

FEAR **(I Peter 3:14-15)**

The bible has a lot to say about fear, both good and bad. One of the main reasons Christians do not serve God in their churches is that they are afraid. They fear what others may say or think about them if they step out and want to do something for God. Satan uses fear as one of his most effective weapons. The problem with us as Christians is that we fear the world more than we fear God.

Good Fear: I John 4:18 God's love in our heart will cast out any fear we may have of the world.

Psalms 27:1 As we rely on the strength and salvation of God we are reminded that no one can do anything to us without God's consent. If any harm or trouble comes it will be for His glory.

Mark 5:36 Jesus gives us the best reason to not be afraid when He is present with us all is well.

Bad Fear: Proverbs 29:25 When we fear man or the world system then our hearts aren't trusting God. If our mind and heart is not on God then we are walking in the flesh and can be defeated.

I Samuel 23:1-3 Here we find an example of letting the circumstances rule our emotions.

FEAR OF TRUSTING

Matthew 8:23-26 Although we are born again when trials and troubles come we often fold under the pressure of the testing and are fearful even though God is always with us.

- (1) We fear that others will not believe or understand about our salvation so we don't say anything.
- (2) Some don't get saved because they fear they will lose all the pleasures of this life.
- (3) Some either don't get saved or if they are saved they are afraid because they don't believe they can live up to other Christian expectations.

FEAR OF WITNESSING

Acts 4:29 When threatened with fines or jail time most churches are so afraid they stop taking a stand for God. They look away from sin and Satan and ignore the lost souls that Christ died for.

Acts 26:22-25 After the first couple of bad responses from friends and family we fear the sarcasm and remarks that we often get when trying to tell others about Christ and salvation and just keep quiet.

Acts 18:9-10 Once Jesus has saved us He expects us to rely upon His power and presence to witness to as many people as possible. Only God knows how many people we talk to will be converted.

FEAR OF SERVICE

Nehemiah 6:6-9 Whenever someone decides to serve God there is always those that oppose them.

- (1) Fault finders are people that usually are people that do not serve God or are jealous of others.
- (2) Christians are often fearful of serving because of the cost in time, sacrifice, and dedication.
- (3) **Proverbs 24:16** Often times people are afraid to start serving because of fear of failure.

FEAR OF THE FIGHT

I Samuel 17:10-11 Often times Christians see all that would destroy us and we fear defeat and shame and never even get into the battle.

Deuteronomy 1:27-28 Sometimes we want to get into the Spiritual fight but are discouraged to the point of fear by other believers who are not willing to fight either.

I Timothy 6:12 Paul is encouraging Timothy to take a stand, to fight the Devil and to not give in. Timothy was a young man not fully mature but was among the few that kept the faith and fought on.

