

Fear Thou Not

#0982

Study given by W.D. Frazee—September 9, 1966

You remember the last vesper service, we were studying about the great opportunity you and I have to choose what we really want. To us, as to Esther, comes the question, What wilt thou, and it shall be granted. What is your request? It shall be given you. But that which we really want will cost us the sacrifice of many other things.

There was a time, you know, when God Himself was faced with this question—what did He really want most. You would think that He would want most the continued fellowship of His Son, with no risk of any separation, but there was something He wanted more. Impossible to understand, but oh, how wonderful that God so loved you and me that He what?

“...he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

He made His choice, friends. The thing He wanted most was you and me. Thank God, He’s going to get what He wants most, and the Son gave Himself, not only in the far off eternity of the past, not only when heaven fell, but again, in a very definite way in Gethsemane, and again on Calvary, our Lord Jesus came face to face with the question, What do you really want? What do you want most?

And it cost Him everything, didn’t it, but was it worth it? He thought so. He still thinks so. Of Him, in this decision, it is written:

“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...” Isaiah 53:11.

Through eternal ages, He’s going to have that which He wanted most. He left everything else that He might seek that one pearl. Aren’t you glad that you are so valuable in Jesus’ sight that if you had been the only one He would have come for you.

Most of you have heard Brother Wilson’s new song that the Lord has given him, bringing out that very point. Look at a copy down at the office. It will bless your soul.

Now, tonight, I would like to study some very practical things, friends, that help us to find out what we really want and how much we’re willing to pay. A friend of mine used to say that he’d never been to the North Pole, but if he had wanted to as bad as some men do, he could have gone. And that’s right, isn’t it.

You and I have never climbed Mt. Everest. Some men wanted to so bad that they finally made it. There are a lot of other things they didn't do. And if your goal in life is worth very much it's worth meeting all the obstacles that are in the way, and through the grace of God triumphing over them, cost what it may.

Turn, please, to 1 Corinthians, the 10th chapter, and the 13th verse—1 Corinthians 10:13:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Now, that word “temptation” includes not only the idea of Satan coming around and tempting us, enticing us, inviting us to do wrong. It includes every testing that comes to us, every trial, every difficulty, which reveals to us and to others what is in our hearts, like an examination does in school, you know.

Now, notice:

“There hath no temptation...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

No testing.

“...[come to] you but such as is...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

What?

“...common to man...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Is that really true? Are the tests you meet those that other people are meeting, too? Yes. Now, don't misunderstand. It doesn't mean that everybody's alike, but it does mean that in all points, in one way or another, we share a common experience.

Let me illustrate it. A young man said to me not many days ago, and we were in a situation where it didn't sound quite as awkward for him to say this as it's going to sound to you when I tell you what he said. He said, You know, Elder Frazee, he said, I'm afraid of you. He said, It's just hard for me sometimes to—Well, he says, I'm just afraid of you.

Well, I said, Brother—I said, I'm glad you told me. You won't be quite as afraid now, but I got to pondering over it, and I thought of the many times I've been afraid of people, too.

Now, the young man that told let me that—he didn't realize that I have a lot of people I'm afraid of—a lot of people that I'm afraid of. In fact, I'm afraid of some of the people that are afraid of me. Some of them are sitting here tonight.

Now, I'm not going to ask for a show of hands, but I'm going to venture a guess. I'm going to venture that almost everybody in this room—you see, I'm leaving room for you to slip out of this if you think so—but almost everybody in this

room is afraid of somebody—afraid of somebody—and what do I mean by being afraid? I mean that it's a bit hard for you to talk with them. You're afraid that you won't please them, or afraid they won't please you. You're afraid they might criticize you, or afraid of any one of a number of things. Do you see what I mean?

And this thing—the reason I'm studying it with you for a few minutes, is this. This thing keeps people many times from getting what they want—I mean rightly the thing they want—the thing that they're desiring very much. This fear of people keeps them from getting what would enable them to make a success.

I was telling you last Friday night about the boy that wanted to learn to play the piano. He had a gift for music. And so, he finally was successful in getting arrangements made for lessons with a famous master, but this master was both exact and exacting, and you remember that when his pupil hit the wrong note on the piano, the master hit him on the knuckles with a ruler.

