



"The education of a man or woman is never completed until they die."
—Robert E. Lee

14-Dec-18

What Do You Fear? (Part Three)

In Part Two, we began to consider the antidotes to the wrong kinds of fear by parsing Paul's instruction to Timothy in [II Timothy 1:6-7](#): "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of [God](#) which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." We looked at [faith](#), mentioned earlier in the chapter, as well as power.

"A sound mind" means that one possesses self-restraint or discipline, thus an individual with a sound mind does not jump to conclusions. It implies being sensible and sober, having a clear understanding and sound judgment. A sound-minded person practices prudence and discretion.

A sound mind banishes fear because any fear—aside from the fear of God—will be an *irrational* one, illogical and unreasonable, a fear that is groundless and without any real substance. Irrational fears have a lie or some sort of falsehood at their cores. The sound mind that comes from having God's Spirit gives us the ability to discern, judge, and recognize the truth about any situation, providing us practical understanding of how a person with the fear of God should react in any scenario. As long as we keep our fear focused on the right thing—God—we will not have to fear anything else.

Solomon writes in [Proverbs 9:10](#), "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." The proper fear of God goes hand in hand with the sound mind that comes from exercising the [Holy Spirit](#) because together

they produce wisdom and understanding. "Knowledge of the Holy One" entails much more than just knowing that God exists. Denoting "personal experience with," it implies that a person is in a close and intimate relationship with his Creator. When a man knows God, his understanding of spiritual truths cannot help but be increased because he is being taught by the very Fountainhead of truth. Likewise, having the proper respect and regard of God in every aspect of life will give an individual priceless insight into how to live his or her life. This wisdom, like the sound-mindedness that comes by God's Spirit, is available only from God, and only those whom God calls to Himself have the opportunity to be blessed with it.

If we stay focused on fearing God, we can grow and overcome through continually making the right choices throughout our lifetimes, and ultimately, we will be resurrected into His Family. If, on the other hand, we begin fearing things other than God, our spiritual growth becomes stunted. When we fear other things, we stop overcoming because any non-godly fear will involve self-centeredness, the very antithesis of God's way of life.

[II Timothy 1:7](#) also mentions *love* as an opposite of irrational fear, which is shown even more strongly in [I John 4:18](#): "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."

[II Timothy 1:6](#) reminds us that the battle against fear begins with an act of God—God giving us His Spirit. [I John 4:18](#) explains that casting out fear is a process, reiterating that the abolition of our fears cannot be based on our own confidence or courage. The apostle John teaches that fear leaves us as God perfects His love in us. However, this perfecting of love does not happen all at once by divine fiat. It is a process, just like sanctification, salvation, and character development. In fact, they are all part of the same process.

How is love made perfect or complete within us? The short answer is that it can only come from the source of perfect love—God Himself. If we want more complete love, we must receive it from God. This is where our efforts come into play. We receive His love by spending time with Him and by focusing on the relationship with Him—especially through prayer and Bible study—but also by experiencing life with Him.

Notice how complete this picture is. We receive a portion of God's Spirit at [baptism](#), one aspect of which is His love being "poured out in our hearts" ([Romans 5:5](#)). At this point, it is an incomplete love, but it is a beginning. As we deepen our relationship with Him, we receive wisdom, that is, we receive the practical application of the things written in His Word. We begin experiencing His faithfulness in everything that He has said in all of His

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instructions. At the beginning of our walk toward the [Kingdom of God](#), we may know intellectually that God will provide for us and protect us and that we will not be tried beyond what we can bear. But as we continue walking, we will begin to know this personally. We will experience God's faithfulness again and again. His words and His promises become ever more real to us as we experience life with Him.

As we come to know this very embodiment of truth, the falsehoods that lie at the root of our irrational fears will be exposed to us, and our fears will fade. As we broaden our understanding of truth on which to base our decisions, our minds will become more and more sound and properly discerning. Through the power of God's Spirit, we will be able to serve Him and our fellow man.

God perfects His love in us as we go through this process. With our focus and energies dedicated to God and to this process, and with an ever-increasing faith in God's character, there will simply be no room for other fears. Self-centeredness will find little place in us.

