

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Fear**

"If you want to conquer fear, don't sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." – Dale Carnegie

"Please do not feed the fears." – unknown

"Always do what you are afraid to do." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Fear makes the wolf bigger than he is." – German Proverb

"Fear has two meanings: 1. Forget Everything And Run; 2. Face Everything And Rise. The choice is yours! – unknown

Face it, we all have fears. For some people, it is the fear of dying. Some fear the dark. For others, it could be a phobia, which is an intense fear of a certain thing. For example, some people are deathly afraid of bees, spiders, snakes, or frogs. And even in spiritual circles, there are those who are afraid to talk with others about Christ.

Life has its twists and turns. And for some the fears rise when it comes to superstitions. They are afraid to walk under a ladder. Some buildings are even constructed without a 13<sup>th</sup> floor. They are very afraid of the number 666. And they are horrified if a black cat crosses their path.

If there is a fear, facing it and praying for God's help can help you to overcome it. There is no shame in admitting you have a fear. But don't let it paralyze you from doing what you know you need to do.

As mentioned above, some people just can't seem to bring themselves to talk to someone about Jesus Christ. They know you can talk with practically anyone about the weather, but when it comes to their soul, they are afraid of the response.

Would it surprise you if one says fear can be a good thing? For example, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10). "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28).

Yes, there is a time that reverential awe and respect of God is needed. But what we must watch out for is a fear that is paralyzing. What if one is afraid to obey the gospel for fear of what others might think? "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

And there is John's admonition: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear..." (1 John 4:18).