

TOPIC: FEAR

Let's Begin. Brothers and Sisters, I want to talk to you about something you've likely been wrestling with: FEAR. I know from what the Bible says that fear is going to skyrocket during the Tribulation period. In Luke 21:26, Jesus said that people would be "fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world." So, it has already been predicted that great fear of what is happening is going to be pervasive and rampant.

You've probably already seen it. You've probably experienced it. Maybe it's something God used to lead you to dive into the materials in this Rapture Kit...and I hope already into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

It's going to take courage to see PAST the events that are going on all around you right now. But, if you've placed your faith in Jesus Christ, you have been supernaturally **ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY**. You no longer need to fear persecution, disease, the loss of a job, the Antichrist, the Mark of the Beast, or even death itself. Your life and your future are in God's hands now. You've been given everlasting life and a beautiful future with the Lord that will last forever!

Romans 8:15 proves this: "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption as sons** by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The term "Abba" is like saying "daddy"...it is very personal and intimate.

Our adoption is further characterized by Paul in Ephesians 1:2-6 "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ, ⁴ **just as HE CHOSE US IN HIM before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love** ⁵ **He predestined us to ADOPTION AS SONS through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

Should you be arrested, imprisoned, or even if you are put to death, you are going to awake in glory. Listen to what Jesus told the believers in the church in Smyrna in Revelation 2:10: "**DO NOT FEAR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SUFFER**. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.**" Those words are for you, too, not just the saints in Smyrna many centuries ago.

He said do not fear. Be faithful to the end, and "I will give you the crown of life." That's what awaits you: everlasting life, where there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain." (Revelation 21:4)

In Luke 12:4-5, Jesus said: "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear the One** who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, **fear Him!**" Those are very sobering words and I pray you listen well.

There is nothing (and no one) to fear but God alone. Look at how this is worded in Revelation 14:6-7: "And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, "**Fear God, and give Him glory**, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

Did you catch that? The angel says, fear God. In other words, **be in awe of Him and worship Him!**

The devil, who will possess the Antichrist, wants your allegiance, your worship, **and** your fear. And many people, out of fear, will give allegiance to him for the sake of temporary comfort. Friend give him none of it. Look at how the Bible describes the enemy of your soul in John 8:44: "You are of [your] father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature,] for he is a **liar and the father of lies**." So, he is really out to **steal, kill, and destroy** as it says in John 10:10. The enemy wants to take as many people as he can before he is locked up in the abyss during the Millennial reign of Christ described in Revelation 20:1-3. We will cover this in more detail

later because it is worth emphasizing that the influence of Satan is coming to an end. As you will continue to learn in this presentation, and then subsequently in your own studies, there is GREAT HOPE and JOY in store for you!

SO, STAY STRONG. PRAY OFTEN! The Holy Spirit will give you the peace, courage, and faith you need to endure until Jesus returns in the Second Coming—or you breathe your final breath during the Tribulation period.

I'll end this segment with one last word of encouragement. In Isaiah 41 God gives us six reasons why His people need not fear. In Isaiah 41:10–13 it gives these exhortations: “Do not fear, for I am with You; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”¹¹ Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.¹² You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them, those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.¹³ For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’”

Isn't that awesome!?

God says...

1. “I am with you”
2. “I am your God”
3. “I will strengthen you”
4. “I will help you”
5. “I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
6. I will take care of your enemies.

So, trust in the Lord! God is going to give you the strength you need to finish well.

Exhortation To Non-Believer

Before we move on to the next segment, if you are watching this video and have **NOT YET** placed your faith in Jesus Christ, I want to make it very clear that this exhortation “not to fear” is **ONLY** for those who belong to the Lord through their faith in Jesus Christ. In the Bible God NEVER tells His enemies NOT TO FEAR. Why not? For the unrepentant person who has NOT been cleansed of their sins there is great reason to fear! Why? Because one day THEY will **stand before God to give an account of their life**. Books will be opened (Revelation 20:12), and all of the sinful things they ever thought, or said, or did will be brought out into the open and they will be judged. And there they will stand guilty of all their sins—even those they thought were secret and hidden. They will stand **unforgiven**! Let that sink in. What Jesus will say to them is quoted in Matthew 7:23: “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.” And the reaction from those that hear these devastating words are quoted in Matthew 25:30 “Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; **in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” I have often privately wondered what that person is thinking to cause them to weep and be in such great torment that they would gnash their teeth. To me, the only thing that makes sense is that they realize—only too late—that everything the Bible said was right, that they needed redemption, and that they could have found salvation in Jesus Christ and spent eternity in Heaven...with a new and loving forever family. But instead, they are cast out, banished to the eternal lake of fire—forever to be separated from God. How horrible to realize the TRUTH...I pray you understand. You are warned.

