

# Fear 2

## *Part 2: False Sense of Earthly Security*

(preached 8/1/21)

Please turn to *1 Thessalonians 5*.

### Sermon #1: Not a Virtue, Not from God

- If fear has a grip on us, then perhaps our problem isn't that we think it's bad, but that we think it's good!
- Maybe we think it protects us, grants us peace, security, morality, self-control, greater wisdom, good discernment, and the ability to predict the future.
- If we believe this we must repent not of being afraid, but of falsely believing our fear can give us these things and that we need it.
- The Holy Spirit is a Person, a part of the Godhead.
- He's been put in charge of two things in the Church: 1) producing His fruit and 2) dispensing the gifts.
- Fear is not found within either the fruit of gifts of the Spirit.
- All the things we think we get from fear are available from the HS including peace, security, wisdom, discernment, self-control, and the ability to prophesy.
- We don't need fear! Your child or grandchild doesn't need to be afraid, he/she needs wisdom, greater self-control, and better judgment! ***Don't speak a spirit of fear onto others.***
- Fear isn't just an emotion, it's an actual spirit...and the Lord has not given us that one!
- Fear paralyzes, stops, prevents, and delays us from DOING. Proverbs equates it to laziness and compares it to a man who surrounds himself with a wall of thorns—he's unable to do anything.
- The Lord has given us the Holy Spirit Who grants power, love, and a sound mind.
- POWER means to enable us to perform mighty acts including miracles!
- LOVE translates to "a feast a charity."
- SOUND MIND means a disciplined, peaceful, and self-controlled mind/thinking.
- We ended last week's message by casting off fear and embracing the Holy Spirit!

CLARIFICATION. Please remember the importance of taking my sermons in proper context in 2 different ways:

1. In context with the entire series in which it's part of. It's only part of the whole message.
2. In context with previous sermons.

"WHICH IS IT?" For example, I've preached 2 different sermons recently about the monumental importance of fearing God and I defined exactly what that means. If you isolate those sermons from this one, you might be confused...in those sermons I said to fear God. In these sermons I'm saying we don't need fear...so which is it?

WRONG QUESTION. “Which is it?” is the wrong question. The type of fear which we express toward God was the pious, terrifying moral reverence for the Holy Creator and Father of all that is! *That type of fear is necessary, healthy, and Godly.*

WORLDLY FEAR. The type of fear I’ve been referring to in this series is completely different, coming from our flesh and inspired by our enemy, the devil.

## **Fear of the Lord causes us to worship the Lord.**

### **Earthly fear causes us to worship fear just as if it were the Lord.**

TODAY.

- The cause of earthly fear is when we desperately seek earthly security.
- The cause of earthly fear is when we desperately seek earthly security in anything other than God, what He’s made us to be, the gifts He’s given us, the fruit He produces, and the destiny He’s laid out for us.

COVID IS TEST FOR CHURCH & NATION. I consider Covid-19 and the Delta Variant to have been a test for the world, both for Christians and unbelievers. Despite having a 99.7% survivability rate, the release of this virus has inspired some to jump into the lake of fear and desperately tread water hoping to keep their heads above it.

DO ANYTHING FOR SECURITY. *Whenever a person or a nation are this afraid, they’ll do anything for security...for “things to go back to normal.”* It doesn’t matter if “normal” was a miserable existence that lacked joy and purpose, when a calamity comes upon us that makes our lives a massive question mark, we’ll do and give away anything to get back to where we were.

MULTIPLE GODS ON MAIN STREET. I’ve spoken to you before that pagan religions often worshipped multiple gods and pause to consider what that would look like if you walked down Main Street in a culture like that. Instead of seeing the Cross or perhaps a picture of Jesus on every religious building like you would here in Addison, imagine the streets of Bombay, India. You would see statues of gods like multi-armed Shiva and Ganesh, the elephant god along with others. Members of the Hindu faith might bow down to, make offerings to, and say prayers to several gods throughout their day.

FALSE GOD SECURITY. Last week we cast off the false god of fear, and this week we’re going to stop worship at the feet of its partner god: earthly security.

“WALK BACKWARDS OVER GLASS” When I was a teenager and I was hanging out with my male friends, we had a common saying whenever we saw an attractive woman: “I’d walk backwards and barefoot over broken glass for her!”

FOOLISH CHOICES. I've seen people make really foolish choices for things they wanted badly:

- Go into massive debt for a hot car or the fancy house on the hill they'll never pay off.
- Move across the country to live with someone they just met on the internet, giving up their jobs and homes to do so.
- Steal from their own family to get their next fix of drugs.

MARRIED COUPLE. Fear and Security are like Zeus and Hera: gods who are married to each other. When fear begins to threaten same old same old, we prostrate ourselves to the god of security and passionately cry out to it to restore that which was lost. We bow our heads, bend our knees, and plead with it just as if it were a king sitting on a throne with the power to save.

MAKE OFFERING. And we'll make our offering...we'll pay any price. We'll bring our money, jobs, and relationships to its sacrificial altar and lay them down. We'll drop our rights and freedom into its offering plate—possibly never getting them back—just to return to normalcy.

CONTACT IN PHILIPPINES told me that a combination of Covid, flooding, and earthquakes were causing people to do “crazy” things and he said he was moving his family out of the city and into the countryside. When I asked him what those “crazy” things were, he only replied with a sad crying emoji. Why would they behave like this? Their sense of security has been dashed, driving them to despicable acts to try and get it back.

WE ALLOWED GOV'T: In the last year since Covid came upon our nation, we've allowed Federal and State Government to take emergency powers which resulted in isolation and shut downs. We sat idly by as they:

- Shut down the most vibrant economy in the world, resulting in businesses closing their doors permanently, people losing their jobs, and inflation rocking the nation.
- The health department sent thousands of letters to businesses threatening to shut them down forever if they didn't comply with masking and social distancing. It even happened here in Addison.
- We watched as loved ones died alone in nursing homes and hospitals, barred from being by their sides in their last days.
- The government violated its own “separation of church and state” edict by commanding the church to shut down...and we did.
- We did nothing as the Gov said we needed to wear masks and social distance or else.
- Now they're attempting to do the same thing with vaccinations.

WHY AMERICANS ALLOW? Why did red blooded freedom loving Americans sit back and allow all this? Because we were afraid. We didn't want “the new normal.”

- We were told that if just allowed the Government to take greater powers, this storm would eventually pass over.
- We were told that if we would just mask up, social distance, and get vaccinated that everything would be OK.

- We were told that if we just shut everything down and stopped meeting together that the spread would stop.
- We were told that if we just “follow the science” it would lead us, like a good shepherd, to lie down in green pastures and still waters.

MOVING GOAL POSTS. Yet it hasn't. Like all liars and deceivers, the people in power and their false prophets in the form of big tech and the MSM are not only giving disinformation, but moving the goal posts constantly.

- At first it was 15 days to stop the spread. Didn't happen.
- At first it both the surgeon general and Dr. Fauci said “masks don't help” and only the sick were supposed to quarantine.
- Within a few short months they did a 180 and now everyone had to wear a mask and healthy people had to quarantine.
- The vaccine was rushed through “warp speed” style and we were told that, once vaccinated, we would no longer have to wear masks.
- The CDC has changed its mind on this umpteen times...just in this last week they did another 180 degree turn.
- In just 48 hours time, they posted two opposing things on their website.
- First it was that the vaccinated didn't need to wear a mask, then they posted that masks were required despite vaccination.
- Just a couple days ago they posted that vaccinated people were getting and spreading the Delta Variant! That will lead to a booster shot or another vaccination entirely being required, not to mention going back to shut downs, etc.
- Again I say to you: whenever someone constantly moves the goalposts, they're either ignorant or deceptive.
- Either way, why should follow someone like this? Why should we follow “science” like this?

DESIRE SAME OLD. Yet we do. And have. Why? Because we'll do anything, make any sacrifice, if the god of security will just wave its mighty hand and bring everything back to the good ole days of same stuff, different day.

ISRAEL'S ENEMIES. Right now the nation of Israel is surrounded on all sides by nations that hate them and want them destroyed and driven into the sea. Not only have they beefed up their military to high levels, but they constructed a wall that surrounds their entire nation. Despite all this, rockets still fly into their country on a weekly basis.

