

1. We've been talking the last couple of weeks about having victory over fear.
2. I believe in this jubilee year, this year of freedom and restoration, God longs to set us free from the bondage of fear.
3. God has not created us to live in fear. He has created us to live in peace.
4. And yet, with so many crazy things going on in our world, and with so many crazy things going on inside of us, it's easy for fear to come creeping in.
5. In fact, I am certain that the enemy uses fear as a weapon against us to try and defeat us and separate us from God's love.
6. And it is God's love today that I want us to focus on. Because God's perfect love for us has the ability to set us free from fear.

TEXT: **1 John 4:15-18** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

TITLE: **No Fear – Part 3**

INTRO:

1. So, let's begin by saying that lasting freedom from fear is only possible for those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and savior.
2. Who, according to verse 15, acknowledges that Jesus is the son of God.
3. I want to be careful, because I don't believe that using fear tactics to try and get people to accept Jesus is a very wise plan.
4. We're told 365 different times in the bible to not be afraid, so why would we try and use the very thing that God is trying to deliver us from?
5. And yet, over the years many preachers have used fear as a means to entice people to accept Jesus.
6. The truth is, according to the word of God, the place reserved for those

who do not know Jesus as their savior, hell, will, I believe be a fearful place.

7. In Luke 13:28 according to Jesus, hell will be a place so terrible that there will be continual weeping and grinding of teeth because of the intense pain.
8. But we know also from 2 Peter 3:9 that it is not God's desire than anyone perish. It is God's desire that all of us come to a place of repentance.
9. And the tool that God uses to draw us to a place of repentance is love.
10. And once we accept that love and allow Jesus to be lord and savior of our life, something wonderful happens.
11. You have probably heard the phrase, accept Jesus into your heart. Well, that's exactly what happens when we acknowledge that Jesus is the son of God.
12. **1 John 4:15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.
13. When we acknowledge that Jesus is the son of God and we allow him to be our lord and our king, God no longer is just with us or around us.
14. When we invite him in, God takes up residence inside of us. He literally lives inside of our hearts.
15. And that matters because that means there will never be a circumstance that the believer in Jesus faces, in which God is not with them and in them.
16. Now. I know that is not how it always feels. Sometimes it feels like God is a million miles away from us, but here's the thing. Sometimes feelings can't be trusted.
17. Sometimes our enemy uses false feelings to attempt to get us to believe that God is not near when difficulty or hardship happen. But it's a lie.
18. If you have accepted Jesus into your life, then he lives in you, and you live in Him.
19. If you are a believer in Jesus, will you say this with me. **"I believe that Jesus lives inside me."**
20. Now, the fact that Jesus lives inside us is so valuable, because

when God moves in, he brings with him his very nature. Who he is, is made real to us. And who is he? God is love.

21. 1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

22. How many by a show of hands has ever experienced the love of God in your life? I hope you have experienced his love recently. I hope you have experienced his love for you today.

23. Because God's love is one of the key's to having victory over fear.

24. But just knowing and experiencing the love of God isn't enough.

25. In order to have victory over fear, verse 16 says we must rely on the love God has for us.

26. The word rely has many wonderful definitions. To trust in. To have confidence in. To depend upon. To have faith in. To count on.

27. You see, God's love is not just some passive benefit of Jesus living inside of us, God's love for us is one of the active tools that God gives us so we can be victorious over fear.

28. So, let's take a look at how that happens.

29. 1 John 4:17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

30. Another way to say made complete is to say made perfect. This is how love is made perfect among us.

31. One of the reasons why we can have Jesus living inside us, and yet be being beat up by fear, is because that love has not been made complete or perfect inside us.

32. And let's be clear. Very rarely do we see in our world perfect love. What we see and experience so often is an imperfect love. An incomplete love.

33. What are some of the characteristics of imperfect love.

- **Conditional love.** I will love you if. I will love you if you do what I want or act like I want or give me what I want.
- **Temporary love.** Well, I love you right now, but in the future, I might change my mind, so don't get used to it. Know that you can lose my love.
- **Inconsistent love.** Love that is intense one minute and scarce the next. Love that is based on the emotional state of the one

giving the love.

- **Partial love.** Well, I'm not giving all of myself to you, I'm going to withhold some parts of me and keep them a secret from you. Because my experience has told me that if I give myself completely to someone, I stand a really good chance of getting hurt. So I'm only going to give you part of my love.

