

FAITH AND FEAR

Paul told Timothy, **“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7)**. The word used in this passage translated “fear” actually means cowardice. All men are to fear God. The writer of Ecclesiastes said that this is a most basic responsibility of man. He stated, **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)**. This fear is reverential fear or respect and not cowardice. Paul’s point to Timothy is that Christians are not to be cowards in the work God has set before them. For this reason the “fearful” are placed in a list of those who will have part in the second death. The apostle John declared, **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8)**.

Faith and love are in direct opposition to the spirit of cowardice. In his first letter, the apostle John said, **“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18)**. Moses **“by faith forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king” (Hebrews 11:27)**. Without fear, David as a boy was able to battle the Philistine giant, Goliath (1 Samuel 17). And Paul as he writes to Timothy faces death’s door without fear and with courage. Why were these men and others like them able to face enemies and death without fear? It is because these men had faith, and their faith removed their fear! Faith that God would not forsake them, and would carry through with His promises.

We, too, must not face each day’s challenge with **“a spirit of fear,”** but we must face them with the three kinds of spirits which God has given to us. The **“spirit”** the apostle speaks of in this passage is one’s moral character.

First, God has given to us a spirit **“of power”** which is courage and endurance. Our word dynamite comes from this word in the Greek. Notice that the power is not within us, but God has given us this dynamite power of faith through His word (**Romans 10:17**).

Second, God has given to us a spirit **“of love”** which is the motivation for the spirit of power. It is this spirit of love that offers direction for the power given to us by God. Without the proper direction, the power is of little benefit. Consider the miraculous gifts of tongues, of prophecy, and our gifts to others of **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**. If these are not done in love (the proper direction and motivation), they have little or no benefit to the recipient nor to ourselves.

Third, God has given to us a spirit **“of a sound mind”** which is the good sense guiding our power and applying our love. It carries with it the idea of discipline or self-control. It is to be of a right mind which is always in control.

Notice each one of these three spirits which God has given to His children are in connection with the word of God. Concerning the gospel, Paul proclaimed, **“it is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16)**. Jesus taught love and obedience go hand in hand together (John 15:14). To have a sound mind is directly the result of understanding the will of God and growing to maturity (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

We can face the challenges that lie ahead with confidence and faith. If we are doing the Lord’s will, the Lord will be with us. Faith is the victory (**1 John 5:4**)!

Fear is defeat. If we meet those challenges with faith, **“we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:6)**.

Chuck Northrop

THANKS!

As we come to the close of the past year 2006 and look forward to the New Year 2007 together, it gives us an opportunity to reflect upon and to be grateful for the many blessings and opportunities we receive and enjoy in the Lord’s work.

Above all we are thankful to Our Heavenly Father for His Word, the blessings of the Gospel and the church which belongs to Christ. We are thankful for the good brethren here at Olathe, for your kindness and support, and your faithfulness and patience in the Lord’s work as we labor together in Olathe and support works in other areas.

We are thankful for our brethren in the Kansas City area with whom we are able to enjoy fellowship and be co-laborers in the Gospel. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve with all those involved in the Online Academy of Biblical Studies: the elders at Phillips Street who oversee this good work, Brother Tom Bright, Sr. our director, all of our Instructors and Students, and those who support this good work, both financially and morally, that we may continue to teach, train, strengthen and encourage others with the Gospel of Christ.

Our prayer for all through out this New Year is that of the apostle John in **3 John 2**, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

The Thrashers – Ted, Julia, Trent & Leah

BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Brown, 01-07; Lindsey Brown, 01-07;
Janice Carter, 01-08.

ILL

David Parish was released from SMMC on Wednesday and is recovering at home. Alan Scott had outpatient tests on Thursday. Bob Adams is suffering pain and difficulty eating. Gary Cole's uncle is in a coma at the Enid, OK hospital. Please remember these in your prayers.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Carter's were in Pineville, LA visiting relatives last week. The Edward's are on a vacation cruise this week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 14 following our AM worship.

INDIA MISSIONS

Jim O'Connor and John Shafer will leave for India on January 15 and return on February 14.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 47; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 31.

Those To Serve

January 7, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Myron Nebergall
PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... David Adams
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Charles Tullis
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Carter
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 10th

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
INVITATION Jeff Nemechek

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp