

Title: Don't be afraid of fear. **Kick Fear in the Rear**

Parable of the Talents as told in Matt. 25:14-30.

Fear can do some weird things to you. There are some weird fears out there!

Arachibutyrophobia: (Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth) ...

Arithmophobia: Fear of numbers

Ablutophobia: Fear of bathing

Nomophobia: Fear of being without your mobile phone

sandarakinophobia: Fear of the colour orange

Plutophobia: Fear of money

**Ecclesiophobia: Fear of church**

What about fear in relation to God? What is the fear of God anyways?

**Proverbs 14:27 (NKJV)**

*"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death."*

**Proverbs 19:23 (NKJV)**

*"The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction;*

*He will not be visited with evil."*

**Proverbs 9:10**

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

**Psalm 25: 12-15** Who are those who fear the Lord?

He will show them the path they should choose. <sup>13</sup> They will live in prosperity, and their children will inherit the land. <sup>14</sup> The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant. <sup>15</sup> My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues me from the traps of my enemies.

The fear of the Lord in the NT:

**Philippians 2:12 (NLT)**

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.”

**(Work hard? I thought that was old covenant? News Flash! We can't let the message of grace make us lazy that now we are on easy street because Jesus did all the heavy lifting!)**

This is not saying you need to be afraid of God or else! God is at work in us to do his will and pleasure. It is not us in God to do our will and pleasure. I am not going to try and add to what he has done. To fear God is to honor, respect, and love him.

It is our choice to partner with him.

**2 Corinthian 7:1 NLT** Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And **let us work** toward complete holiness because we fear God.

**(NKJV)** *“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

*Perfecting is the Greek word, “Teleios” it means brings to its full expression and purpose, having reached its end, complete.*

In other words, his holiness is meant to manifest in our lives in full expression.

**Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)**

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”*

*Grace helps us serve God with reverence.*

**NLT 28** *Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.*

*Do you know it is possible to fall in love with the holiness of God and wear it around your neck as a reminder of what he did for you before, now and in the future. I don't do because I'm afraid I do out of humble gratefulness.*

*I am more than "The Righteousness of God by faith"! I am an adopted child of God where my dad owns everything.*

*You can desire holiness without changing what you wear, changing your hairstyle and waking up ticked off with all creation because they don't measure up to your self-imposed standard of what holiness is.*

*Holiness is not an act but a posture.*

### **Proverbs 8:13 (NKJV)**

*"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate."*

But it is possible to do so in joy, not misery and grumpiness.

### **Isaiah 11:1-3 (NKJV)**

*"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. **His delight is in the fear of the Lord...**"*

### **Hebrews 1:9 (NKJV)**

*"But to the Son He says... "You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*

Jesus delighted in the fear of God, hated evil and loved righteousness, but the result was the oil of gladness!

Corporate benefits:

### **Acts 5:11-16 (NKJV)**

*"So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.<sup>12</sup> And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people... <sup>14</sup> And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women... Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed."*

**Acts 9:31 (NKJV)**

*“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”*

**Psalms 118:4 (NLT)**

*“Let all who fear the Lord repeat: “His faithful love endures forever.”*

The fear of God allows for an appreciation of his love, grace, and forgiveness, it doesn't inspire effort, religious grumpiness or works. It is a manifestation of the Spirit of God that we receive, we don't work up (as are all its benefits).

Many confuse the fear of God with the fear of torment and end up seriously weird and religiously uptight, or shut down completely to the fear of God and *its benefits*.

**The fear we are not to have is the fear of torment!****1 John 4:18-19 (NKJV)**

*“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, **because fear involves torment**. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”*

*There is such a difference in walking in the fear of the Lord from peace that comes from the Holy Spirit than walking in a fear that you are being punished.*

**Parable of the Ten Talents: Or the scared servant!**

The two who doubled their masters' money got blessed:

**Matthew 25:21 & 23 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!

But the fate of the one who buried his talent was different:

## What was his problem?

### Matthew 25:24-27

#### New Living Translation

<sup>24</sup> “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. <sup>25</sup> **I was afraid** I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ <sup>26</sup> “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, <sup>27</sup> why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.”

<sup>28</sup> “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. <sup>29</sup> To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

The problem was not that the servant didn’t know the master. He did and the master affirmed his knowledge. What was wrong was that he related to his master through the fear of torment and being punished. That fear will shut you down, whereas the spirit of the fear of the Lord will release you.

All the Master expected was that he do something with his gift.

The others went from 5-10, 2-4 and this one buried his gift because he was afraid!

