

Preparation for Bible class: Salvation, Jn 3:16. Fellowship with God, 1 Cor 10:31. Spiritual maturity Eph 3:14-16.

LIFE OF DAVID (57)

Moving from the Baneful State of Worry, Anxiety, and Fear into the Blessedness of Faith, Strength, and Victory

A. Testing.

1. After passing a barrage of tests, David falters and moves into the evil and sinfulness of anxiety and fear, 1 Sam 20:3.
2. As believers we have the unique privilege of God's Word regarding the need, provisions, and issues of testing, 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Peter.
3. Furthermore, we have the blessing of being able to study the lives and trials of truly great men and women recorded in God's Word (Heb. 11).
4. The one conspicuous trait that all great men and women in the Word of God have in common was that they were able to reach far beyond the wisdom of their age.
5. This wisdom was only possible through fellowship + growth in BD.
 - a) F-ship: walking with God, Gen 5:22; Amos 3:3; 1 Jn 1:7.
 - b) F-ship: walking before God, Gen 17:1.
 - c) F-ship: walking after God, Dt 13:4.
6. Advancement in the POG always requires testing and refinement, but God is always there to secure the victory, 1 Cor 10:1-13; 1 Peter.
7. It is critical in all times of testing to orient to the faithfulness of God,
 - a. God is faithful to His Word, Heb 10:23; 11:11
 - b. God is faithful to His own character and Person, 2 Tim 2:13.
 - c. God's faithfulness connects His past acts on our behalf to His future acts on our behalf, 1 Cor 1:9; Philip 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23-24.
 - d. God is our faithful Creator, 1 Pet 4:19.
 - e. God is faithful with regard to the pressures He allows on us during times of testings, 1 Cor 10:13.
 - f. God is faithful in forgiving us, 1 Jn 1:9.
 - g. We should never waiver with regard to trusting the faithfulness of God, 2 Cor 1:18; Heb 10:23.

B. Moving from the baneful state of worry, anxiety, and fear to the blessedness of faith, strength, and victory.

1. The sin and evil of worry, Mt 6:31-33; Lk 8:14.
2. Anxiety and the imperative to "be anxious for nothing," Philip 4:6.
3. Lack of a habitual prayer life with thanksgiving is indication of disorientation to the POG and lack of much fellowship with God, 1 Thess 5:17.
4. A bitter complaining spirit indicates disorientation to God & His grace.
 - a) Bitterness & complaining are evil before the Lord, Num 11:1.
 - b) Root cause of bitterness is the forsaking of the Lord, Jer 2:19.
 - c) Believer is commanded to do away with all forms of bitterness, Eph 4:31; Philip 2:14.
 - d) The bitter complaining believer has not only corrupted his relationship with God, he also corrupts relationships with his loved ones, Col 3:19; Heb 12:15;
 - e) The solution to bitterness is to return to the Lord which means confession of the sins followed by intake and conformity to the Word of God, 1 Pt 2:1-3.

5. Fear—the five categories: normal/legitimate fear (Gal 4:11), sinful/destructive fear (Mt 14:30-31), constructive faith (Mt 10:28), establishment fear (Rom 13:1-7), and fear/awe/respect for God and His plan (Heb 4:1; 1 Pt 2:17; Dt 17:19).

6. Fear is a sign of spiritual illness— that will eventually lead to psychological and mental illness, 1 Sam 18:12; Psa 53:5; Luke 21:26.

7. Fear is caused by putting the DOL before God, Mt 10:29-31.

8. Lack of relationship with God causes fear, Gen 3:10.

9. God has freed the believer from being a slave to fear, Rom 8:15.

10. In times of fear, it is imperative for the believer to get his eyes on the Lord and His plan/Word instead of the problem, Ex 14:10-14.

11. The Bible commands us not to be afraid precisely because the Lord is with us and will give us divine strength, Isa 41:10.

12. It is through faith in the promises and realities in the Word of God that enables us to overcome our fears, Heb 11:27.

13. You never need to live in fear of any person, Heb 13:6; Psa 56:3.

14. There is no need to fear because God is always in control and will never allow more on you than you can handle, 1 Cor 10:13.

15. Since God has already taken care of our greatest needs, we need never fear that He will ever withhold our fewer needs, Rom 8:30-32.

16. God raises up spiritual leaders to teach His people the Word of God so they will not live in fear, Jer 23:4; Eph 4:11-16.

17. What makes fear so sinful is that it is nothing short of lack of faith and trust in God, Romans 14:23; Matthew 14:30.

18. The issue is to move from fear and anxiety of human viewpoint through biblical faith (divine viewpoint), Psa 23; 56; Mt 6:25; Philip 4:19; Jn 14:1; Heb 2:14-15; 2 Cor. 4:18.

19. God repeatedly promises to take care of you, Isa 35:4; Deut 20:1; Neh 4:14; Josh 1:9; Luke 12:24; Heb 13:6.

20. Fear can only be a blessing if it really drives you to the Lord, Psalm 34:4; Heb 13:6.