

1. When time expired last week I was in the process of teaching 2Ti 1:7 by way of the *Doctrine of Fear*. Before we continue our categorical analysis of “fear,” I want to give you an expanded translation of 2Ti 1-6.

**Expanded Translation**

**2Ti 1:1 Paul, as one of the twelve apostles appointed by God the Holy Spirit and as a servant of Jesus Christ, I am pleased to write**

**2Ti 1:2 to you my spiritual and beloved fellow servant: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**2Ti 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve, with a clear conscience just as my fore-fathers did, especially, when I remember you in my prayers.**

**1Ti 1:4 In fact as I remember your tears of joy, I long night and day to work again with you, so that I might again be filled with joy.**

**2Ti 1:5 I am often reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, your mother Eunice and now I see in you.**

**2Ti 1:6 Accordingly, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that lives in you; a gift which was recognized by the brethren when they ceremonially laid hands on you;**

2. I want to review some of that learned last week and then we will begin new material at point 7 on page 3. Let’s begin with an expanded translation of 2Ti 1:7

**2Ti 1:7 for God did not give us the spirit of cowardice but instead we received the spirit of power, love, self-control and a sound mind,**

Comments:

1. Fear can be a sin or an evil in our life. Fear, as a sin, can be handled easily, just name it to God and move on. Fear, which becomes evil, is another matter.

1.1 If we let the sin of fear stick around, it will become an evil, a terrible mental attitude sin which is both irrational and irresponsible; and thus, a terrible distraction, breeding failure and unhappiness.

1.2 That man should fear and respect God is an established principle. In one sense, however, as His prized possession, the regenerate man with doctrine should bask in the fact that God is our shield and our very great reward. In another sense God is not to be mocked or tempted. Gen 15:1

1.3 The fear and the dread of appearing before a Holy God are eliminated- or ought to be- in the life of a believer. 1Jo 4:18; Rom 8:1, 33

1.4 The Scriptures speak of the following kinds of fear: A holy fear which amounts to awe or respect for the majesty and holiness of God. Said another way: Godly fear is a deep and abiding respect because we know of His essence and attributes, but it has to be learned. Psa 34:11

1.5 David speaks of a fear which is clean and pure; one which creates joy in the heart and light to the eyes. Psa 11:8-9

1.6 The Bible, in several places, speaks of a reverential fear which is the basis or beginning of all true wisdom. Joy goes hand in hand with confidence on the road to happiness. Christians are to be joyful as we await the ecstatic and ultimate felicity and bliss at the end of our journey.

1.7 The writer of Pro 1:7 and Psa 111:10 both agree that fear and respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Reverential fear provides respect for God's authorities; such respect will be seen by others as a good witness. Others may want what you have. Rom 13:1-5

1.8 Such a fear is proper, but there is an insensate dread which should not be a part of our make-up, "worry or anxiety without cause." Heb 13:6; 1Pe 2:18

2. Discipline from the Lord is very often painful, but always perfect; it is done in love, God knows our frame and therefore provides that which is needed. Rom 8:26-28 compared with 1Th 5:18

3. A believer's fear of discipline and reverential respect for God should be parlayed into a productive walk with God. A walk with God can only be accomplished by means of the consistent use of the two power options.

3.1 Discipline must not be feared but approached as an "opportunity to learn." Pro 3:12; Heb 12:6; Rev 3:19-20; Rom 12:1-2

4. Fear is an essential element in the Christian life, be it reverence of God, which is the beginning of wisdom, or an advised concern. 1Pe 1:16-17

5. As believers, we are told to fear the failure of moving to spiritual maturity. Heb 4:1-6

6. Israel didn't embrace the promises of God and neither did they fear Him. Israel received both national discipline and even now (though in the main unaware) they await a time of Jacob's trouble--the Tribulation.

7. Witnessing must be done with meekness and fear.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

7.1 Meekness in 1Pe 3:15 is **Prautes** meaning "gentleness" or "compassion." In this verse, fear is **Phobos**, meaning respect and reverential fear.

8. Witnessing is to be approached as serious business, and not to be done on the fly, but with gentleness, compassion, respect and a healthy fear of God.

9. There will be a very real fear of God's holiness on the part of those counted among the wicked at the Lord's coming.

Isa 2:10 Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

Isa 2:11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day *when the Lord returns ...*

Isa 2:19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Luk 21:25 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;"

Luk 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Luk 21:27 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Rev 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Rev 11:11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Rev 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, the merchants who had prospered so from her said, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come ...

Rev 18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

10. In Psa 14:3-5, the writer speaks of the need to fear if you choose to thumb your nose at God.

Psa 14:3 All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Psa 14:4 Will evildoers never learn--those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on the LORD?

Psa 14:5 There they are, overwhelmed with **fear**, for God is present in the company of the righteous.

11. Christians without doctrine are anxious and fearful, as over against the mature believer who is confident and courageous.

Pro 28:1 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

12. Though there is a place for fearing establishment, and there is a place for the fleeting emotion of fear; those who do the will of God have no reason to fear.

13. Fear is a legitimate response to a real danger; it is built into our souls to allow an appropriate response. For example: fleeing a wild animal, avoiding a poisonous snake, etc.

14. Paul uses fear in a figurative sense, when he speaks of his concern that there is rampant reversionism among the Corinthians.

1Co 2:3 I came to you in weakness **and fear**, and with much trembling.

