FOUR WAYS THE ENEMY USES INSECURITY TO CONTROL US

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Foundational Scripture
2 Timothy 1:7 KJV
For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Paul tells Timothy to stir up the gift of God and urges him to speak openly about Jesus, even when it costs him. Timothy already had the gift. He needed courage to use it. That's where insecurity gets busy. It'll have you talking yourself out of the room before anybody else has even opened their mouth.

1. HE MAKES YOU GET STUCK ON WHAT YOU LACK

Exodus 4:10–12 KJV
And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

God tells Moses to go, and Moses starts listing everything wrong with the

way he talks. God answers the very thing Moses is worried about. “I will be with thy mouth.” That’s where insecurity will get you. You’ll take one thing you struggle with and let it speak for your whole life. You stumbled the last time you spoke, so now every time somebody asks you to speak, you hear that old stumble before you hear the invitation.

Power statement — You can walk into the room with a shaky voice and still have something worth saying.

2. HE KEEPS YOU WATCHING EVERYBODY ELSE’S LANE

John 21:21–22 KJV
Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Jesus had just told Peter what following Him would cost. Peter turns around and says, in effect, “Well, Lord, what about him?” Jesus brings Peter right back to his own assignment. “Follow thou me.” Insecurity will have you feeling good about your progress until you pick up your phone. Somebody posts their announcement, and all of a sudden you’re ready to quit the very thing you thanked God for last week.

Power statement — You can clap for what God is doing in their lives while clinging to his assignment for your life.

3. HE MAKES YOU SHUT UP TO MAINTAIN HOOKUPS

John 12:42–43 KJV
Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be

put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

These leaders believed in Jesus, but going public could cost them their place in the synagogue. Insecurity works on that fear of being put out. You know the joke went too far, but you laugh because everybody else is laughing. You know what you believe, but you keep checking who's in the room before you decide how much of it you're willing to own.

Power statement — When you need everybody to be cool with you, it gets real expensive to tell the truth.

4. HE MAKES YOU LIVE AT THE MERCY OF PEOPLE

Proverbs 29:25 KJV
The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

A snare is a trap. The trap snaps shut when the fear of how somebody might react starts making your decisions for you. You know what you need to say, but first you check their mood. You know you need to say no, but you're already thinking about how quiet that phone might get when you do. So you say yes, and now you're sitting there upset about something you agreed to because you were scared of what a no might cost you.

Some of you know exactly how that feels. They can raise their voice, hang up in your face, and go on about their day. And there you are, calling back to make sure they're all right. You're so busy trying to get back in good with them that nobody ever has to deal with what they did to you.

When you allow people to do what they want to you without consequences, you become a safe place for their worst behavior.

Here’s what trusting God can look like in that moment. You say, “I’m willing to talk, but if you keep speaking to me like that, I’m going to end this conversation.” If it continues, you end the call. Then you let the phone sit there. That’s the part that takes faith. You’ve got to trust God through the silence you used to rush in and fix.

Power statement — You can let somebody be upset with you and still stand on what you said.

Closing declaration

I’ll use what God gave me, even while I’m still growing. I’ll celebrate somebody else’s progress and keep moving in my own assignment. I’ll speak up when my convictions are on the line. And when I set a boundary, I’ll trust God enough to follow through.