We have seen that irrational fears—whether they are rare phobias or more spiritually destructive fears—are banished by faith, by love, and by truth, all of which are possible only within a thriving relationship with God through His powerful Spirit. We have been given the responsibility to throw everything we have into this relationship and to ask ourselves continually: Am I fearing God? Or do I fear everything else?

- David C. Grabbe

World News Highlights

[Revealing the Hidden: Special Hanukkah Dedication of Third Temple Altar](#)

Breaking Israel News 10-Dec-18

[A New Altar in Zion](#)

Facebook/The Temple Institute 10-Dec-18

[Vatican No. 3 Cardinal George Pell Convicted on Charges He Sexually Abused Choir Boys](#)

The Daily Beast 11-Dec-18

[Why Millions of Americans Are Still Working Past the Age of 65](#)

CBS News 12-Dec-18

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[Google Approves App for Muslims to Report People Who Commit Blasphemy](#)

Big League Politics 09-Dec-18

[Macron to Speak to French on Protests; but Is It Too Late?](#)

Associated Press 10-Dec-18

[Uk's May Pulls Vote on Her Divorce Deal, Thrusting Brexit Into the Unknown](#)

Reuters 10-Dec-18

[The Making of a Computer-Generated Influencer](#)

the Wall Street Journal 13-Dec-18

New Transcripts

[1201: The Book of Daniel \(Part Seven\)](#)

Given by Martin G. Collins on 08-Mar-14

[1464c: This Generation Shall Not Pass](#)

Given by Richard T. Ritenbaugh on 08-Dec-18

[951c: The Other Israel](#)

Given by John W. Ritenbaugh on 08-Aug-09

[956c: The God of Prosperity](#)

Given by John W. Ritenbaugh on 12-Sep-09

[FT17-05: The W's and H's of Meditation \(Part Two\)](#)

Given by David F. Maas on 06-Oct-17

Prayer Requests

New prayer request updates have been posted for the following people:

[Clyde Biles](#)

[Lucile Brown](#)

[Musonda Sakala](#)

[Loren Saxton](#)
[Loren Saxton](#)

From the Archives: Featured Sermon

[The Fear of God \(Part 3\)](#)

by John W. Ritenbaugh

John Ritenbaugh points out that when people do not have the fear of God, they drift away from Him. At the first Pentecost, only a fraction of Christ's total audience (about 120) were left, those who feared God, trembled at His word, and were really committed. After the Spirit of God is imparted, removing the pernicious fear of men and installing the life-sustaining fear of God, the real dramatic growth takes place- the sanctification process- a time we (with a poor and contrite spirit) use the fear of God as the prime motivator (coupled with the love of God) to move us from carnal to spiritual-from profane to holy. The fear of God keeps us from doing stupid things like sinning, enabling God's love to do its work. Knowing the terror of the Lord (as a consuming fire) should always be a part of our thinking. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. The fear of God draws us toward Him.

From the Archives: Featured Article

[Sin, Christians, and the Fear of God](#)

by John W. Ritenbaugh

As everyone knows, Scripture takes a very dim and stern view of sin because it is failure to live up to God's standard and destroys relationships, especially our relationship with God. After identifying the types and levels of sin, John Ritenbaugh suggests that the fear of God provides us the necessary motivation to overcome our iniquities.

Featured Audio Schedule

Friday Night Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be **The Commandments (Part 17)**, given by **John W. Ritenbaugh** on **Friday 14-Dec-18**. The Bible Study will be continuously available from **6:00 pm Friday** until **12:00 pm Saturday (EST)**.

Daily Audio Programs

Hear previous sermons, sermonettes, and Feast of Tabernacles messages, **Sunday through Friday**. [Available from the homepage](#).

Date	Title
Sunday 16-Dec-18	Easter: Origins and Implications
Monday 17-Dec-18	Prayer Makes a Difference
Tuesday 18-Dec-18	God's Rest (Part 4)
Wednesday 19-Dec-18	The Three Witnesses of Christ
Thursday 20-Dec-18	A Search For Christmas Truth?
Friday 21-Dec-18	Excusing Paganism in Christmas

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