



Should Christians Live in Fear?



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Should Christians Live in Fear?

Many Churches keep their members in fear-fear of excommunication, or fear of the end time. Is this how a Christian should live his or her life, in Fear? What does the Bible say?

Many cults in the world today, use fear to keep people under their grip and authority. What kind of life is it, if one is in constant fear? One cult called the “Restored Church of God” led by a man David C. Pack has his members in constant fear of excommunication, being “put out” of the church. Telling members to pay their tithes, the end of days is coming; God’s work has to be done. And since they believe they are the only true church, and no one else, being “put out” means the *fear* of losing salvation.

Catholic and Protestant churches put fear into their members with the fear of the afterlife. Hell—a place of eternal torment is dangled in front of people to get them to go to church and carry out the will of the church organization. Many people with this fear take up all types of lifestyles that are not natural, of celibacy, Nunnery, not taking care of their bodies thinking that the “more I suffer in this life the more I will enjoy heaven.” The Apostle Paul wrote of this when he said, “And deliver them who *through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*” (Heb 2:15). The fear of death, the fear of the afterlife. Well is there anything to fear in this life or the next? Does God want us to live in fear? Should we fear men, this world, self appointed Apostles, prophets and holy men?

Two Types of Fear

Fear is an emotion — an emotion directed toward the self. Have you ever noticed that those who suffer most from fear and worry are wrapped up in themselves? “I’m afraid of this” and “I’m worried about that” is the way they talk. And the more we become concerned with ourselves, the more afraid we become that the self will get hurt. We become fearful of what might happen to the self.

We must recognize there *are two fundamental types of fears: helpful fears and harmful fears.* Without normal, helpful fears none of us would be alive today! Proper fear is merely the drive for self-protection. Without this fear we would not exercise proper caution against injury. It is the kind of fear we need!

Proper fear is *wisdom*. It is also *knowledge*. Suppose, for a moment, that we are confronted with a real danger. It is only natural that we should be fearful. Fear tells us something is wrong. It warns us that we must calmly and carefully face our danger. We must get busy and take action. Action solves the danger! *Proper fear stems from the drive for self-preservation.* It is a signal of danger — a signal that we need to take action.

Proper fear is in two forms. One is *natural* fear of physical danger — the warning that we need to protect this life. The other is *spiritual* fear for our eternal protection. This fear almost no one recognizes. Yet without it, we will never be able to conquer uncontrolled fear. This spiritual fear is called the fear of the Lord or the fear of God. The natural emotion of physical fear warns us of physical hazards. This is a learned fear. The spiritual fear of God warns us of eternal dangers, to *protect oneself of the spiritual dangers.*

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Notice one example of helpful spiritual fear to protect oneself. “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved *with godly fear*, prepared an ark for *the saving of his household...*” (Heb. 11:7, RAV). That was a right fear — a proper spiritual fear. He obeyed God and he and his family were protected from evil, and its judgment.

The great importance of the fear of God has been woefully misunderstood. Let’s understand its full significance. “By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil” (Prov. 16:6). When we do evil, we harm ourselves. To teach us not to do evil, God has given us his Law his wisdom to *protect us from harm*. That is how the fear of God leads us away from the danger of evil — both physical and spiritual danger. “The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom” (Prov. 15:33).

When we fear God, we respect what he says. What he says has been recorded in his Word, the Bible. In the Bible is the wisdom of God. Its instruction tells us right from wrong. It defines for us the pitfalls of sin. It warns us of the dangers of evil that rob us of happiness and prosperity and eternal life. “*The fear of the Lord tendeth to life*: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil” (Prov. 19:23).

The need for the fear of the Lord is also a New Testament teaching. Peter said, “Fear God” (1 Pet. 2:17). It is repeated again in Revelation 14:7. The early Church of God had peace when “*walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy [Spirit]*” (Acts 9:31).

The Fear (obeying) the Law of God gives us peace of mind, and a peaceful mind gives us a healthy body. There is a direct mind — body relationship in every individual. We must direct and coordinate both mind and body before we can really achieve happiness and conquer our fears. Solomon understood this problem when he wrote, “A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy the rottenness of the bones” (Prov. 14:30). And again, “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred” (Prov. 15:17, RAV).

God says, “Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.” (Isaiah 26:3). Trusting in God, obeying his laws is all we have to do for perfect peace and happiness. “O that there were such an heart in them, *that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*” (Deut 5:29). With this there is no reason to fear anyone or anything, putting your trust in God, not a church, or a charismatic leader, or organization, or the world in general for that matter.

Results of Law Breaking

Not keeping the law of God leads to the *harmful* fears. The effects lead to fear that “something is wrong with the brain” — that a nervous breakdown is impending, that even insanity might result.

In other instances this uncontrolled emotion results in feelings of inferiority, in mental inadequacy, in sexual impotency. One fear leads to another until our mental outlook and our physical health are permanently impaired! (Read Deuteronomy 28 of the effects of breaking God’s Laws).

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Sometimes our fears are insignificant. Petty fears that plague people — fear of an expanse of water, fear of air travel, fear of silence, darkness, shadows in the moonlight, fear of telephone calls or telegrams — usually are the result of past experiences that we have either consciously or subconsciously allowed to haunt us.

Usually far worse are the common phobias that afflict people abnormally. Fear of the sight of blood, fear of animals, fear of being alone, fear of being afraid, fear of loss of job and the fear of failure. To this list we might add the fear of everything, a characteristic of the person who runs away from life!

Underlying some of these abnormal phobias are normal fears. But In every case the normal, natural fear has been allowed to get out of control. Witness the countless millions of girls and women who are afraid they are overweight. Serious mental, emotional and physical injury has often been done to remove this fear. The worsened condition creates more fears. A vicious circle results.

Sometimes, however, we bring fears and worries on ourselves. Job wrote, “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me” (Job 3:25, RAV). Many capable men and women have become failures simply by yielding to the uncontrolled fear of failure. This fear of failure leads to the fear of lack of security. One anxiety breeds another. These fears are all ultimately characteristic of lack of knowledge and lack of wisdom. Why do harmful fears come upon us? For the simple reason—we break the commandments of God.

The apostle John wrote, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out [harmful] fear: because [harmful] *fear hath torment*. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). The worries and mental torments stemming from fears occur when love has not been perfected. Love is doing what God commands. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

The commandments of God define right and wrong. They tell us of the dangers of sin. Sin is the “transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). By obeying God we avoid the dangers of evil and we fill our minds and emotions with love. Love removes worries and torments. This is how we act upon the fear of God.

How do people fall for these false leaders and prophets with their false teachings and fear them? They don’t know God, or his laws, so they fall for these people and their false doctrines, “My people are destroyed for *lack of knowledge*: because thou hast *rejected knowledge*, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: *seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God*, I will also forget thy children.” (Hosea 4:6). We lack knowledge because we have rejected knowledge, his Law, therefore, the result is people living in fear, and not knowing how to spot a false prophet, and false teachings, because we do not use the Bible as our guide.

Do religious leaders have power over you?

When one thinks of the hold-the grip, religious leaders have on their followers, any one of them can convince any of their followers to do anything-taking away one’s own personal sovereignty.

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Scare tactics, mind manipulation takes place, and one has no say, or gives over his or her will over to the hands of a leader.

The most powerful religious leader in the world-the Pope, people believe he has the power over people's ultimate destiny. All he has to do is slap an interdiction over people or whole nations declaring that they are going to hell-that fear of burning forever in torment-using *fear* so people will do and say what the Catholic Church wants.

Self appointed Apostles that have taken over God's Church are using the same tactics. Telling their congregation to sell their property and give it to the church because it doesn't belong to them anyways, it belongs to God. Fear is used to get the members to do what the so-called Apostle wants them to do. Well does man have control over your ultimate destiny? Who decides whether you have eternal life? A religious leader who claims your life is in his hands? What did Jesus say?

Notice Matthew 10 and Luke 12. Jesus is speaking of the unpardonable sin and eternal life and he said: "***Fear ye not*** therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 10:31, 32). Those that believe in God don't have to fear-eternal life is theirs, a promise from God.

