Title: Fighting Fear
Text: 2 Timothy 1:7-11
Time: 11/11/2012 (a.m.)

Introduction

1. “Fear” is one of those words that is best defined by the object it relates to.

2. Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.” This “fear” means to have reference, respect, and awe of God because he is all knowing and all powerful and is the Creator of all things.

Luke 12:4–5 “I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!”

3. An ungodly fear can produce shame and embarrassment as to what others think about you in relation to Christ. It is the belief that because of one’s sin they are in no position to promote the gospel of Christ.

4. This fear is a trap, Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.” This is the fear that keeps the politically correct crowd in business.

5. In verse 8 Paul tells Timothy that he doesn’t need to apologize for believing the truth, nor does he need to be embarrassed about Paul’s imprisonment.

6. Paul is not promoting belligerence but he is promoting confident belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. The genesis of fear is found in rejection; none of us likes being rejected and so we strive for that which we feel will bring us acceptance from whom we desire to please most.

8. In verse 7 Paul is saying, “God doesn’t provide believers with a fear of the world and humanity.”

9. One other way to determine if your fear is reverence or rebellion is to examine what it produces. If your fear is producing anger and anxiety it probably stems from a rebellious flesh than a reverent fear of God.

10. This text is talking about living out faith in the context of a culture that is opposed to Christ; we are equipped and expected to be about the work of the gospel regardless of the context of culture.

1. Fight Fear with Power

1. Dunamis (power) denotes great force, or energy, and is the term from which we get dynamic and dynamite. It also carries the connotation of effective, productive energy, rather than that which is raw and unbridled. God provides us with His power in order for us to be effective in His service.

2. The issue here is boldness and not arrogance. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
3. The gospel is inherently powerful, it doesn’t need the power of man to be effective. The concern Paul was expressing is that Timothy would not let fear keep him from delivering the gospel which has, through the righteousness of Christ, the power to transform.

4. In a heart of submission Christ works to embolden us to present the powerful gospel. To the extent we submit in belief and even beyond, we will be supplied with boldness through the spirit of God. **1 Peter 5:6** “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time”

5. I want to make a very critical point. God’s provision and promise of power are related to His purpose. **2 Corinthians 1:20** “For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.” This is consistent with verse 9 in 2 Timothy 1.

6. This power is fully realized as we are fully surrendered to Christ.

**2. Fighting Fear with Love**

1. This love is agape love.

2. Agape love is a real blue color kind of love because it is a love of action and sacrifice. This kind of love is to serve another to the detriment of the one serving. It is the love of the second mile. **Matthew 5:38-42** “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 “But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 “If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 “Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 “Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

3. This is a “blue color” type of love that seeks to do whatever it takes with the expectation of getting nothing in return materially or emotionally.

4. To love like this calls for a fearless faith.

**3. Fighting Fear with Discipline**

1. Discipline can be translated “sound mind”, a mind that is secure and self controlled.

2. One theologian has described it this way, “God-given discipline allows believers to control every element of their lives, whether positive or negative. It allows them to experience success without becoming proud and to suffer failure without becoming bitter or hopeless. The disciplined life is the divinely ordered life, in which godly wisdom is applied to every situation.” (John MacArthur) **Romans 12:3** “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

3. Discipline is the ability to reason and act despite the circumstances, **(Phil. 4:10-14)**.

4. God has equipped us in a way as to engage the mind.