

## Fear – Part One

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:28

Fear is not the enemy of love and hope. You fear in the direction of your love and hope. You are out of town when a storm destroys a large section of your town, and you fear you may have lost your home. You fear because you love your home. Show me your hope and I will show you your fear. Your business is threatened by a downturn in the economy. I ask you, "Do you hope to lose your business?" You are incredulous that I ask such a foolish question. You hope to save your business.

Fear is the enemy of security. People are insecure in those areas where they are out of control. When this happens they are both scared and angry. Fear angers you. Like everyone else, you hate feeling out of control.

However, there can be no authority without fear. Paul says, "...and let the wife see that she fear (phobia) her husband."<sup>1</sup> She fears him for at least two reasons: she knows that she will have to answer to God for her willingness to obey Him by obeying her husband, and "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God;"<sup>2</sup> and she fears that her husband may obey the Bible and discipline her if she does not.<sup>3</sup> If she does not believe God and her husband in this matter, she will submit to the authority of her husband only in those areas where she agrees with him.

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 5:33 (NAS) <sup>2</sup> Hebrews 10:31 <sup>3</sup> Cf. I Corinthians 5 and Matthew 18:15ff.

## Fear – Part Two

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:28

Jesus tells His followers that they are to fear the eternal instead of the temporal. To the degree that you fear God, your fear of circumstances will subside. Fear angers you. Anger is the enemy of gratitude. The Bible says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."<sup>1</sup>

You are grateful "in every thing" because God is your hope. You may hate temporal loss, pain, and insecurity, but you express gratitude to God because your hope is in Him. You have faith that He is in control of your life and seeks what is best for you. This is why belief makes you grateful and causes fear and anger to dissipate.

Faith, hope, love, and fear are all related. Paul teaches that faith, hope, and love are eternal; we carry them into heaven with us.<sup>2</sup> Will we fear in eternity? We know so little about heaven. It seems safe to conclude, however, that we will fear in heaven, for we will remain eternally under the authority of God. There can be no authority in any sphere without fear. Fear is the enemy of security. Men are angry because they fear. Anger is the enemy of gratitude. The antidote to the wrong kind of fear is the correct kind of fear – fearing God.

<sup>1</sup> I Thessalonians 5:18 <sup>2</sup> Cf. I Corinthians 13:13