But those who deny Christ and blaspheme the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

"And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost *it shall not be forgiven.*" (Luke 12:9-10). These are people who know the way of God, Baptized, received the Spirit of God and have *rejected* it. They sin "willfully." (*Read our booklet What is the Unpardonable Sin for details.*)

Then Jesus said this, "And *fear not them* [Man]which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul [Grk. "psuche""Life"] : but rather *fear him* which is able to destroy both soul [life] and body in hell [Grk. "Gahenna"]." (Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5). Men can only kill the body and take away the physical life. *God is the only one who can take away eternal life.* Not only will their bodies be destroyed in that fire, but their lives will be snuffed out for all eternity. Plainly Jesus says that only God has the power to give or take away eternal life to the individual, not man. Your eternal life is in God's hands, this is why Jesus told his followers to "Fear ye not." One must not worry about some religious leader having your destiny in his hands, because he does not!

In addition to this scripture one must understand that this is coming under the *judgment* of men and *not* God. God says don't fear them when you come under their judgment. But fear coming under the judgment of God because God can destroy. But, if you are obeying him, and you continue in his salvation there is no need to fear God's judgment for the wrath of God comes to those who disobey (see Colossians 3:6), not those who obey. It's really up to you.

Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no *man take thy crown*" (Rev 3:11). Does this contradict what Jesus said? No! The context is to "hold that fast" to stay

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faithful to Jesus. Revelation 2:10, the opposite of Revelation 3:11 is revealed by Jesus, “be thou *faithful* unto death, and I will give thee a *crown of life*.” The context is to be *faithful* to Jesus. If you have faith in some man for your salvation and *not* Jesus then that man is taking away your crown *because he cannot save you*, and since your allegiance is with him and not Jesus, your salvation is lost. But if you are faithful to Jesus; this is of course done by keeping the Law of God, and that great first commandment in the law of having faith in your Savior Jesus Christ; then *no man* can take salvation away from you because you are *faithful* to God and not man.

Being “Put Out”

There is one example in the Bible of this in John the 9th chapter of the man who was born blind.

When Jesus healed him people were looking for excuses as to why this man was healed. A miracle took place and the leaders denied it. The leaders asked the parents of the blind man to answer their question, “And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?” (v.19). The parents answered, “... We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

“But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

“These *words* spake his parents, because they *feared* the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, *he should be put out of the synagogue*.” (vv.20-22). Being “put out” of the synagogue! The religious leaders had a hold over their congregation of being excommunicated for life from the synagogue. This meant separation from worship, from family and friends, even business, and you be cursed. Do you know anyone who is being “put out” of the church of God? I know plenty that have been “put out.” These people fear that something will happen to them, but nothing will, God, not man has your destiny in your hands.

How can these so called ministers “put out” someone after everything that they have endured and overcome? After overcoming people in their family that were against them going to the church of God and hate the fact that they are converted and obey God.

Also their jobs-many cases people lost their jobs because they want to obey the Sabbath commandment, to go to church and not work on the Sabbath. And there are many other trials and tribulations these people have gone through to obey God. Then to have a minister “put them out” because they don't agree with certain policies of the church that have *nothing to do with doctrine-things that really don't matter when it comes to salvation*, for this they are put of the church, after everything they have overcome? Can you imagine how devastated these people are!

Today the church of God is acting just like the Pharisees. The ministry is not a Priesthood-the ministers, “*Not* for that we [the ministers] have *dominion over your faith*, but are *helpers of your joy*: for by faith ye stand.” (2 Corinth 1:24). The Apostle Paul knew the ministers don't have your eternal life in their hands, but are “helpers” of the people who are saved in Jesus Christ.

There is no reason to fear man, you are in God's hands, as Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

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“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, *neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*”

“My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; *and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*” (John 10:27-29).

Christians belong to God those that have his spirit (Rom 8:9). And those that have his spirit Paul says, “For ye have not received *the spirit of bondage again to fear*; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” (Rom 8:15). God has given Christians his spirit, *not* the spirit of fear. If you belong to him your salvation is secure in his hands, and there is no reason to fear anyone, either a minister, leaders, kings or priests, Jesus is your Saviour.

Who is the Saviour of mankind? The Church? No! Does the Church save? No! The Bible says, “I, *even I, am* the LORD; and *beside me there is no Saviour.*” (Isa 43:11; see also Isa 49:26; Hosea 13:4).

The Church doesn't save, instead, “Christ is the head of the church: and *he is the saviour of the body.*” (Ephesians 5:23). Jesus saves people and puts them into his body, so he is their Saviour.

