**Being Fearful**

Adding the suffix *ful* to most words usually means *to be full of* whatever the base word is. Thus, *prideful* is to be *full of pride,* and *fearful* is to be *full of fear.*

Eccl.12:3,5 *“the watchman of the house tremble… men are afraid of a high place and terrors on the road…”*

The sad truth is that perhaps all too often *younger people* **aren’t afraid** when they **should be** (as per Eccl.12:1,12-13), and *older people* **are afraid** when they **shouldn’t be** (Eccl.12:3,5).

But whether *young* or *old,* ***“Do not fear”*** is found 8 times in NT; ***“Do not be afraid”*** appears over 50 times.

John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you; not at the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled,* ***nor let it be fearful.”*** Jesus spoke these words to His disciples on the night of His betrayal. Even when facing the horrible agonies of the cross and His own death, He was *at peace.* He told the Twelve, most of whom would suffer similarly horrific deaths, to be *at peace,* and *not to fear.* Are you *afraid* this morning?

**What Do You *Fear?***

1. **Disease?** Certainly the Pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetimes. We are constantly bombarded with reports, statistics, warnings, and directives.Newsflash: Humanity has been suffering *disease* (as a means to *death*) since *the curse* of Gen.3:19 and will continue to do so until the Lord brings *death,* along with *all things temporal,* to an *end,* 1Cor.15:22-26. Unless the Lord returns *first* (cf.1Thess.4:15-17), **we are all going to die** ***of something,*** Heb.9:27. So get *comfortable* with the idea until such things are *no more,* Rev.21:4.

But we should fear *spiritual disease* and *drifting,* Heb.2:1-4. I fear that our collective fear of *physical* disease is compromising our *spiritual* immunity and health.

1. **Persecution?** Not according to Matt.10:24-28a,29-31; 1Pet.3:13-17.

But we should fear *apostasy,* Matt.10:28b,32-39. I fear that we are being conditioned to a state of *perpetual fear* that will allow *persecution* to destroy souls rather than just bodies.

1. **Death?** We’re *supposed to be delivered* from such, Heb.2:15. We’re supposed to view even our own death as “graduation” from *this* life to the *next;* as a *blessed rest* in which our (righteous) *deeds follow with us,* Rev.14:13. Remember that you’re only ready to die if you are ready to die **today.** Be honest with yourself: Are you *afraid* to die **today**? If not, why not?

**Conclusions:**

* ***Fear***can be either a **great motivator** (we never move so quickly, run so fast, or jump so high as when we are truly *frightened*), or **paralyzing**.
* 2Tim.1:7, *“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”* Therefore, *“have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourselves for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come,”* 1Tim.4:7-8.
* Is the *fear of disease, persecution,* and/or *death* **paralyzing** and **preventing *godliness****,* or are you even more **motivated**to **trust God** and be ***empowered*** in greater ***love*** through ***disciplining yourself*** for the *purpose* of ***godliness?*** Choose wisely.