

## FEAR TO FAITH

### Psalm 46:1-11

INTRODUCTION: We live today in a very anxious society that spends literally billions of dollars each year on anti-anxiety medications. These drugs are promoted as able to give us freedom from fear and anxiety and give the users peace. However, there is no medication or therapy that can insulate you from the negative influences of fear. When we deal with the symptoms instead of the sources of our problems it always results in short-term-gain and long-term-pain. Our Lord, in His guide book has given over three-hundred and fifty “fear not” verses. There are two kinds of fear that the Bible tells us are good fears: There is the emotion of fear, which is spontaneous when we enter into a place of danger and there is the fear of the Lord which is encouraged in God’s Word.

#### I. A SPIRIT OF FEAR!

When the fear of the Lord goes down in any society, the fear of people and things goes up! We are seeing that type of fear being manipulated to have people in our nation give up their God given rights of freedom to have our leaders remove our fears. 2 Timothy 1:7. Remember the emotion of fear when there is danger is good but a spirit of fear causes us to do irrational things: Matthew 8:25-26. We have all experienced the fears of youth and of young adulthood and older adulthood if we have lived long enough. Genesis 39:11-12.

#### II. MANIPULATING FEAR!

Yet another kind of fear is manipulating fear. This is part of the devil’s arsenal for spiritual warfare. Instead of the fight or flight reaction to emotional fear; this type of fear can and often does confuse our thinking. King David learned this the hard way: Psalm 139:23-24. We cannot walk in the joy of the Lord and be filled with a spirit of fear at the same time. Nehemiah 8:10; Isaiah 26:3-4. Manipulating fear confounds every other godly emotion: It exaggerates hate and dilutes the love of God in our hearts. The fear of things the Lord has told us not to fear can ruin our lives: Deuteronomy 1:26-35; Philippians 4:6-9; John 10:10. Manipulating fear harms our bodies: If the spirit of fear remains after any immediate danger is over will actually cause harm to our bodies: Proverbs 17:22. Our manipulating fear also affects others! Parents fears can often be passed onto their children and others: Numbers 14:1-10. We can overcome our unreasonable fears by our faith in the promises of our God. Numbers 14:6-9. Manipulating fear will negatively control your life: When we lack faith in the revealed promises of God we trust in what we think will give us security only to find out that our lack of faith has robbed us once again: Hebrews 4:1-2; Joshua 1:6-9; Hebrews 13:5-6.

#### III. THE CONSECRATED FEAR OF THE LORD!

We need to learn to trust in our Lord and walk in the fear of the Lord to be set free from manipulative fear: Matthew 11:28-30. Rest for our souls means we are set free from manipulating fear! Over 100 times the Bible tells us to walk in the fear of the Lord! The fear of the Lord has to do with our love of the Lord, our awe of the Lord, respect and reverencing Him and of course our obedience to His revealed truth in His Word. Proverbs 28:13-14; Psalm 46:1-3. In our hard times of trial, we must remember others have been able to turn their fear to faith: Hebrews 11:32-35; Hebrews 11:35-40. Now it is our turn to live by fear or by faith: Luke 12:4-7; John 14:27; Proverbs 3:21-26; Psalm 56:3-4; 1 John 4:11-18.