Paul constantly refers to Jesus as “OUR Saviour Jesus Christ,” (2 Tim 1:10). Jesus is the Saviour of the Church of God! If the church saved, the *church* would be called “OUR Saviour” instead of Christ. Instead the church is the instrument in his hand to do his work of witness and warning, and to call people to see and know the truth of God, it is *God* afterwards who does the choosing and the Saving (*read our booklet the Calling of God for details*).

Persecution

Should Christians fear persecution when it comes? Of course there is the healthy fear of protecting one's self from being put to death as the Apostle Paul did in Damascus escaping death (Acts 9:23-25). But what if one is faced with death in which there is no escape? Should one fear? Jesus said not to fear man; they can only kill your physical life, not your eternal life.

David said, “In God have I put my trust: *I will not be afraid what man can do unto me...* The LORD *is* on my side; ***I will not fear***: what can man do unto me?” (Psalm 56:11; 118:6). If one is allowed by God to be subject to man's persecution for one's faith (*and God only picks the strongest of his people to do so*), one should not fear, knowing that he is secure in his salvation, and understanding that death is the door to eternal life.

The disciples when they were persecuted notice their attitude, “And they departed from the presence of the council, *rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*” (Acts 5:41). They were counted worthy knowing that God *knew* how strong their faith was to suffer for his name.

The Apostle Paul and Silas, when they were thrown into prison for their faith, “And at midnight Paul and Silas *prayed, and sang praises unto God:*” (Acts 16:25). God allowed man to persecute them, because God *knew* they were strong enough to endure it, and now Paul and Silas *knew*. They had confidence knowing that their faith was strong, and they knew God believed in their

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faith as well. Being subject to persecution is knowledge that God has *faith in you*, and that he knows your faith is strong, “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;” (1 Corinth 10:13).

Fear of the End of days

Many false religious leaders put the fear of the end times into their members, but why? The end time, is the time when Satan is kicked off his throne and God will rule the world, and the saints of God receive eternal life. “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

“And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

“Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.” (Rev 11:15-17).

Jesus said of the end, “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” (Luke 21:28). This is the redemption of the body or the resurrection (Romans 8:23). Fear in the end time is for the *wicked*, not the righteous.

Christians know they are saved and protected by God on earth during this horrible time and our salvation is assured. The wicked on the other had say, “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

“And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev 6:15-17).

How Should Christians Live?

How then should a Christian live? EVERYONE wants to be happy. And life was meant to be happy — filled with thrills, joy, pleasures, and rewarding experiences!

Continually many hear from psychologists, and the Media especially Hollywood that one should look to him, or herself for confidence, and for answers to life. Certain psychologists have spawned the idea of autosuggestion as a solution to overcoming fears. Those who have tried this method still find themselves spiritually devoid of happiness. Of course! For autosuggestion is a clever way of *saying self-deception!* And deception never solved anything.

This “faith in yourself” claims that you must free yourself from hesitancy and anxiety by “kidding” yourself into believing you really have inside of you the assurance you lack. This means flattery of the self, careful coddling and pampering of the self. Among businessmen’s groups, speakers clubs, lodges, and women’s clubs, these practices are followed.

The only goal set forth for gaining self-assurance is that of gaining more friends, having people “think well of you,” and the acquiring of material possessions. By telling yourself “I’m pretty

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good” or, “I’ll make it all right, I don’t need anybody else,” the “moderns” assure their eager followers they may have plenty of self-confidence.

The ways of this modern society, of flattery, back-slapping and handshaking each other into believing in themselves, *lead to the false values and the synthetic foundation for REAL CONFIDENCE*. The flattery will begin to take effect. The one being flattered begins to really believe in himself. He begins to think these things are really true about him, and perhaps he is the best speaker, the most personality-filled and competent man in the group after all. You see this many times on reality shows like American Idol. Many contestants say that their friends and family say that they are good singers, or that they believe in themselves that they can do this, and then when they belt out the first note, the judges can’t believe their ears. The singers then get a reality check, and the truth comes out.

