



BIBLE TALK

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Question: Is it wrong for a Christian to fear?

Answer: Fear governs the lives of most. We are afraid of loneliness, poverty, rejection, sickness, failure, betrayal, death, and the list continues. Before Jesus departed from His apostles, on His return to the Father, He said, *"my peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (Jn. 14:27). The "Prince of Peace" offers peace to fear ridden souls today (Isa. 9:6). He exhorts, *"Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me"* (Jn. 14:1). Yes, fear is sinful when due to a lack of faith in God. Self-reliance preempts our trust in God. When upon realizing our inabilities, we quake from fear which results in the loss of objectivity.

Fear being inevitable, we must concern ourselves with countering it. One thing is for certain; fear cannot be ignored, because it infiltrates the mind and permeates the soul. The only way to overcome fear, regardless of its origin, is to live by faith.

If we are to please God, approach God, and be rewarded, it must be through God (Heb. 11:6). This is how the righteous live, by faith (Rom. 1:17). This is exactly the point that Jesus makes in John 14, to not be troubled, but to believe in Him. Jesus assessed His fearful crew as having "little faith" when they feared (Matt. 8:26). Peter literally had a "sinking spell" from fear due to doubting (Matt. 14:30, 31). Christ is our protectorate, leaving nothing to fear (2 Tim. 1:12; Rom. 8:28-37). Be of good courage! Fear stems from leaning upon our human capabilities and limitations, which are always inferior to what God can supply.

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