Now, if something like that happened to you, wouldn't you be afraid to go back there? I don't doubt this boy was afraid, and probably if he hit a wrong note, then he really *did* tremble, and he got the hit on the knuckles. But the point is, he did what? He kept on coming. Why? Because he wanted to learn to play the piano.

Now, my dear friends, as I say, there are people that put you in fear. Some teacher, some supervisor, perhaps, your father and mother, if you're a certain age, anybody that has authority, that has responsibility, and if you're not careful you're going to miss a wonderful experience of being helped by that person merely because you're afraid.

I challenge you, how much do you want to learn? I mean, how badly do you want to learn? Are you willing to be criticized? Are you willing to get the help? Or *will* you develop a weak, spineless experience by forever choosing to be only with those that you're not afraid of?

And analyze yourself a moment. Why is it that you like to be with certain people? Is it because they always pat you on the back and never cross you? Could be. They may not necessarily compliment you or praise you, but perhaps they never do or say anything that suggests that you need fixing a bit, they never make anything that closes down your self-confidence, they never bring up any subject that makes you think that *they* think that you need some improvement.

But somewhere along the line, you come in contact with somebody that makes you afraid, and when you do it, remember our text says:

“There hath no temptation...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

No testing.

“...taken you but such as is...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

What?

“...common to man...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Other people are afraid, too. Some years ago—several years now—a young high school graduate was sitting on the platform at the commencement exercises. She was the valedictorian, and she was clutching at her notes and opening and closing her fingers and giving other evidences of nervousness, and she confided to the gentleman next to her, who was the featured speaker of the evening, how afraid she was.

He said, I’m afraid, too, and he wasn’t just talking. He later came to be the president of the United States—Franklin D. Roosevelt. And those who lived in that time will remember him as one that apparently found it very easy to speak.

I don’t know, it may be that there are men that can, either in public or private, speak to any audience, talk to any individual, with never a fear or a flutter. I’m not sure. I’d be willing to be introduced to such a man. There may be colporteurs that never have to fight a battle with themselves Monday morning, but some of the most successful ones tell me that over and over again they have that battle with fear of meeting people.

Now, if there’s somebody here that doesn’t have any of these fears we’re studying, don’t go off and try to get some. You’ll have your battle with fear on some other front. Everybody has this battle:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Some of us were up on the roof today putting on the shingles, and I remarked to Brother **Vogle** that I was glad that he was out on the edge and I was nearer the center because to me to work right out on the edge would just make me so afraid that I’m afraid that I wouldn’t get very many nails driven.

Well, that particular thing doesn’t bother Brother **Vogle** at all, but I’m sure Brother **Vogle** would be willing to testify that there are some things that make him afraid. Am I right, brother? Yes.

Maybe he won’t mind if I tell you that he was a bit hesitant the other evening when I asked him to come up here and tell an experience. I’m so glad he did what I’m advising each of us to do tonight. When he recognized the call of God, the invitation of God, he put aside his fears and came up and did it.

We’re not always to do things merely because we’re afraid of them. Proper fear has a proper usage. I’m glad that all of us here tonight are afraid of rattlesnakes, and we’re afraid of getting in front of a moving car, we’re afraid of falling off a precipice. All those fears properly used, properly controlled, properly dealt with, have their place.

But, my dear friends, any fear—the fear of the snake, the fear of falling, the fear of man—any of those fears—can become an obsession that makes us slaves instead of masters and makes our life a weariness.

Turn to the 34th Psalm, and notice the psalmist's explanation of victory—the 34th Psalm, and the 4th verse. What did David do with his fears? What are those first four words?

“I sought the Lord...” Psalm 34:4.

What happened?

“and he heard me...” Psalm 34:4.

And did what?

“and delivered me from all my fears” Psalm 34:4.

He didn't have any trouble with fear after that, did he. Yes, he had a good many battles because, if you will notice the introduction to this psalm—this is long before he came to the throne. When he was a fugitive, he had a good many battles with himself and with other human beings and with fear.