What a let-down it is — what a disheartening SHOCK it is, when this individual finds all the pseudo-confidence has fled, that he cannot meet a difficult situation, and all his ego and trust in SELF is shattered! Then, after being swept to the heights of SELF-confidence and trust in the SELF, he is dashed to the gutter of despair and hopelessness — feeling himself to be a complete FAILURE.

Most people do not see that if the *self* got you into all this trouble and failure, why dig deeper into the garbage to find the solution? Instead shouldn’t one go to *a higher power that is perfect to get the real solutions to your problems?*

True Confidence

One can say with absolute confidence that the sun will rise tomorrow morning, and no one can convince you otherwise. This is absolute confidence, you *know* the sun will rise and there is no doubt. Why? You see the proof every day, there it is, the Sun in the sky. This is the kind of confidence one can have putting your trust in God. Proving and knowing God exists, proving and knowing his ways are right and good for one’s life because you see its effects. Jesus said, “Have faith in God [not one’s self]... and shall *not doubt in his heart*, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass;” (Mark 11:22, 23).

What does God say about the way to confidence? WHY, THE EXACT OPPOSITE from the psychologists, of course!

God said through the prophet Isaiah that the wicked man must forsake HIS WAY! God tells us to THROW SELF AWAY — not to pamper and fondle it. God says to *get rid* of self — man says to *flatter* self. Man talks about “positive thinking,” and God says to forsake even your own thoughts! (Isa. 55:6-9).

The wisest man who ever lived, under the inspiration of God, wrote many scriptures concerning the differences between those following the customary way of this world and those who were willing to listen to the instructions of God. Solomon knew the difference between confidence in the SELF and the right kind of confidence. He called the person who trusts in his OWN heart a fool! (Prov. 28:26).

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Jesus Christ directed one of His parables toward those who *trust in themselves*. Christ said those who exalt themselves shall be abased; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted (Luke 18:9-14).

Too Many GIVE UP!

The real test of one who has the *right kind* of confidence comes when the “chips are down.” The man who sets his jaw and says: “I will NOT quit!” despite all the handicaps and apparent obstacles, is the one who has the quality for success. Solomon wrote, “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small” (Prov. 24:10). What a great principle — and how FEW really follow it! So many simply lie down and quit when some terrible disaster strikes in their personal lives.

Perhaps it is because it is so *rare* when a person who is severely physically handicapped truly *succeeds* in life that it is usually so widely publicized.

Think of the examples you have known of persons injured in accidents, or afflicted through sudden strokes or other diseases. Even though partially handicapped, or confined to bed — have they *continued* to be their usually cheery selves? Do they strive (if their minds have not been afflicted) to keep mentally alert and growing? Do they enter even the simplest tasks with real ENTHUSIASM, and a *will* to overcome?

Most of the time, No!

Most shut-ins, it seems, fall into the depths of despondency, feeling sorry for themselves — blaming the set of “circumstances” which conspired to bring this terrible affliction upon them. They have the attitude of Job. They know God is good, and that they are “righteous,” and cannot honestly understand WHY such a terrible thing should have befallen them — knowing it must ONLY be in the “province of God” and not anything THEY have done!

So, instead of finding the true source of real CONFIDENCE, and surging ahead, even in the face of great adversity — they simply QUIT!

But remember, God says, “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small!”

How can YOU have strength and confidence?

Christ, An Example of Confidence

Do you know that Jesus said that he COULD DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BY HIMSELF! (John 5:19, 30) “The Father that dwelleth in me, HE doeth the works,” He said. Christ said it was the WORKS He did that bore witness of Him (John 5:36), but that He, Himself, could accomplish NOTHING by Himself! Of course this was in his fleshly state. When resurrected he then said, “*All power* is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

THINK OF IT!

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The very Son of God, for all His personality and energy, said He could do NOTHING by Himself!

CHRIST had absolutely NO confidence in the self as today's "moderns" want you to believe! How much less, then, can you and I accomplish by trusting in ourselves? (John 5:19, 30).

Yet Jesus Christ had MORE CONFIDENCE than any man who ever lived!

Where Did Christ's Confidence Come From?

What was this source of dynamic CONFIDENCE exhibited by Christ? Let's not assume! Let's ask Jesus Christ Himself!

He said it was the FATHER DWELLING IN HIM that did the works! (John 14:10) THERE was the source of the absolute CONFIDENCE of Jesus Christ!