34. By a show of hands, how many have ever experienced those kinds of imperfect love? All of us.
35. And because that is often what we experience in this world, we mistakenly believe that is the way God loves us as well. But it's not.
36. God's love for us is a perfect love. And we catch a glimpse of that perfect love in **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
37. According to this verse, **God's perfect love** is....
- **Unconditional love.** God so love the world. The world didn't love him, but God didn't wait for the world to love him. God loved first.
 - **Permanent love.** Whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Forever and ever.
 - **Consistent love.** He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. His love for us doesn't change with His mood.
 - **Total love.** He gave his one and only son. He gave everything he had. He gave the most important person in his life. Why? Because of his love for us.
38. That is the definition of perfect love.
39. And what does perfect love living inside of us do? It gives us confidence, not fear.
40. It gives us confidence on judgment day according to 1 John 4:17.
41. At the end of all time there is going to be a judgment day. All of us are going to have to stand before God and give an account of how we have lived our lives.
42. For the person who has received Jesus into their heart, there is no need to fear judgment day. We can have confidence on judgment day.
43. Confidence in what? Confidence in our having lived a perfect life in which we never made any mistakes, or never sinned or never behaved badly? Not at all.

44. Confidence in the perfect love of Jesus that has covered all of our sins and faults and failures.
45. Confidence in the love of Jesus that has washed all our sins and faults and failures away.
46. Confidence in the love of Jesus who has cleansed our filthiness and instead made us complete and bright and whole.
47. You see, our confidence is not in our goodness, our confidence is in the goodness of God. His perfect love for us.
48. And when we accept that we are made right with God not because of our achievements, but because of his goodness and his love, then fear has no place to hide.
49. A life that is self-focused has every reason to be afraid, but a life that is God focused has every reason to live with confidence and peace.
50. And what is that confidence?
51. 1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
52. So, on the one hand we don't have to live in fear because our victory is not based on our goodness, it is based on God's goodness.
53. And on the other hand we don't have to live in fear because God's love covers our lack of goodness and drives away the punishment that should be ours.
54. According to verse 18, fear has to do with punishment. Fear has to do with paying the price for what we have done wrong.
55. Understand this. Punishment is always backward facing.
56. Punishment has to do with what we have done in the past and holding us accountable for that past failure. And that brings fear.
57. If all we have to look forward to is a life where we hope everyone doesn't find out who we really are, what we are really like, and what we've really done.
58. If all we have to look forward to is a life where we have to pretend with God that we have it all together and that he should love us because we are trying really hard, then we are going to be living a life that is ruled by fear. Always afraid that the other shoe is going to drop.
59. Always afraid that our cover is going to be blown. Always afraid that the real us will be exposed and we will be punished for what we have

done.

60. But we need to understand that because of God's perfect love for us, if we have believed in Jesus as the son of God, then punishment is not in our future.
61. When Jesus Christ lives inside us our past is erased. It is like our past never existed. Psalm 103:10-12 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
62. Isn't that one of the most wonderful passages of scripture in the bible?
63. When we receive God's love our transgressions are erased. It's like they never happened.
64. Now, if we are outside of God's love and we are living in disobedience to God's commands, then because of His love, the Holy Spirit will convict us of our past sins.
65. But inside God's perfect love, we have no reason to be afraid.
66. Because if we were to bring up some past sin or failure to God, God would be like, what are you talking about. I have no idea what you're referring to.
67. If you are living in fear of punishment for some past sin that you have already given to God, that fear is not caused by God, that fear is caused by the liar Satan who doesn't want you and I living in the fullness of God's perfect love.
68. You see, where punishment is backward facing and where Satan is always trying to remind us of our past, things that bring fear, God is future facing, trying to encourage us with our future, and that brings peace.
69. How do we know that God's love is future facing, because of what it says in His word. Every time you see the word will, that's in the future. Will you say the word will every time you see it?
- Hebrews 13:5 God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
 - Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
 - Isaiah 54:17 no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will

refute every tongue that accuses you.

- **Isaiah 41:10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- **Isaiah 26:3** You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.
- **Deuteronomy 31:8** The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
- **Psalm 32:8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
- **Psalm 37:23-24** The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; **24** though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.
- **Isaiah 40:31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
- **John 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Conclusion:

1. I could literally read scripture to you all day. I think you get the idea.
2. You do not have to be afraid.
3. Your past has been erased and your future is secure.
4. God, in His perfect love, has you safely and securely in His arms.
5. **1 John 4:15-18** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
6. As we close today, I want us to take a moment and allow God's perfect love to perfect us and complete us.
7. Will you begin by thanking God for his word. Thank him that his word is true.
8. Salvation call.
9. Confess any sin that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind. Declare that

according to God's word your past has been erased.

10. Thank God now for the future he has for you.

11. 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (KJV)