But what David is telling us is:

“I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and *delivered* me from all my fears” Psalm 34:4.

In other words, I ceased to be a slave to them. I ceased to be in bondage to them. And some things, dear friends, we have to live with. If I have a wooden leg, I have to live with it, until Jesus comes. Won't I? If I have a glass eye, I have to live with it, until this mortal puts on immortality.

Somebody says, Well, couldn't God work a miracle and give you two good legs? Yes, He could. He has done such things, but ordinarily he lets people with wooden legs hobble around on wooden legs, and it's amazing what people that want something real bad do, even with a wooden leg. Isn't it, friends?

The man who for years held the world's short distance running record, when he was a boy, was burned so badly that the doctors thought he would never walk, but **Glen Cunningham** decided that he was not only going to walk, he was going to run and run as a racer. He did. He wanted that more than anything else. It cost him effort—persistent effort—painful effort—for years, but he got his goal—he got his goal.

Oh, there are a lot of people would like to do a lot of things if the Lord or some magic fairy would make it easy. *Do* they want it? Not very bad. What do you want? What do you want so much that you're willing by God's grace to conquer every fear that stands in your way?

And that's to be done—mark you—not by some pseudo-science, not by the power of positive thinking, not by any of this mumbo-jumbo that passes for science

or religion today. It's to be done, my dear friends, like the heroes of faith in the Bible did it.

"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34:4.

Oh, friends, there is power in the sense of the presence of Jesus. Let's turn to that 41st of Isaiah that we were noting as we sang that wonderful song of faith and hope at the beginning tonight.

What more can he say, than to you he hath said,
Who unto the Savior, for refuge have fled.

Isaiah 41:10. Read it with me again:

"Fear thou not..." Isaiah 41:10.

Wait a minute. Why would God say that to anybody—fear thou not? Why because they were afraid, exactly. Just as a mother will say to a weeping infant, Don't cry. Mother's here. Don't cry. I'm right here. All right. Start reading again:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" Isaiah 41:10.

Ah, friends, the fear of God solves the problem of all other fears, as the mystery of the cross explains all other mysteries. Think of the men who have found this true. Think of Joseph. There he was, thrown into that pit by his brothers, and then pulled up, sold as a slave, but on the way to Egypt, he decided that, come what might, he would be what? True to God.

And there in Potiphar's house, he was faithful. You remember the scene of his temptation—how Potiphar's wife sought to entice him—but he went right ahead with his business. You remember how that she took advantage of him and laid a plot for him, and finally the hour came when the supreme temptation to impurity was presented to him, and it wasn't merely the seeking to arouse his physical passion. Joseph knew that in that hour, not merely his standing before God was at stake—he knew that he could be put in prison or even killed under false accusation.

But, friends, the fear of man faded out before the sense of the presence of God. What did he say?

"...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9.

The fear of God overpowers the fear of human beings. There was Daniel. What was it that his enemies plotted to do to him? Put him where? In the den of lions. And many people that have gotten so frightened that they wouldn't have been able to go ahead and pray with the other people watching them, but the Bible says

that Daniel did what he had done what? Aforetime. He kept right on three times a day with his windows open toward Jerusalem, pleading with the God of heaven, and the spies, of course, reported it, and Daniel was thrown in the den of lions.

Was Daniel afraid? No. The sense of the presence of God was greater than the fear of men or lions. Who was it that passed a sleepless night? The King Darius. Daniel slept all right. I've often wondered—the Bible doesn't tell us, but I've just wondered if he didn't use one of those lions for a pillow. I don't think they would have furnished any other arrangements of that kind down there.

His enemies thought he'd be sleeping inside the lions, but he slept outside and woke up the next morning awakened by whom? The king—the king. And he testified of the goodness of God and the power of God:

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee...” Isaiah 41:10.

“...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” Hebrews 13:5.

You parents—sometimes you meet a situation where your little one is afraid of the dark or afraid of something else. Some children don't seem to be afraid. Others do. Listen to this, from the book *Education*, page 255:

“Only the sense of God's presence can banish the fear that, for the timid child, would make life a burden” *Education*, page 255.