ANTICHRIST FALSE PEACE. At some point in the future, a supernaturally charismatic figure the Bible refers to as the Antichrist will approach them and confirm a 7 year peace treaty between them and their enemies. This son of perdition, this man of lawlessness will be so convincing that the Israelis will not only lay down their arms but tear down their wall. As soon as they do that, this happens:

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (AMP)

<sup>1</sup> BUT AS to the suitable times and the precise seasons *and* dates, brethren, you have no necessity for anything being written to you.

<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the [return of the] Lord will come [as unexpectedly and suddenly] as a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup> When people are saying, All is well and secure, *and*, There is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction (ruin and death) will come upon them as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape.

BIBLE STUDY. Starting this Tuesday, we'll be going through both books of Thessalonians in Bible Study.

SIGN OF RAPTURE. The context of 1 Thess 5 is the Second Coming, some say the Rapture—when is it going to happen? Paul gives us a major sign—*when “they” say that there is peace and security, that all is well.*

**Who are “they”?** The fearful. Whether the common man & woman or those in the highest offices of power. *Those who put their faith in something other than God such as government, themselves, a populist leader, or a political party/ideology.*

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS. The Antichrist and his Beast system will be all those and more. He'll stride into a chaotic, lawless, violent world and promise order, prosperity, security, and salvation. Did you know that “order out of chaos” is written on your dollar bill? You know...the one with the pyramid and all seeing eye on it. Have you ever wondered why the dollar bill doesn't have the Cross or quotes from the Bible on it?

TEARS DOWN WALL. With the supernatural power of the Dragon, who is Satan, behind him he will confirm one of the biggest peace treaties ever to the point where Israel tears down its wall. A mysterious figure that Ezekiel calls “Gog” G O G, waits until Israel believes its safe, then he and his army attack:

### Ezekiel 38:10-12 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> “Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme

<sup>11</sup> and say, ‘I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,’

<sup>12</sup> to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth.”

NOT DEPENDING ON GOD. Israel won't be depending on the Lord on that day.

- It will have given everything up for security, and not the type that God offers.
- It will have given up its sovereignty, its identity as the people of God, and its dependance upon the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- It will bow down to the promises of safety, security, and peace that the Antichrist offers...and then BLAM.

GOD GIVES PEACE. MOSES. Last week we read that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind...the Holy Spirit. Look at what else God has given the nation of Israel...and us. Just as Moses was about to make his final journey up Mt. Horeb to die, he blessed all the tribes of Israel and listen closely to what he declares over the entire nation:

**Deuteronomy 33:25-29 (AMP)**

<sup>25</sup> Your castles and strongholds shall have bars of iron and bronze, and as your day, so shall your strength, your rest *and* security, be.

<sup>26</sup> There is none like God, O Jeshurun [Israel], Who rides through the heavens to your help and in His majestic glory through the skies.

<sup>27</sup> The eternal God is your refuge *and* dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms; He drove the enemy before you *and* thrust them out, saying, Destroy!

<sup>28</sup> And Israel dwells in safety, the fountain of Jacob alone in a land of grain and new wine; yes, His heavens drop dew.

<sup>29</sup> Happy are you, O Israel, *and* blessing is yours! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the Shield of your help, the Sword that exalts you! Your enemies shall come fawning *and* cringing, *and* submit feigned obedience to you, and you shall march on their high places.

**True security is found in God.**

**It's found in His will.**

*It's found in who He's made you into: your new, born again made in the image of Christ self.*

**IT'S FOUND IN HIS WORD, THE BIBLE.**

**It's found in the fruit and gifts that the Holy Spirit gives.**

**It's found in the destiny He's written for you.**

WHO ARE YOU? Let me just pick one of those: who God has made you to be. The person you became after being born-again.

**Your old self is dead.** It was crucified with Christ and died with Him. Just as Jesus rose from the dead and was transformed into His new body that death had no dominion over, you and I have been born again with a new Spirit called the Holy Spirit. We are now forever connected to God just as if He were our Father and we His sons and daughters.

**What happens when someone tries to hold you to your past?**

- How do you react when they say you haven't changed?
- How do you feel when they say you're present and future will never get better?
- What happens within you when they bring up your past sins and bad decisions? The ones you made before being Saved and/or before becoming serious about following Jesus?