2Co 11:3 But I **am afraid** that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2Co 12:20 For **I am afraid** that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

2Co 12:21 I **am afraid** that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

15. Cowardice or timidity, as in "a spirit of fear" is to be avoided.

Mat 8:26 He replied, "You of little faith, **why are you so afraid?**" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

16. Fear can be a mental attitude sin; a sin that creates an anxious dread in our soul. The faith rest mechanics are designed to counter the effects of both "abnormal" and "normal fear."

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

1Pe 5:7 **Cast all your anxiety on him** because he cares for you.

17. Overcoming fear as a dominating force in ones life comes from Bible doctrine metabolized in the soul of the believer.

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psa 56:3 **When I am afraid**, I will trust in you.

Psa 56:11 In God I trust; **I will not be afraid**. What can man do to me?

Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, **not fearing** the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

18. Fear should never be the motivation for our choices, but rather obedience to informed wisdom i.e., doctrine. Satan wants us to fear death; accordingly, God has provided many Scriptures urging courage.

Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--

Heb 2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their **fear of death**.

19. The dissolution of our life on earth (death) should never be feared.

John Bunyan said it this way:

"Let dissolution come when it will, it can do the Christian no harm, for it will be but a passage out of a prison into a palace, out of a sea of troubles into a haven of rest; out of a crowd of enemies to an innumerable company of true, loving, and faithful friends; out of shame, and reproach, and contempt into exceeding great and eternal glory."

19.1 This should be our attitude, even if or when, we are blessed to serve our country in battle. When it is your time, you will die, and not a minute before then!

Jos 8:1 And the LORD said unto Joshua, **Fear not**, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:

Exo 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, **Fear ye not**, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.

Exo 14:14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Deu 31:8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, **neither be dismayed**.

Deu 31:9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark ... of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

Isa 41:10 **Fear thou not**; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isa 41:11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

20. The promise of Psa 4:8 helps to overcome unhealthy fear and anxiety. Fears are often magnified in the closet of the night. Nocturnal fears however, seem to shrink at dawns first light.

Psa 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Psa 34:4 I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears.

21. Solomon in his old age said "old folks" often lose their usefulness, for they are full of fear.

Ecc 12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"--

Ecc 12:2 before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain;

Ecc 12:3 when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim;

Ecc 12:4 when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when men rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;

Ecc 12:5 when men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags himself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then man goes to his eternal home ...

22. For the child of God, whether young or old, we must remember there is joy in the morning, for in His service there is life abundant.

Psa 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but **joy** cometh in the **morning**.

23. Now let's see what we can learn from 2Ti 1:8

**NIV**

**2Ti 1:8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,**

Comments:

1. Suffering is physical or mental pain. Suffering might manifest itself in a loss of health, wealth, friends, family or guilt reaction, psychosis, etc. Suffering is temporary or permanent loss of happiness or mental tranquility.

2. There are two general reasons for suffering: to get an unbeliever to believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved, and to get a believer to move to the next level of spiritual maturity.

3. Both the unbeliever and the believer suffer in time but only the unbeliever suffers in eternity.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.



Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

4. Judgment for discipline in the case of the believer can be changed to judgment for blessing by simply following the protocol plan of God.

4.1 The believer needs only to name his or her sin back to God and discipline for suffering is turned into discipline for blessing.

1Co 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

1Co 11:32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

5. Believers can receive suffering for either discipline or suffering for blessing; we often refer to the former as deserved suffering and the latter as undeserved suffering; although certainly from God's divine viewpoint, both are deserved.

6. Discipline-type suffering is designed to get believers, to either rebound or get hot for the Word, i.e., to name a sin or give up a false concept.

Hos 8:7 "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.

Hos 8:8 Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like a worthless thing.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

7. Let's look at ten reasons a believer suffers:

7.1 to glorify God in the Angelic Conflict - Book of Job,

7.2 to learn self-discipline,

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

7.3 to demonstrate the sufficiency of God and to control certain types of personalities,

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

7.4 to help us empathize with others who are suffering,

2Co 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

2Co 1:4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

7.5 to learn the value of doctrine,

Psa 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Psa 119:68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.

Psa 119:69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.

Psa 119:70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.

Psa 119:71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Psa 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

7.6 to illustrate God's message to God's people,

Hos 1:2 When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD."

Hos 1:3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son ...

Hos 3:1 The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

Hos 3:2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley.

Hos 3:3 Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you."

Hos 3:4 For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol.

Hos 3:5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

7.7 to develop patience and reward in eternity,

1Pe 1:7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1Pe 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Rom 5:3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

7.8 to eliminate pride and to relate all things instead to God's grace,

2Co 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,

2Co 11:26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

2Co 11:27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

2Co 11:28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

2Co 11:29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

2Co 11:30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

7.9 to eliminate a believer's arrogance and bad decisions,

Mat 7:1 Judge not lest you be judged.

Mat 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.

7.10. to witness for the Lord.

2Co 4:8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

2Co 4:9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

2Co 4:10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2Co 4:11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.

8. Before we conclude our study of suffering, I want to provide an anecdote from Scripture describing an arrogant king. I think it speaks a thousand words about how God used suffering to further His message to Babylon.

9. Let's take a look at chapter four in the NIV.

### **The King Acknowledges God**

Dan 4:1 King Nebuchadnezzar, To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly!

Dan 4:2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most

.High God has performed for me.

Dan 4:3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

### **End Lesson**

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