Fear will Rob you

### The Effects of Chronic Fear on a Person's Health

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The potential effects of chronic fear on emotional health include:

- Dissociation from self
- Unable to have loving feelings
- Learned helplessness
- Phobic anxiety
- Mood swings

- Obsessive-compulsive thoughts

The potential consequences of chronic fear on environmental health include:

- Continued living in fear-generating situations due to uncertainty of moving out and unknown associated dangers
- Not able to find safe housing
- Afraid to leave home because of paranoia

The potential consequences of chronic fear on spiritual health:

- Bitterness/fear toward God or others
- Confusion/disgust with God or religion
- Loss of trust in God and/or clergy
- Waiting for God to fix it
- Despair related to perceived loss of spirituality

The cartoon character Charlie Brown once said "I've developed a new philosophy... I only dread one day at a time."

It was this servant's faith in fear that prevented him from planting that gift as a seed that ultimately would have given him a massive return.

Proves again and again how God wants to bless us.

Fear will cripple you and stall your brain from dreaming.

Be diligent with your money and **make money work for you and not you for it!** But if you have it spend it, enjoy it. As you get older, have fun.

If you are conquered by fear, you will live locked down, sheltered by worry and anxiety wondering if you will fall prey to the next virus, crisis or threat.

**God wants you to thrive not just survive!**

God has given each of us gifts and he is looking for a return on his investments! If not, that gift will be given to someone else. Not saying, we won't make it to heaven but we will be empty handed.

We are, by our new nature, a visible, vibrant expression of the life of God but if we walk around like EYORE defeated and depleted of life, that doesn't reflect God at all.

The fear of the Lord is a reminder that God invested and planted the Spirit of his son Jesus in all of us. The Love of God looks like something and is growing. I'm not just possessing salvation but I'm manifesting salvation

## 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

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

*Many people are phantoms of our perceptions.*

Context is the application of gifts (the use of the talents)!

## 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup>This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

### Our faith is being Shaped

**S:** God has given everyone Spiritual Gifts **H:** Heart with passion, **A:** Abilities **P:** Personalities **E:** Experience

## 1 John 4:17-18 (NLT)

<sup>17</sup>And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. <sup>18</sup>Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

Judgement Day for the believer is Recognition Day, Celebration Day & Reward Day!

## Proverbs 28:1

*“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”*

**Word for you Today! BE BIG AND BOLD IN BRIDGEWATER**

## Acts 4:29-31 (NKJV )

*“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, <sup>30</sup>by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”*

By the grace of God we are those who are going to hear on that day that the master comes looking for a return on what he deposited within us:

### **1. God gifted and entrusted us with blessings.**

The things we have in life are blessings from God and he has entrusted us with them. He hasn't given us all the same things. We each have differences in financial status, health, intellect, skills and talents, etc. No matter how much or how little, they are all gifts from God.

### **2. He expects us to use our gifts wisely.**

What will we do with the blessings we've been given? God gives us free will to choose. He loves us so much that he allows us to freely decide our path in life. He desires that we grow our gifts for His glory, but it's up to each of us to decide. Will we help the needy? Clothe the naked? Feed the hungry? Show mercy? Grant forgiveness? Love one another? Or will we squander our money and blessings? Hide or misuse our talents? Use our skills for evil instead of good? Worship money and financial status above God?

### **3. He doesn't judge us all by the same standard.**

The talents (gold/coins) were ***given according to each person's ability***. We are created with different skills and abilities and are never entrusted with more than God knows we can handle. He ensures we have the money, resources, aptitude, skills, and ability to accomplish His will for our life, no matter how small or great the goal is. He assesses our performance not based on how our accomplishments compare to others, but upon how well we've lived for His good and glory ***according to our abilities and resources***.

### **4. We will be held accountable.**

Judgement Day will eventually arrive. We don't like to think about our Divine Father as a judge, but I like to liken God's love to a perfect human father. Even though such a man doesn't exist, we can imagine that a father who loves his children and wants the best for them has expectations of them. He sets rules and boundaries to keep them safe and on the right path. When they go astray, he corrects them. So it is with God's judgment.



He looks kindly on those who use His gifts and blessings well and prudently. He's disappointed in those who turn away from Him and choose to bury their gifts or misuse them.

### **5. We are called to grow in the Lord.**

The Lord gives according to our abilities, but as we prove ourselves trustworthy by choosing God's will, growing in faith, and sharing His glory, He entrusts us with more. This is similar to how a child earns his parent's trust by doing the right things in small matters until he proves himself worthy of more freedoms and perks, ie, blessings.

#### **Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)**

*“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!”*