God recognizes that some people are more timid than others, but He has a remedy—it's a sense of the presence of God. And all you timid children—whether you're three years old, or 30 or 60 years old—if you're timid, here's the prescription:

“Let him fix in his memory the promise, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them” *Education*, page 255.

Where is that? Psalm 34:7—that psalm we were reading from a few moments ago. Let's say it together:

“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” Psalm 34:7.

But, my dear friends, remember that these promises are given to us, not to put before us the idea that, if we'll get close enough to God right now, we'll never have another test again, never have another fear again, we'll be able to just walk right in anybody's office and say everything that needs to be said. No. We must meet these fears. But there has no testing come to you but such as is what?

“...common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be [tested] above that ye are able; but will with the [testing] also make a...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

What?

“...a way to escape...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

So that you won't have to bear it. Is that what it says? Turn back there to 1 Corinthians 10:13. I want you to notice exactly what it says, for on this matter of meeting fear, you're going to need this.

There are some people, dear friends, that, after you've prayed all that you're going to pray, and you still, as you go to them with ingathering, or go to them to canvas, or go to them on some other errand, or go to them to get some correction or some help—you're going to have to go with fear in your heart—but go, knowing that you're master and not slave of that fear.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to...” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

What? The way to escape is so that you're able to what? What a strange verse. Why, the way to escape I'm looking for is so I won't have to bear it. Isn't that the one you look for?

And I'll tell you a fellow—he's sometimes painted with hooks and horns—that will be ready there to show you a way to escape so you won't have to bear it. That's right. But the Spirit's way is to cheer your heart with courage, knowing that somebody is holding your hand. Who is it? *That's* the way to escape—a way to escape so that you're able to what? Bear it.

How many of you have had the experience of being a bit fearful about going out either with colporteur work or ingathering work or some other kind of house-to-house work, and it really was a task—you really were fearful—but by God's grace you went out, and something happened as you went that blessed your soul and made you glad. How many of you ever had that experience? Why, yes. Nearly everybody here tonight has had that experience. That to me is a fulfillment of this promise, my dear friends. Do you see what I mean?

Let me ask you another question. How many of you here tonight ever had a hard time—wait till I get through my question before you raise your hand—ever had a hard time giving testimony in meeting, who testified and you enjoyed it, and the Spirit impressed you to stand up and speak for Jesus, but oh, it was difficult.

Maybe there was time after time that your fears got the better of you, but finally, by the grace of God, you said, Tonight, I'm going to speak for Jesus, and you did it. You triumphed over fear, and you got a blessing in it and were glad and thankful that you'd done it after you did it. How many of you have ever had that experience? Why, sure—dozens and scores of you. Do you see what I mean, my dear friends?

“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” Psalm 34:4.

Not that I never had them again, but I learned to live with them. I learned to triumph over them. I learned to have victory over them. I learned to go ahead and get something done in spite of all my fears, and I repeat, friends, if you want the thing bad enough, it's worth it.

And what is it that you and I want? To:

“...please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” 2 Timothy 2:4.

Turn over to 1 John, the 4th chapter. Oh, here is a wonderful recipe—1 John 4:18. Hear what the second line says. What is it casts out fear? Love. Why, you've all heard of situations and experiences like these. Yonder's a burning building. Even brave firemen can't get in there, the flames are so intense, but here comes a woman running and she runs right in there. Why? Her baby's in there. She's going to get that baby.

What's moving her? Love. What's it done for her? Cast out fear, yes—cast out fear. If you love somebody enough, my dear friends, you can do things that ordinarily you're too timid to do, too fearful to do. Am I correct? So, oh, the answer in this thing of triumphing over fear is more love for Jesus. That's the thing.

Sometimes what we need isn't so much to grin and bear it or to grit out teeth and summon up our willpower—those all have their place—but the great thing, friends, is to press close to the bleeding side of Jesus and see what He bore for us until love wells up in our souls and we want to please Him.

Perfect love does what? Casts out fear. Now, it may need to be cast out over and over again. But just as darkness can't last long around light, so fear can't last long around love. If our fears are great, we need greater love. If the fears grow, let the love grow. Looking unto Jesus, we're safe.

