

The Fear of man and Evangelism



Proverbs 29:25 says: "Fear of man will prove to be a snare..."

A snare is something that catches something else to either kills it or to paralyzes it to make merchant of it or to put something out of order. It is especially used to catch birds with! It is used to ensnare the bird so to take him captive and to put him out of action, once caught, the bird loses its abilities to fly, etc! It is also the same with us! Here "FEAR of man" is stated as such a snare by which we are ensnared through which we are put out of action and we then lose our ability to share Christ! This is no small thing! Fear is a great hindrance to sharing our faith effectively! But it paralyzes us in its web, so we must overcome fear and be aware of its snares!

This is just where a close fellowship with Christ is so important, for Psalm 91 testifies:

"HE WHO DWELLS IN the shelter of the Most High (IN Jesus Christ) will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I WILL SAY OF THE LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

3 Surely he will save you FROM THE FOWLER'S SNARE and from the deadly pestilence.

5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

9 IF YOU MAKE THE MOST HIGH YOUR DWELLING your dwelling - even the LORD, (This is all close fellowship in Christ)..."

IF we dwells in the shadow of the Almighty, that is if we dwells - lives in, having continual fellowship and tabernacle with Jesus the Christ, then we SAVE us from the fowler's snare so that we will not fear! Fear and faith never co-exist in one place! Verse 2 states: I WILL SAY OF THE LORD...! This is faith in action!

Also love says John in 1 John 4:18 it says: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear..." This also means that if we still fear, we do not stand in perfect love, or in common words - our love has not been made complete or full when we are still overcome with fear!!!

So let me give here two definite things by which we can overcome the fear of man, or fear to testify of what others may do or say or think:

1. Live and dwell in close fellowship with Jesus Christ, feed daily upon His Word, build up your faith, and become strong in the Lord and in the power of His might

2. a) Love God above all other things, let Him be your main focus and concern, to please Him above or any man or thing should be clearly settled in your life and mind! If we love God enough, we will not care what men will say or do to us!

b) Love all men and think of your obligation to share with them Christ! Think about their eternal salvation and let the vision of their terrible fate fill your heart and mind and then go out and know that if you do not share this with them, they may die in their sins under the wrath of God! Think about their doom and the bondage and miserable pride that keep them in guilt and wrath! Be like a surgeon who know the fate of his patient and who would love them enough to share their remedy, even if it may hurt them so much! Think about the Cross of Christ and what He has suffered and died for so that men might receive life and go and do not fear!

c) Remember, if they reject you or think ill of you, it is not about you at all! If you truthful share with them

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the gospel and the Word of God, it is the Word that they despise, be so associated with the Jesus Christ that it will be your highest honor to face rejection and persecution and rejection this world and friends may give!

d) We must be overcome with the fear of the Lord, for He who fears God above all can stand before any man! He who bows to the Lordship and authority of God will be able to stand before the face of any man!!!

If we do not follow these simple things, the fear of man will become a snare that will ensnare us and KEEP us immobile and paralyzed to effectively share and testify openly and BOLDLY of Jesus Christ and the Word of God! This is exactly what Peter and John were doing! The fear of man was completely consumed by the fire of Christ's life and love!