

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.

2. 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.

3. 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.