

## **Are We deeply Committed to Christ and Our Destiny? HANDOUT #3**

**When we trust Him, He creates opportunities specifically for us so that we can receive His grace and experience His favor. For the awesome success we desire in 2021 we must know without doubt we have dismissed the Spirit of Fear.**

**1. No matter what we try to do with our lives, God is the determining factor in our success.** (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

**a.** In this context, "happeneth" can be translated into "Qarah," which is Hebrew for being in the right place at the right time. It pertains to things orchestrated by God.

**b.** God sets up appointments for those He loves. "Happeneth" means to encounter or to be present for those appointments.

**c.** When these types of opportunities come our way, we must be ready to seize them. Our faith takes what God's grace makes available.

**d.** We may try to chart our own course with our careers, our families, and everything else that concerns us. However, regardless of how much we plan, it is God who establishes our steps.

**e.** In their heart's humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps (Proverbs 16:9, NIV).

**f.** We plan the way we want to live, but only GOD makes us able to live it (Proverbs 16:9, MSG).

**g.** People can plan what they want to do, but it is the LORD who guides their steps (Proverbs 16:9, ERV)

**h.** The world places plenty of limitations on us in every area of our lives. However, God removes all of those limitations. As His children, we must open ourselves up to all of His possibilities.

**i.** Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).

**j.** Jesus looked hard at them and said, "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it" (Matthew 19:26, MSG).

**k.** Jesus looked at them and said, "This is something that people cannot do. But God can do anything" (Matthew 19:26, ERV).

**2. It's important for us to relinquish the strongholds that are not of God! It is not God's will that we operate in fear. Our faith in God's love defeats this emotion.**

**a.** For many of us we have all sorts of fears in our lives. Worries; anxieties; terror; oppression; stress; depression; doubt; unbelief; pressures are synonymous to fear. Fear is a wiles or strategy the enemy uses to control people to his way are doing things.

**b.** However, we are commanded not to tolerate fear; it is never okay. (2 Timothy 1:7).

**c.** Faith is a positive response to what grace has made available; fear is a negative response to what Satan has made available.

**d.** Fear does not come from God; He is not responsible for it. We have the power and the love to think soundly.

**e.** The opportunity to react in fear will always exist, but we have the authority to stand on God's promises and defeat it.

**3. We have a choice; we can either submit to fear, or to faith.**

**a.** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

**b.** Who we listen to influences how we think. What do you spend time listening to?

**c.** So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

**d.** Conversely, fear comes by hearing the words of the enemy.

**e.** It is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). Likewise, it is impossible to please the devil without fear. God needs faith to bring His Word to pass; Satan needs fear to bring his word to pass.

**f.** The greatest fear the devil can inflict on Christians is the fear that God's Word will not come to pass.

**g.** The devil does not want us to believe that by Jesus' stripes, we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). Neither does he want us to believe that God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

**h.** So the enemy will bring thoughts, circumstances or situations which brings the spirit of fear available to every believer however we can determine whether we will accept it.

**4. Being constantly afraid gives the devil an opportunity to operate in our lives.** (Job 1:5).

**a.** Job experienced firsthand what fear can do in the life of someone who tolerates it.

**b.** If we do not operate in faith, we are operating in fear. If our prayers are not based in faith, they are based in fear. (Job 3:25).

**c.** Job was offering sacrifices, which was good, but fear was the motivation behind what he did. His greatest fear came to pass because he was not operating in faith.

**d.** That he would grant unto us, that we are being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life (Luke 1:74, 75).

**e.** God delivered us from the enemy's hand two thousand years ago—so sickness is an enemy. lack is an enemy; drama is an enemy; struggling is an enemy.

**f.** To serve God without fear is to serve Him in faith. Faith is a practical expression of fearless confidence in Him.

**g.** To be holy is to be different and set apart from the world. This means that if the world is in fear, we are in faith. (1 Peter 1:15)

**h.** Righteousness is a gift; we have been made the righteousness of God. Therefore, we have a right to be healed, delivered, and protected.

**5. Not only do we not have to submit to fear, but we must also actively resist and fight against it. (Philippians 1:28, NLT).**

**a.** We must not allow sickness or disease to intimidate us; just like fear, they are also our enemies.

**b.** We cast down fear by speaking God's Word over it.

**c.** That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? So don't worry about these things, saying,

“What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?” These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs (Matthew 6:25-32, NLT).

**d.** Worry is meditation on the negative things and problems from the enemy. It opens us up to worry, stress, and fear, which in turn attack our immune system.

**e.** Whatever happens, we must not let it steal our peace.

**f.** “Little faith” does not refer to how big our faith is, but to a lack of consistency in our faith. This consistency is called patience, which is constantly remaining the same in all circumstances. (James 1:2-3)

**5. We have been given clear instructions from God on what to do when fear and worry show up.** (Philippians 4:6).

**a.** Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done (Philippians 4:6, NLT).

**b.** God tells us not to be afraid. The sign of true humility is doing what He says in this area. (1 Peter 5:5-7).

**c.** Humility is to submit ourselves to what God told us to do; pride is to resist His instructions.

**d.** We can either submit ourselves to the Word, or to negative emotions.

**e.** Casting our cares on God indicates that we are humble; refusing to do so and instead hanging onto them indicates we are walking in pride.

**f.** God wants to take away our cares, anxieties, and fears. However, He needs our cooperation to do so; we must first make the decision to turn them over to Him.

**g.** Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved (Psalm 55:22).

**h.** Pile your troubles on GOD’s shoulders—he’ll carry your load; he’ll help you out. He’ll never let good people topple into ruin (Psalm 55:22, MSG).

**6. God’s Word provides the encouragement we need; it is essential that we are nourished by it and get our fill of it.** (Proverbs 12:25).

**a.** Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up (Proverbs 12:25, NLT).

**b.** When the world is scared and anxious, believers can remain at peace and be unafraid.

**c.** A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day (Proverbs 15:13, MSG).

**d.** There is a battle for our minds going on; the mind is the arena of faith, in which we either win or lose the battle.

**e.** Believers can keep smiles on their faces, because they have a cheerful heart and a reason to smile. A sad heart is one that is not receiving the Word.

**f.** We can either confidently lean on and rely on God, or lean on all the things in the world that we understand. Leaning on Him protects our spirits and our emotions. (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

**g.** We need God to guide and direct our lives when everything around us is uncertain; He can do this when we acknowledge Him.

**6. So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment** (2 Peter 2:9, NLT).

**a.** When the world is going through an ordeal, God knows how to keep us safe and deliver us from trials.

**b.** Brokenness has a way of driving us into God's open arms. No challenge is too big for Him.

**c.** The world will continue to offer opportunities to be fearful. However, we can be joyful. (James 1:2-4).

**d.** Our joy can be an amazing spiritual weapon. Joy comes from what we know; it is our strength. (Isaiah 29:19)

**e.** When our faith is put on trial, we must use patience. We constantly, consistently trust God before, during, and after the trial.

**f.** The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles (Psalm 34:17).

**g.** Even when we do not know how God will deliver us from our current situation, He knows exactly what He is doing. He will definitely rescue us