

HOW TO OVERCOME THE GREATEST HINDERANCE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL: THE FEAR OF MAN

Prov . 29: 25 “The fear of man bringeth a snare(trap): but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”

Which *of the following is true about the cause of the fear of sharing our faith?*

- a. Lack of assurance of salvation
- b. Not appropriating the fullness of the Spirit (acts 1:8)
- c. Neglect of prayer and meditation
- d. A feeling that I don't know enough.
- e. Lack of confidence in God and ourselves (Prov 14:26; Num 13:33)
- f. Fear of rejection, failure, and looking stupid.
- g. Lack of practice

Know and consistently apply what the Bible says about the fear of man helps us to conqueror this fear.

1. Deuteronomy 1 ¹⁷Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; *but* ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man
2. Joshua 11 ⁶And the LORD said unto Joshua, Be not afraid because of them: for to morrow about this time will I deliver them up all slain before Israel:
3. 2 Kings 1 ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king
4. Nehemiah 4 ¹⁴And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, *which is* great and terrible, and fight for you
5. Psalm 3: ⁶I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that have set *themselves* against me round about.
6. Psalm 56. ¹¹In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.
7. Psalm 118 ⁶The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?
8. Num. 14 ⁹Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.

9. Jeremiah 1 ⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.
⁷But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD
10. Rom 1: ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek
11. Phil 1: ²⁸And in nothing terrified by your adversaries:

Other Principles for Overcoming Fear

- A. There are two kinds of fear that the Bible address: The healthy fear as in Proverbs. 1:7; 14:26; Job 28:28 “The fear (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. This fear helps us to keep from sin and danger. (2) The fear that has torment. 1 John 4:18. The fear that prevents us from being and doing what God calls us to do.
- B. God has not given us the spirit of fear. 2 Tim. 1 ⁷“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”
- C. Perfect Love cast out all fear 1 John 4 ¹⁸“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” Love is letting go of fear.
- D. Action kills fear. “Do the thing you fear and the death of fear is certain.” “feel the fear and do it (what need to be done) anyway”
- E. Recognize indecisiveness and procrastination as symptoms of fear. The indecisive person finds it difficult to make clear-cut decisions. The procrastinator puts off what can be done today for tomorrow
- F. Fear will keep us out of heaven as it kept the Israelites out of the Promise Land. Rev 21 ⁸But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

G. God wants us to live without fear. Luke 1: ⁷⁴That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.