It was faith in GOD!

The FATHER who lived in Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit did the mighty works which Christ performed. Christ did not have one iota of self-confidence — but He had ALL confidence in God!

Notice the complete confidence that was in Jesus Christ. Confidence such as NO OTHER MAN has ever possessed — because it was not confidence in Himself — but confidence in the Almighty God!

When Jesus was called to the tomb of Lazarus, He demonstrated the constant attitude of mind that gave Him this great confidence. Christ did not have to "beg" or "plead" with God to raise Lazarus from the dead, but was in the attitude of SUCH CONSTANT CLOSENESS and ONENESS with God that He simply "lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you hear me always, but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that you have sent me" (John 11:41-42).

Christ thanked the Father for having already heard Him before He prayed aloud.

This complete and total confidence in God gave Christ the assurance and faith to call out "LAZARUS! COME FORTH!" And a man who had been dead four days was brought back to life, and walked away from his tomb!

Jesus told his disciples that they could have this kind of confidence, and that they could move mountains, "Verily I say unto you, *If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.*

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:21-22).

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We, too, may have this same kind of confidence! “For the LORD shall be your confidence, and shall keep your foot from being taken” (Prov. 3:26). Jesus Christ said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and GREATER works than these shall he do; because I go unto my FATHER” (John 14:12).

Confidence with Obedience

Confidence, faith, trust; all these are closely linked to and are inseparable from obedience. *Without obedience, you cannot have confidence!* Knowing what you are doing is right translates into absolute confidence in your life in everything you do.

Abraham, called the father of the faithful, had the kind of obedience that God wanted. It was this obedience that gave Abraham the complete CONFIDENCE he needed! God said it was BECAUSE of Abraham’s obedience that He would make the promise given to Abraham of inheriting this earth UNCONDITIONAL! (Gen. 26:5)

Abraham met one of the greatest tests ever placed on a human being. God told Abraham to take Isaac, the son for which he had waited so long, and to go to a certain place to kill him. (Genesis, the 22nd chapter)

Abraham did not question God’s command! He didn’t ask WHY — he did not try to remind God this was the son God had given him, after waiting for so many long years — he simply OBEYED!

Why?

Because Abraham BELIEVED God! (James 2:23) Abraham had COMPLETE CONFIDENCE — NOT in self — but in God!

God had PROMISED to give Abraham many multiple thousands and thousands of sons. Abraham knew immediately that God could either raise Isaac from the dead, or bless him with other sons according to His promises. Abraham was FULLY PERSUADED that, whatever God had promised, He was ABLE TO PERFORM! (Rom. 4:21)

What a sad lack of that kind of confidence today! People do not believe God WILL keep His word! People do not FEAR God — neither do they want to OBEY Him! But to those who WILL OBEY, who WILL believe His word and DO those things God shows them they must do — God says “BLESSED are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart” (Ps. 119:2).

As noted above, Jesus said have faith in God and not to doubt. Knowing you are doing right translates into confidence in your life knowing God is behind you, “your life is hid with Christ in God.” (Col 3:3). One can live with confidence absent of fear, as John said, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear” (1 John 4:18). Knowing you are doing the right thing, living the right way, fear is cast out, and one can live in perfect confidence in this life, and knowing they will receive eternal life in the next, A “Blessed assurance.”

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This is the life God wants you to have, of blessing, accomplishments, and absence of fear, As John wrote, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” (3 John 1:2). People who live the exact opposite of this thinking they are obeying God, are simply not! God only wants the best for his creation. People, who think God wants them to suffer in this life, are actually living in fear, fear of the afterlife, a false doctrine some religious leader taught, and not from the Bible.

How YOU May Have Confidence

How can YOU come to have the real ASSURANCE and KNOWLEDGE that you need in making decisions in this life?

How can YOU overcome boredom, discouragement or disheartenment as a result of an accident or sickness?

How can YOU regain real confidence — and a sense of positive assurance — even in the face of the death of a loved one, or terrible financial hardship?

The Apostle Paul gives us the first step toward the only real confidence, in Romans the 12th chapter and the first two verses: “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And BE NOT CONFORMED to this world, but be you TRANSFORMED by the *renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

God’s way to find confidence is the DIRECT OPPOSITE from the false ways of this world! God’s way is the way of GETTING RID OF ALL SELF, of throwing away the rebellious, cast-iron human WILL that is contrary to God — of CRUCIFYING THE OLD SELF with Christ, and renewing your mind!