ANGRY? Do you become angry, defensive, and frustrated? Do wish they would acknowledge that you have changed because Christ is now in your life?

**What does the God say about your new self in His Word, the Bible?**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

OLD GONE. Consider that famous verse: the old self has passed away. What is the old self?

It's everything before you were Saved.

**It's your old nature:** the way you were born and all the things you inherited then.

**It's your old nurture:** the way you were raised, how your environment and events shaped you.

**It's your old choices:** all the dumb things you decided to do and not do.

**All of that died.** It was crucified with Christ and buried with Him and what rose from that death was your new self. NOTE: sometimes we still need to repent and ask for forgiveness from other people from things we did when we were that person. Yet once we have done so, our hands are clean and our consciences clear.

SOBER SELF ASSESSMENT: *if it still bothers us when people bring up our past, then where is our security?* Is it in the opinions of other people, or that of God?

FOUND IN GOD? If my security lies within the Lord, like Moses declared that it does, what happens when someone brings up my past and judges me accordingly? It's water off a duck's back because my safety is no longer found in the affirmation of others, but found within God and His declaration over me.

SELF IMAGE? What's your self-image when you look in the mirror? Are you self-conscious about your weight, looks, wrinkles, gray hairs, height, or missing teeth?

- How does it make you feel when others compliment and appreciate the way you look?
- How does it make you feel when others insult the way you look?
- ***If my peace is based on the compliments and appreciative looks of others, then my peace is in them.***
- If I get upset because someone comments that I've gained weight or am going gray, then my lack of peace is in them.

**What does it look like to have peace in Christ?** For me, it's knowing I'm getting a new body. Don't get me wrong: I want to take care of this one because my spirit is living in it right now! I don't want to become sick and infirm, as far as I can help that, and I want this body running as best it can until the Lord calls me home.

TRANSFER TO THE NEW. At the same time, I know this body isn't who I am. The Lord has a new one that's going to be simply AMAZING in store for me and every day that goes by is one day closer to me getting it. My spirit will transfer from this one to that one, and it will be my permanent temple. ***Therefore if my peace and sense of well being rests in God's promise of resurrection, then it won't bother me if someone tells me I'm getting fat or going gray.***

Let me read a famous verse, but in the AMP version:

**Isaiah 54:17 (AMP)**

<sup>17</sup> But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness *or* the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the Lord.

**Look how Isaiah qualifies this:**

- No spiritual weapon formed against you will succeed in hurting or killing you.
- Judgmental people who condemn you will be proven wrong.

WEAPON being spoken of here is spiritual—accusations and judgments against you from others.



- People attempting to hold you to your past and refusing to acknowledge any change or repentance on your part.
- Prophesying into your future bad things.
- People judging you about the way you look.

2<sup>ND</sup> SENTENCE. Look at the second sentence in this verse: how can we have peace, security, and triumph when this happens? How do we get the “vindication” this sentence speaks of?

- It’s an inheritance obtained from God.
- How do you get it? You already have it.

**Wasn’t that last week’s revelation?** The false god of fear tries to convince us it has something we don’t, and we need to come to it—a snake oil salesman.

“GIVE IT UP!” The false god of earthly security—which is married to fear—says we need to give up our identity, rights, freedom, money, relationships, and faith if we really want to feel safe.

- It says we don’t have a sense of security and well being, but if we come and lay the aforementioned things down upon its sacrificial altar, we’ll finally have it.
- We already have security—we inherited it the day we were born again into the likeness of Jesus and became His direct creation.

DANIEL Did you know that the Prophet Daniel, when prophesying about what the Antichrist will do, *says **he will deceive and corrupt people by giving them a false sense of security?*** (Daniel 8:25).

Seeking and sacrificing for earthly security corrupts.

RIGHTEOUSNESS IN GOD’S SECURITY. Peace and well-being are only found in Jesus and did you notice, when I read from Isaiah 54:17, that righteousness was included in the inheritance?

**THE FALSE GOD OF EARTHLY SECURITY CORRUPTS, BUT THE REAL GOD GIVES RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**Zechariah 9:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold [of peace and security], O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.