

Triumphing over sinful fear



Lesson 1



FIFTEEN DECADES FOR DOGMY

Triumphing over
Sinful Fear

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WHAT DO YOU FEAR?





ISAIAH 8:12-14a

- A Sin Condemned (12b)
- A Remedy Prescribed (13)
- A Motive Encouraged (14a)
- Conclusion: Two points of doctrine
 - 1. The best people are overcome with slavish fear in times of imminent distress and danger.
 - 2. The fear of God is the most effectual means for extinguishing sinful fear and keeping us from danger.



Types of Fear

▶ I. Natural Fear

- ▶ A troubled or agitated state of mind when confronted with a perceived evil or impending danger
- ▶ Not always sinful, but always a consequence of sin
- ▶ When fear is great, reason is displaced and unable to guide us. (Ps. 107:27b) (Deut. 28:25)
- ▶ Evil is the object of fear- the greater the evil, the stronger the fear.



Types of Fear

➤ II. Sinful Fear

Carnal and unbelieving people experience this

- A. Its cause- unbelief (Is. 30:15-17a)
- B. Its excess- we fear more than we ought (Gen. 32:1-7)
- C. Its inordinacy- too much trust in a creature or fear of a creature (Is. 51:12-13a)(Mat. 10:28)
- D. Its influence- it distracts us and can make us unfit for duty (II Chr. 20:2-3a)
- E. Its Power- to dispose and incline people to use sinful means to escape danger (Prov. 29:25a)(Heb. 13:6)



Types of Fear

- ▶ **III. Religious Fear-** this is a holy and laudable fear that is our treasure, not our torment!
 - ▶ **The fear of God is the natural passion sanctified; it is the antidote to sinful fear.**
 - ▶ **A. God plants this fear in the soul**
 - ▶ **B. This fear puts the soul under the awe of God's eye**
 - ▶ **C. This fear inclines us to do what God pleases**
 - ▶ **D. This fear engages and enables the soul to shun and avoid what displeases God**



➤ Is. 26:3; Is. 41:10




Uses of Fear

- ▶ **1. The Use of Natural Fear**
 - ▶ **It is necessary to curb our corrupt inclinations (Hab. 1:14)**
 - ▶ **“Whoever fears not the loss of his own life will master another person’s life.”**
 - ▶ **Without law, there would be no order or security. (Rom. 13:3-4a)**



Uses of Fear

- ▶ **II. The Use of Sinful Fear**
 - ▶ **God uses sinful fear as a scourge to punish His enemies**
 - ▶ **God uses sinful fear to punish His enemies in hell**
 - ▶ **God uses sinful or slavish fear to scatter wicked people, especially when they align themselves against His people.**
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Uses of Fear

- ▶ **III. The Use of Religious Fear**
 - ▶ **God uses it to excite and conform His people in the way of their duty (Eccl. 12:13; Jer. 32:40b)**
 - ▶ **God uses this fear to preserve our conscience's peace and purity (Prov. 16:6b; Gen. 39:9; Neh. 5:15)**
 - ▶ **God uses this fear to make us prepare for future distress (Heb. 11:7)**
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