

## FEAR

One of the devil's favorite weapons against us is fear and, therefore, a majority of Christians experience it daily. Unfortunately, the church has not seen fear for what it is and has allowed it to become a legitimate excuse for not being obedient to the Lord. As soon as God tells us to do something, whether it is direct from the Spirit or from the Word of God, warfare usually results. There often arise many excuses for not doing it – many which involve fear: What will people think? Will I look foolish? How will I ever be able to do that? Did God really mean that? etc. We must recognize it for what it is – a smoke screen to distract us from God's plan and purpose.

God's Word says that He did not give us fear, so guess where it comes from? In fact, the Bible says His perfect love casts out fear, which makes them opposites;

1 John 4:18

*“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”*

2 Timothy 1:7

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (NKJ)*

Fear then keeps us from walking in and experiencing the power of God. It makes what we do unprofitable in God's kingdom and makes us unstable in our thinking. Fear also takes away/steals our faith so we don't do God's kingdom works and makes us displeasing to God.

Hebrews 11:6

*“And without faith it is impossible to please {Him} for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and {that} He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*

The totality of what God thinks about fear can be summed up by what is told to the slave that hid his talent in the ground because he was afraid (Matthew 25: 25-26). The strong response to this action was “you wicked and lazy slave.” So, fear is not acceptable and must be dealt with.