

Remnant Life Church

February 18, 2018

What Do I Have to Fear?

Psalms 37:1-9

- Thursday, the 15th school shooting in Parkland, FL
 - 17 were killed
 - Shooter a 19 year old former student
 - 2012 – Sandy Hook Elem; Conn; 27 killed
 - 2007 – VA Tech, Blacksburg; 32 killed
 - 1999 – Columbine HS; Col; 15 killed
- Influence of movies, TV, video games
- Most important factor is the removal of God from our schools, our government, and our popular culture
- Each of those events including this past Thursday have lasting, on-going effects across the country and even around the world
- One such event were the terrorist attacks on 9/11 in NY, DC, PA
 - The goal of those who planned the attack on 9/11 was to change the way we lived
 - They wanted to bring terror by killing as many people as possible –
 - They wanted to disrupt our way of life
 - More than anything they wanted to make us afraid
 - So, what do we really have to fear?

READ – Psalms 37:1-9

Four Types of Fear

1. Fear of God

- Original Greek (Year-AH)
- It is the same word as terror but when referring to God the meaning is reverence, respect and awe
- It is vitally important because we are told to do this by God's Word
 - **Prov 9:10** - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*
- The very definition of a godless society is one with no fear of God
 - Our society has moved so far from fearing God that literally anything and everything is acceptable, regardless of the consequence.
- To some degree this has infiltrated the church as well in the form of compromising God's Word
- **Matt 16:24** - *...Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*
 - Today the thinking is just the opposite
 - Instead of denying we indulge ourselves with very convincing excuses and justifications

- God's word has been relegated to a book of suggested guidelines and encouraging stories
 - We cannot continue to fly in the face of God and His Word without encountering the judgement of God (He is righteous and just)
 - He is merciful and patient but there will come a time when it ends (the time of Noah)
- Fear of God should be embraced and practiced by every Christian!

2. Anticipated Fear

- Those things that have not happened but we imagine or project that they will
- The vast majority of the time it is never as bad as we anticipate and in most cases it doesn't occur at all
 - Most times this revolves around the circumstances of our lives involving people or events
 - Doctor/dentist
 - Projecting yourself into the worst possible scenario
 - For many Christians it begins with a statement that goes something like this, "I know God will take care of me, BUT..."
 - In other words, God is all-powerful except when it comes to me
 - This is nothing more than pride and vanity
- When we pray regarding the difficult things it is always up to God how He answers those prayers
 - Sometimes God removes the sickness from the person and sometimes He removes the person from the sickness. They are healed in either case
 - Sometimes the Lord calms the storm and sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child. Either way He is with us.
- Parents who embrace anticipated fear pass that same spirit of dread on to their children
 - Children who are anxious, overly timid, afraid to do things for themselves
- The level of your fear will often be the indicator of your level of faith

3. Real Fear

- Created by God and placed into each of us to protect us from things that may harm or kill us.
 - There is a physical response that occurs when the adrenal gland located on top of your kidneys secretes adrenaline into your system
 - It is a hormone composed of many elements designed to increase your heart rate, accelerate your breathing and activate your muscles in preparation for what needs to happen
 - If we have too little or too much adrenaline produced we can become sick
- The fact is, however, the things we fear have greatly changed
 - Researchers at Johns Hopkins University reported that in the 60's, the greatest fears of grade school children were: 1) Animals, 2) A dark room, 3) High places, 4) Strangers, 5) Loud noises.

- 40 years later - kids are afraid of the following: 1) Divorce, 2) War, 3) Cancer, 4) Pollution, 5) Violence.
- Once again, satan perverts what God created
- Phobias – the biggest problem is that we have given legitimacy to every ridiculous and silly thought someone has...
 - Glossophobia – fear of speaking in public
 - Homilophobia – fear of sermons
 - Omphalophobia – fear of belly buttons
 - Vestiphobia – fear of clothing
 - Felinophobia – fear of cats
 - Linonophobia – fear of string
 - Globophobia – the fear of balloons
 - Phobophobia – fear of fear
- Billions of dollars a year are spent on counseling, therapies and especially medications dealing with fear
- Can understand those without God in their lives being filled with fear – they have no hope
 - But not Christians!
- **1 Peter 5:7** - *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*
- 1 – fear of God; 2 – anticipated fear; 3 – real fear

4. Spirit of Fear

- Satan will always take what is good from God and pervert it
 - In conjunction with anticipated fear
 - Vain imagination – not vain like ego but vain as in worthless or of no value
- Spirit of Fear brings with it a host of others
 - Worry
 - Anxiety
 - Nervousness
 - Despair
 - Helplessness
 - Hopelessness
 - Depression
- The words “fear not” and “do not be afraid” appear 182 times in the NIV

Again, what do we really have to fear?

Three things to keep in mind when dealing with fear:

1. Know and believe who you are in the Lord
 - **1Pe 2:9** ...*you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

- **Matthew 6:25-33** – **(READ)** Jesus says three times to His disciples not to worry in other words be strong
- **Psalms 27:1** - *The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?*
- **Hebrews 13:5b-6** - *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”*

2. Humble yourself before God

- a. Pride is a primary way that the spirit of fear will enter our lives
- b. **Jam 4:6** *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*
- c. **Prov 3:5-6** - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*
- d. When I believe that it all revolves around me then the enemy can enter my life since it is out of order

3. Focus on the goodness of God

- a. We can choose what to dwell on in our thinking
- b. **2 Cor 10:5** - *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
- c. **Phil 4:6-9** - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*