Paul explained in Galatians 2:20 that He was crucified with Christ, but that he still lived by the FAITH of the Son of God!

The only worthwhile confidence is the knowledge that you have actually given your very SELF — your will, your desires and your complete MIND — into God’s hands. If you have real confidence, you’ll be saying with Christ, “Not my will, but YOUR will be done, Father.”

God inspired John to write, “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He shall appear, we may have CONFIDENCE, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming” (I John 2:28).

The one most central reason for the FALSE confidence on the EXTERIOR that people have today is because they are much more CONCERNED about what people will say, what people will think — the impressions they are making on other people, than they are about WHAT THE ALMIGHTY GOD THINKS OF THEM! Jesus Christ did not fear what man thought of Him! Rather, He had the Spirit of the FEAR OF GOD! (Isa. 11:2) And Christ was HEARD of God — because He feared! (Heb. 5:7)

Should Christians Live in Fear?

His fear was not terror, but the kind of awe that comes with a full realization of the tremendous power of God — an awareness of His GREATNESS!

If you really FEAR God — you will want to obey Him! The WAY to real confidence is through unquestioning obedience! God tells us through John, “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have CONFIDENCE toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in HIS sight!” (I John 3:21-22).

Do YOU want this kind of confidence? Or do you, like most “moderns” of today, want God to “keep His nose out of your business?”

Admit it or not — most of you truly WANT more confidence!

You deeply desire to have that PEACE OF MIND, that positive sense of assurance, that sense of knowing that everything is going to work out all right!

You would like to have NO FEARS about the future. You would like to have a sense of SECURITY concerning your job, business, or source of income. You would like to have comfort, confidence, and a positive sense of spontaneity and enthusiasm in every trial and difficulty!

You would like to be alert, able to make wise and far-reaching decisions, able to be cheerful and happy even in the face of terrible adversity or personal disaster!

If you would truly WANT these things — then God says it is yours for the asking!

God says, “See? I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU THIS DAY LIFE... AND DEATH... CHOOSE LIFE!” (Deut. 30:15-19) God offers life on the one hand — eternal life and rulership with Christ, and death on the other. God commands you to MAKE YOUR DECISION which one you will take. He will not make that decision for you.

God grant that you will make your decision with CONFIDENCE!

So should Christians live in fear of man, religious leaders or the end times? Should Christians, living in the Fear of the Lord, fear anything at all? Absolutely Not! Remember, “If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?” (Romans 8:31).

Christians in God's Sight

Many times we hear of these false ministers in God's Church putting down the brethren constantly—every single week during the Sabbath services. The members feel like that are nothing, lower than dirt. This should not be done, and God does not think that way towards his people.

Should Christians Live in Fear?

God says, “He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy...He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and *precious shall their blood be in his sight.*” (Psalm 72:13-14). The people of God are precious in the sight of God.

Again, “Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of his saints.” (Psalm 116:15). Clarke's commentary writes, “Many have understood this verse as meaning, *'the saints are too precious in the Lord's sight, lightly to give them over to death:'* and this, Calmet contends, is the true sense of the text. Though they have many enemies, their lives are precious in his sight, and their foes shall not prevail against them.” (emphasis added). This is how God feels about his people.

Christians, those that belong to him, those that have the spirit of God and are baptized (Rom 8:9), are his Jewels a treasure, “Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

“*And they shall be mine*, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when *I make up my jewels*; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” We are God's special “treasure” in his sight.

Not only this, we will be kings and priests to the most high God as well. Important positions in the Kingdom of God ruling with him on his throne over all nations. (Rev 5:10; 1 Peter 2:9; Rev 3:21).

Finally we are the “the children of God.” (John 1:12; Rom 8:16-17). How precious are your children if you are a father or mother? Will you do anything for your child? Is God any different? This is how Christians should look at themselves and understand that their calling into the church of God is an amazing event that has happened in their lives, something unprecedented and they should thank God always for this incredible opportunity to serve and worship him in spirit and truth, and to become heirs of the Kingdom.