despise the reproach of men and fear what people say concerning their personalities.

Isaiah 51:7:

"Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings."

We are not to fear what people will say as long as we are doing what pleases God. We shouldn't fear the reproach, insult and abuses of men because of our right standing with God. If you are scared of dressing godly because people will make fun of you and abuse you or call you an old woman or man, it means you are allowing the spirit of fear to dominate and take over you. Take your ground for Christ and never be afraid of what men say to you because of your relationship with Christ.

3. **Fear of rumors:**

We are in a generation whereby there is a lot of access to various news from different sources. Sometimes, you go online and hear different rumors of different things. Anyone who dwells on these things will give room for the spirit of fear to creep in. The devil is so good at making information and rumors of bad things go around, just to make fear go round the hearts of people. If all you do as a Christian is always sitting in front of the television and listening to all sorts of bad news, you are gradually giving room to the spirit of fear because before you know it, these things that you see and hear will start storing up in your mind and heart and might easily let fear creep in.

Jeremiah 51:45-46:

"My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD. And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumor that shall be heard in the land; a rumor shall both come one year, and after that in another year shall come a rumor, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler."

Whenever any rumor is propagated, it tends to bring fear. We should always try to see that we are open to sources where these rumors can come from. There are some friends we will need to do away with because all what they propagate is bad news, whether it's true or not. The moment they hear it, they begin propagating it faster than they would propagate a good one. Such friends should be drawn far away from. Anything that can bring about listening to rumors of bad news should be avoided so as not to give room to the spirit of fear to creep in through such means.

4. **Fear of physical disaster:**

This is the fear of the physical disaster happening around us. Such could be fatal accidents, earthquakes, tornados, storms, floods and different kinds of disasters. As christians, we are not to be afraid of such things as long as we have Christ. What was Jesus doing despite the storm and wind that nearly capsized the boat he was in? He was resting and was at peace. He never thought any evil could befall Him.

Matthew 8:26:

"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."

Our attitude towards such situations should be the demonstration of faith and commanding such situations to be calm. Sometimes, when the spirit of fear enters a person, the person kills himself faster than death would. Such a person might develop high blood pressure or even hypertension just because of something that has not even happened to him. The attitude to sustain an atmosphere of calmness and peace despite the raging of the evil ones around us should always be in us. We should not be scared and afraid as long as we have Jesus in us. We shouldn't be fearful the way the disciples of Jesus were.

5. **Fear of Shelter, food and clothing**:

This is the most common amongst men. The fear of the physical things needed. We limit God so much this is why a Christian would change figures at his place of work just to get money to pay his children's school fees. This is why a pastor would receive money from a person even when the Holy Spirit commanded him not to, but just because he needs to cater for his family, he collects such money. This is because we limit God and allow the fear of what we will eat, wear and live to bother us. If we really depend on God, those things wouldn't really matter to us because we will know God knows that we are in need of those things. As long as we are not idle, provisions will come.

Luke 12:22,31:

"And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. ... But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

What are we to do in such situations, we are to only seek the kingdom of God and all those things that we need will be added unto us. Simple! When God calls you or your husband into a full time ministry and He insists that you shouldn't do any more work than the work of the ministry, yet you bother and fear about how you will feed?

God is not daft that He doesn't know you would need food, shelter and clothing. For wives whose husbands are called into the full time ministry, please encourage him and keep letting him know that God is your sufficiency rather than complaining to his ears anytime you are in need of something.

God will definitely provide these things as long as we seek His Kingdom by obeying His instructions and doing His will.

6. **Fear of suffering:**

Many of us are fearful of the sufferings that are ahead of us. We are in a generation whereby christians don't want to suffer for Christ, everybody wants to ride a jeep and live in luxurious houses and die as soft as sleeping and not waking up the next morning. Nobody wants to be a martyr for Christ anymore. Nobody wants to suffer a day because of the gospel. Fear is now upon many and they refuse the instructions of the Holy Spirit about going to some specific deadly places to preach the gospel because they fear they might be killed.

Revelation 2:10:

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

We shouldn't fear whatsoever the devil tries just to make us go out of faith. Tribulations will come, trials will come, temptations will come but we shouldn't allow the spirit of fear to take charge of us no matter what. We are to prepare our minds and hearts that these things will surely happen to us for the sake of Christ. When our minds are set and prepared, we will not be shaken when these things start occuring. We won't be given to the spirit of fear and the devil will find it hard to control us and our actions because of such persecutions.

These are major things that cause fear in humans and the ways we can overcome them. Also, the fear of failure can also grip the heart of a person and give room to the spirit of fear. But, we need to stay with the word and know what God is saying concerning us. His thoughts towards us are of good and not of evil.

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