Oh, how wonderful it is, friends, to think of all He bore for us and be glad that we can share that with Him. Before Peter learned this lesson, he was always trying to get rid of the cross. He had been influenced by Judas who seemed to pose as the public relations expert back there in the company of Jesus. Judas, you know, was always trying to tell Jesus how to move along smoothly so he wouldn't make so much trouble.

And Peter had imbibed some of that, and so when Christ spoke to him about the cross, he tried to tell Jesus that there was an easier way, and that spirit was never fully overcome until Gethsemane. There in Gethsemane, Peter made such a fool of himself in leading the retreat of the disciples and then in the courtyard denying his Lord with cursing and swearing that Peter fell and fell hard.

Do you remember what it was that brought out the weakness of his nature there in the courtyard? He was afraid of what? He was afraid of public opinion. Put down in your notes this text—Proverbs 29:25:

“The fear of man bringeth a snare...” Proverbs 29:25.

“The fear of man bringeth a snare...” Proverbs 29:25.

And it brought a snare to Peter that night. Three times somebody pointed the finger at him and three times he wilted. Three times he denied his Lord. But, oh, that night under the olive tree, after he had seen the face of Jesus in love and pity, there under the olive tree, Peter knelt. In fact, he threw himself upon the ground, and cried to God. Peter got an experience that lifted him above those fears.

And you remember that a few weeks later, in that very courtyard, before some of those very men, Peter was on trial, and they thought that Peter would be an easy mark. They thought, We know Peter. He was so afraid of us the other night that he cursed and swore that he didn't know the Lord. Now, we've got him. We'll make him afraid, all right.

They threatened him and John—they even beat them—but Peter stood right up there how? Boldly, with holy confidence. What had happened to Peter? The love of Jesus had come into his soul in a great flood tide.

So, dear ones, while I do suggest that we use our willpower, and God wants us to, let's be sure that willpower is refueled and refreshed and replenished from the fires of Calvary. Let's be sure that the love of Jesus is what is motivating us. You and I are going into scenes that will test the hearts of men, and all our human resolutions will be insufficient, unless we have that sense of the presence of Jesus and his great love for us.

[Singing.]

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.
For Thee, all the folly of sin I resign,
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus it's now.

Now, this evening we're going to have opportunity for many to speak a word for Jesus. May I suggest that our testimonies tonight be short. Just stand where you are. Two or three can be standing at a time, and give you witness. It'll cheer the heart of Jesus. It'll bless others.

[Testimony meeting.]

Bert, we're glad to welcome you back... This is going to be a valuable secret to somebody here tonight. Nearly everybody in the world is in one of two classes. One class are not accomplishing what they see other people accomplishing and what they themselves would like to accomplish, and they feel they can't because they're timid or fearful or afraid, and as they look at the other people, they imagine

that if they had the ability and the freedom from fear that those other people have that they could do it, too—that they could succeed.

The other class are the people who are going ahead and doing it in spite of the very same fears that this first class have. There may be a few people in a third class that don't have any of these problems. If there are, come up and I want to meet you after the meeting.

But nearly everybody is in one of those two classes. Now, which class are you going to be in? Are you going to be in the class that go through life letting your fears master you and thinking that the successful people are the ones that don't have that timidity and those fears?

And ah, friends, there's many a man that speaks for God whose knees have literally trembled more than once. There's many a person who every time he goes out to do colporteur work or ingathering work has to pray his way through successful preparation. There's many a parent who, when he deals with his children, has to get down on his knees for grace in order to say the right word in the right way at the right time.

Dear ones, parents, children, teachers, students, workers, supervisors, whatever your calling, *you* are going to have obstacles, problems. One of the biggest is being afraid of other people—put it down—it's certain for nine out of 10 of you, 99 out of a hundred of you—*but* those things need not keep you from victory. Those things need stop you from success.

If you have love enough for Jesus, you're going to seek the Lord and He will deliver you from those fears, and you can join that second class of those who, in spite of fear, move forward to success, accomplishing the goals set before them.

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