So, the statement “I never knew you...” are excruciating words. Dear friend: YOU DO NOT WANT TO HEAR THESE WORDS! Why don't you get right with God right now? Before you take your next breath, realize that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for ALL of your sins [not some of them, not the majority of your sins, but ALL of them.] He rose again from the grave and He is offering you forgiveness and everlasting life as a free gift to you **IF YOU PLACE YOUR FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM**. Before you back away, before you resist, before you disqualify yourself from surrendering your life to Christ, know some central truths: many people hesitate to yield to the LORD thinking that they're not good enough, or believe that the things they've done can't be forgiven. **This is a LIE!** The actual truth is expressed in Luke 5:31 “Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, **but the sick.**” Also, note what it says in Matthew 18:11 “For the Son of Man has come **to save that which was lost.**” **If you are SICK OR LOST then YOU are the one that**

JESUS COMES TO SAVE!!!! Friend, YOU are so loved! In 1 John 4:9 it says: "By this **the love of God was manifested** in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world **so that we might live through Him.**" The Father sent the Son so that we might have life! REAL LIFE! Jesus is the light and we can CHOOSE to have the Light of life as it says in John 8:12: "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; **he who follows Me** will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." **WHAT AMAZING TRUTH!**

Yield your life to Jesus Christ RIGHT NOW. Call out to Him in prayer, but note this prayer is not a magic formula or incantation. It's not. What this prayer models is your brokenness, your awareness that there is no other way for you to be saved but Jesus Christ, and your willingness to humble yourself and call out to Him in the hour of your great need! If this is your attitude, then pray something like this:

"God, thank You for loving me. I'm so sorry for my sins. I want to turn away from them. I renounce them! I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins. So, please forgive me. Wash away my sins. I trust in Jesus Christ to save me. Come into my life. Be my Lord and Savior. Make me into the person You want me to be and give me the strength to live for You. I surrender everything to You...my heart, my mind, my resources, and commit to follow You for the rest of my life and to the best of my ability. In Jesus Name, Amen!"

Can I add something? If this prayer expresses what is in your heart and you prayed it with sincerity, you might be experiencing an amazing weight lifted off your shoulders...you may feel like a burden has been lifted. If you have struggled with addiction and other sin issues, it is possible that you'll find healing in your new identity in Christ! Many broken people that are reaching up from the pit of despair do find healing. But note this, others do not...and to this person I say: "do not be discouraged!" Faith is an intentional decision of the will and feelings are secondary.

HERE'S YOUR NEW REALITY: YOU ARE BORN AGAIN NOW. I'd like to stop for a moment and ask you if you understand what being born-again means? Do you? This is what it says in John 3:1-21. From this portion of Scripture, I will read to you the backstory of how to be saved and why you needed a second birth—of the spirit—in order to receive Salvation in the LORD Jesus Christ. I'm going to share this because many, many people do not read the Bible and haven't been taught WHY they must be born-again! So, I'm going to read the entire dialog between a man by the name of Nicodemus and Jesus. Note there is an emphasis on "the Spirit". This is none other than the third member of the Trinity: The Holy Spirit. Let's begin reading John 3:1-21

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ² this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God [as] a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ **Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is BORN AGAIN he cannot see the kingdom of God."** ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water **and the Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, **and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** ⁷ "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; **so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**" ⁹ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? ¹¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. ¹² "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. ¹⁴ "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵ **SO THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES WILL IN HIM HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.** ¹⁶ **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.** ¹⁷ **"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.** ¹⁸ **"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** ¹⁹ "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

The Bible says that when you are born-again, the very Spirit of God now resides in you. You have literally participated in a second birth just as Jesus described it to Nicodemus. I KNOW that it would be appropriate to have you rewind to the beginning of this reading and hear that Scripture again...perhaps over and over again. Listen with your mind AND your heart! There is so much GOOD in it. One amazing example of this good—just to give you great hope in your new faith—is found in verse 17: “He who believes in Him is not judged!” WOW! As we will discuss later, you will NO LONGER be accountable for the blackness and depravity of your sin...because that was ALL FORGIVEN when you became born-again. Hear that? You will stand blameless before Jesus. Made pure, washed clean, and we’ll see later that there is a scene in Heaven where you will be given a white robe—which, signifies your purity before the throne room of God! The payment for your sin was thrust on Jesus as a substitute...and His perfect life, without sin, satisfying all the requirements of the LAW, is imputed to you...for YOUR GOOD! You will worship the LORD forever because of this truth! I know I will!

One more thing: never evaluate your salvation by the feelings you have. Feelings are a roller coaster. You may still fear from time to time, or may feel discouraged, or worse. Be strong in the Lord: understand that **You are now His forever!** It is an act of FAITH AND BELIEF AND YOUR WILL...you **can** CHOOSE! As we’ll continue to learn in this presentation, there is much reason for you to rejoice because **we WIN!** And because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross many centuries ago, when you accept Him and believe, **YOU** inherit the “win”. You, my friend, are now on the winning side!

Soon, you will either join us in Heaven if you are martyred, or if you survive through the entire tribulation, we will all be amazed by the **restoration of all things** (Acts 3:21) during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ! We will talk about the Millennium in a future segment. Just know this: our suffering is for a short while...eternity with the Lord and fellowship with your Brothers and Sisters awaits. You are **already blessed** in your relationship with Jesus Christ, the Messiah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever and ever!!

Therefore, it is exceedingly foolish to turn aside in pride or anger or disbelief...yield to God’s plan for your redemption and have peace in your soul. If you do, there is NOTHING that can remove you from God’s love, as noted in John 10:27-28 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand.**” You are forever secure in Jesus!

In our next segment, we will be talking about the Grace of God! This is especially critical because so often we convince ourselves that it’s too late to change, too late to receive Christ, too late to have a second chance! You will learn that God has MADE A WAY and His grace given to you plays a major role!