

Q4 Consecration – Day 2

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

We told you last time that we have modeled our *Q4 Consecration* after the **Feast of Tabernacles**. Meaning, we're using the *Feasts of Tabernacles* and the various aspects connected to this feast to inspire how we look at and participate in this consecration!

There are details surrounding the *Feast of Tabernacles* that are right in line with this particular consecration. For example, the **Feast of Tabernacles** was the *final* feast on the Jewish calendar. Similarly, our Q4 Consecration is the *final* consecration of this calendar year.

Second, each *feast* in the Old Testament points back to a particular time in Israel's history. (The Feast of Passover points back to Israel's deliverance from Egypt. The Feast of Pentecost points back to the giving of the Law.) Similarly, the **Feast of Tabernacles** points back to when Israel dwelled in 'booths' or *tabernacles*.

[Leviticus 23:42-43](#)

Israel observed the **Feast of Tabernacles** by dwelling in temporary shelters (or booths) for *7 days*. Afterwards, on the *eighth day*, they returned to their permanent home. (This is why we're spending this consecration in our homes for 8 days!)

Also, the 7 days of the **Feast of Tabernacles** is a type of the Tribulation. In fact, the Church will, like Israel, dwell in temporary houses (mortal bodies) for 7 years and, afterwards, go to their permanent homes (new bodies)!

Thus, the **Feast of Tabernacles** is pointing FORWARD to the *end times*. And this fits in line with what we've been studying!

But, there's more inspiration we want to draw from this feast besides its place on the calendar or its duration. We also want to do what they did.

What did Israel do for the 7 days they observed the **Feast of Tabernacles**?

[Nehemiah 8:16-18](#)

The phrase 'solemn assembly' refers to a time when the people would gather together for public worship. In fact, the *Good News Bible* says...

[Nehemiah 8:18](#) *Good News Bible*

¹⁸ From the first day of the festival to the last **THEY READ A PART OF GOD'S LAW EVERY DAY.** They celebrated for seven days, and on the eighth day there was **A CLOSING CEREMONY...**

Notice, over those 7 days leading up to the *eighth* day, the people “Read a part of God’s law every day.” The reason they did this was so that they might *LEARN to fear the Lord!* [Deuteronomy 31:10-13](#)

The fear of the Lord is something we all must learn. Moreover, the word of God helps us with this.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Does the *fear the Lord* mean we ought to be afraid of God?

[Revelation 6:15-16](#)

People who are *afraid* of God are worried and frightened that He’s going to *destroy* them. Christ has delivered the believer from this kind of fear.

[Romans 5:9](#) (see also [1Thessalonians 1:10](#)) Because of Christ’s atonement or ‘reconciliation,’ believers have no reason to be afraid to approach God or afraid of His wrath.

We should add that although Christ **HAS** delivered us from *wrath*, He has **NOT** delivered us from *accountability* (and the fear that comes with this)! [1Peter 1:17](#)

Peter is here reminding us that God is not just our Father, but He’s also an impartial *judge*. Moreover, the fear of the Lord gives men *a feeling of accountability* and compels them *towards* obedience ([Philippians 2:12](#); [2Corinthians 7:1](#)), and *away from* willful disobedience or evil ([Proverbs 8:13](#))! Therefore, no one operating in the fear of Lord *wills* to do evil or *enjoys* it. [Romans 7:15](#)

‘Good’ fear is that fear which leads to *cautious* behavior. ‘Bad’ fear is that fear which *overpowers* a person and keeps them from being able to engage in any activity. [1John 4:18](#)

I often hear people misquoting this verse by saying, “Perfect love casts out ALL fear.” Actually, this verse doesn’t say that. Perfect love does not cast out or displace ALL fear. Instead, perfect love casts out the kind of fear that has torment (i.e. *everlasting* punishment).

Therefore, if you have a fear that anticipates the worst possible outcome, and you feel paralyzed and unable to make any decisions, then understand that this fear is from Satan, not God! [2Timothy 1:7](#)

Jesus has delivered us from this kind of fear. [Hebrews 2:14-15](#)

Thus, all fear is not *good* fear. For example, God does not want us to fear ‘threatening’ circumstances or situations. [Joshua 1:9](#)

The fact that God tells Joshua to “Be not afraid” lets us know that fear isn’t simply an *involuntary* emotion. We’re capable of controlling our fears. In fact, when we choose to fear circumstances we’re committing sin and rebelling against God. [Ezekiel 2:6-8](#)

The biblical command not to fear is really a command not to panic or be immobilized by fear when you encounter difficult situations. In other words, don’t allow fear to hinder your obedience!

When talking about fear, it’s best to distinguish between *rational* and *irrational* fear.

Irrational fear is that fear where you are afraid of things for no good reason (i.e. a fear of monsters, a fear of flying, etc.). Irrational fears are ‘made-up’ fears or fears of the unknown. On the other hand, rational fears are fears where we’re afraid of things for a *good* reason (i.e. fear of electricity, fear of fire, etc.). Thus, when we’re told not to fear, it’s because we have encountered what (in God’s mind) is an irrational fear; something we have no basis for being afraid. [Deuteronomy 3:22](#)

There was no *real* reason for Israel to be afraid of the Canaanites because God was with them!

[Hebrews 13:6 KJV](#)

⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

On the other hand, there’s a good reason to fear God. It’s very *rational* to fear God because, like fire, He can be dangerous!

[Hebrews 12:29 KJV](#)

²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Those who play with sin are the same as those who play with fire! Both lack respect for things they ought to fear. (Incidentally, sin is what keeps a person from having the *fear of the Lord*.)