

Study Guide – EMOJI Fear vs Peace, *from 8-13-2017*

Warming Up

Sometimes fearful moments suddenly come upon us. Or, as Pastor Bobby shared, sometimes we get scared as a result of a prank that is played upon us. Share a time when you have really been scared, suddenly or slowly.

Fear Is Not God's Will for Us – It Cripples and Paralyzes

1 John 4:18 tells us that “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

Are you willing to accept that you cannot live in God's perfect love while being controlled by fear?

Do you think of fear as a neutral thing that just comes upon people? If so, what does it mean to you to read, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”? (2 Timothy 1:7)

Is fear just something to be accepted and lived with year after year, or should it be dealt with since it did not come from God?

Have you ever known someone who seems to be frozen in fear? John 1:5 reads, “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome) it.” What can you do to shed God's light into the darkness of fear that has your friend paralyzed? What scriptures can you share with them?

In the parable of the talents, Pastor Bobby shared that the third man who had received only one talent to be used, gave the excuse that he was afraid. “And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.” The New Testament says that every Christian has been given gifts.

Do you think that God will be satisfied if we fail to use our gifts for His glory because we are afraid? Read what He said to the man who buried his talent. (Matthew 25:30)

Have you ever been tortured by fear at a time when you had to make an important decision? What was it? How did it work out? Did you have to “Faith your fear”?

Are you the kind of person who never takes chances, or do you often step out in faith to do something risky? Describe.

Peace through Faith

While we will never see world peace until Jesus returns, can God's children have inner peace? Mark 4:35-41 gives the story of the storm at sea, when Jesus calmed the waves. His reply to the disciples was, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” Jesus slept in peace, while His disciples struggled with fear, although they were all in the same circumstances.

How does it make you feel to see some who is calm when trouble is all around them? Do you think of them as having faith, or just being too crazy to not be scared? Could this person be expressing the faith that Jesus had? Do you wish you had it?

Yet, you can have it. In John 14:27, Jesus promised us, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

What needs to be addressed in your way of thinking about things for you to receive this peace that Jesus offers you?

Pastor Bobby asked, “Do you have the ability to maintain inner tranquility when you cannot obtain outward stability?” In John 16:33, Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” A word picture that I can never forget is that of a small bird standing in a crevasse on a mountainside singing his heart out as a storm rages all around him. The bird saw the storm like a man sees people from the window of a plane.

How important is your point of view about problems? How much importance do you allow them to have in your mind?

Peace through Prayer – Asking for What God Has Already Promised

Colossians 3:15 reads, “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” What must you do to “be of good cheer” in the middle of tribulation? Could it be as simple as a healthy prayer life?

One of the most powerful and challenging scriptures is Philippians 4:6-7, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” What a powerful promise with clear instructions!

Prayer, humility, thankfulness, request = inconceivable peace and a guarded heart and mind.

Conclusion

Everyone is either a prayer-less worrier or a prayer warrior. You can't be both.

When will you take the step to simply start praying for the peace of Jesus that surpasses understanding?

God is just waiting to bless you.