

EVERYDAY LIFE

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

"Perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:18 NKJV

"You conquer fear by trusting truth that is more powerful than what you fear."

My thoughts today are about **"needless fears."**

Admittedly, for the sake of caution and safety **there are fears that one cannot avoid.** They make you watchful and wiser than you might otherwise be. As hurricane Hannah recently threatened the Texas coastline, families in its path were, and should have been, fearful. The devastating loss of property and disrupted community services prove those fears would save lives. The world can be a dangerous place, and some measure of fear is wise.

But my thoughts this morning are more about **another kind of fears - fears that are needless,** disrupting your peace and diminishing your confidence - worrisome headlines, global threats and instability, corporate failures, or things closer to home like business downsizing and job outsourcing, marriage and family challenges, family finances, retirement investments, falling home prices, or a doctor's diagnosis. **You can't do much to control or prevent such situations,** and since you can't effectively change them at will, you may become anxious about them.

I think the root of many of these fears is insecurity. You are not sure how such circumstances will affect your present or future well being. What can you do with those? You do not conquer fear by ignoring it or denying it, nor by overpowering it. You **conquer fear by trusting truth** that is more powerful than what you fear. The Bible says that you rest your fears in the certainty and unchangeability of God's love. **"Perfect Love casts out fear because fear has torment!"** 1 John 4:18. Fear troubles your thoughts and emotions, and God wishes you to live free of such torment.

What is **this perfect love that speaks peace** to your fear, and where is it to be found? John describes the person who lives with such fearlessness. **"Whoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him, and he dwells in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God."** 1 John 4:15-16. John helpfully explains his view of this "perfect love" that is available: **"Herein is our love made perfect. That we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world."** 1 John 4:17.

If you have boldness to stand confident with Christ in the Day of Judgment, you can live free of needless fears this day and everyday. Your **answer for needless fears is your love for God that is so trusting of His love that reigns more powerful than the fears** that would otherwise occupy and overwhelm you.

My prayer for you is to be so assured of God's love as to leave no room for needless fear.

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