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Fear

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Foundational Scripture: Jonah 1:1-17

I greet you in the Mighty Name of our LORD Jesus Christ. Before I begin the message of the day, I would like to tell you this: We have many good friends who love us but unfortunately, they disappoint us. However, we have a friend who will never disappoint us even in times of trouble and His Name is Jesus Christ.

The message I want to share with you this morning is under the subject - FEAR.

Fear is the biggest enemy of our Faith in God and this takes us far away from God. From the scripture we have just read, we've heard about this great man of God, Jonah, who because of his unfaithfulness was influenced by fear.

Jonah was instructed by God to take His message to a place called Nineveh. Nineveh was a great city full of immorality and evil. In the scripture, we see Jonah taking another direction to a place called Tarshish instead of Nineveh. Jonah was trying to avoid what God had instructed him to do.

The Bible says, "But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god..." (Jonah 1: 4-5). On taking another direction, Jonah boarded a ship along with other people. We see Jonah hiding himself in the ship because of fear. All members of the crew were also full of fear because of the circumstances that were surrounding them.

When you are under fear, nothing will be successful in your plans. In fact, fear will cause somebody to be its slave. Fear brings death and causes death. The Bible says that God did not give us the spirit of fear.

There are many people who don't enjoy life simply because fear is enslaving them. Fear brings discouragements in life and people die because of those discouragements. People have fear for tomorrow. They forget that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. People with incurable diseases die quickly because they lose faith and submit their lives to fear. Many rich people are not sure of their security and then construct long fences around their houses because of fear. Many are spending sleepless nights because of fear. People don't spend their money efficiently because they fear for tomorrow. People



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commit suicide not because of fear.

In most cases, fear comes to us because of disobedience. Whenever we disobey God, the devil will bring terror to us and he will keep on reminding us about our failures. Like Jonah, many people are full of fear simply because of disobedience.

Time has come when people should realize that fear not only affects their lives but also influences their relationship with God. Fear is from the devil and is the enemy of faith. The bible says, “so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing the word of God” (Rom 10:17). Which means that fear may also come to us by hearing the words of the devil.

Beloved, its also important for us to know that fear takes away the anointing we get from God. When one is under fear, his mind and spirit are concentrating on those things that are terrifying him. In other words, fear will create a distance between the person and God.

The devil is the source of fear because he came to kill, steal and to destroy. The good news is that Jesus came “...that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10b). Abundant life is a life without fear but rather full of faith in God.

As I conclude this message, I want you to know that we should not fear anything except God. The Bible says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline” (Prov/ 1:7). Also, the Bible says, “He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death” (Prov. 14:26-27).

As we take time to pray, let’s think about the number of times God tells us in His word not to fear. Did you know that the word “fear not” appears 366 times in the Bible? Enough to cover each day during a leap year? Therefore, fear not because God is always with us. We should always be faithful to Him and not take the example of Jonah. Unfaithfulness or disobedience causes us to fear and this gives the enemy an opportunity to operate in our lives.