
Perfected Love, Part II (Casting Out Fear With Faith)

Activating First Love

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Sermon: Activating First Love: Perfected Love, Part II (Casting Out Fear With Faith)

Lesson Text

1 John 4:18–21 (KJV)¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us. ²⁰ If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? ²¹ And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Introduction

For the next several messages we will revisit our strategies on how to become active in our love; specifically, by Perfecting Love, Building Love, Covering Love and Climbing into Love!

Today we will take another look at perfecting love.

Previously we looked at perfect love from the perspective of Psalm 37:37, “Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that man is peace.*” We learned about perfected love from The Role Model, The Mentor, and The Coach.

One of the greatest enemies of faith is fear. Fear keeps people from pursuing their purpose, trusting God, loving others, and stepping into the future God has prepared for them.

In our lesson text, John addresses the fear that the believers have as they are facing uncertainty and opposition. He reminds them that the answer to fear is not greater courage—it is walking in God's perfect love.

The enemy cannot stop God's plan for our life, so he often tries to stop our faith through fear.

Fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of hurt, fear of heart break, fear of loss are all part of the enemy’s plot to keep us from experiencing God’s purpose for our lives!

God wants to free us from the prison of fear by anchoring us in His perfect love through faith.

Series and Sermon: Activating First Love: Perfected Love, Part II (Casting Out Fear With Faith)

(Exposing Fear, Expelling Fear, Empowering Faith Over Fear)

I. Exposing Fear (Magnify Your Faith)

1 John 4: ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: **because fear hath torment.** He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

To cast out fear, we must first use perfect love to expose it!

The Greek word for "torment" carries the idea of punishment, distress, and inner anguish. Fear doesn't simply affect us; it torments us – attacking our body, soul, and spirit.

Many people never experience God’s perfect love because of the torment of fear!

Fear torments us with fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of not enough, fear of sickness and death, fear of the future. It will imprison us emotionally even when we're physically free.

Fear produces “Red Flags,” anxiety attacks, fight, flight, or freeze responses. We may be physically free but emotionally imprisoned.

To Expose our Fears, we must Magnify our Faith

1 John 4: ¹⁸ ... **because fear hath torment**

Fear magnifies your torment (problems), but perfect love magnifies your God (faith).

Fear magnifies your failure, but Faith magnifies “no failure” in God: Proverbs 24: ¹⁶ For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Fear magnifies what’s impossible, but Faith magnifies “divine possibilities”: Matthew 19: ²⁶ ... **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

Fear magnifies your pain and brokenness, but Faith magnifies “God’s healing”: Psalm 147: ³ He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

II. Expelling Fear (Work Your Faith)

1 John 4: ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Secondly, to cast out fear, we must use perfect love to expel it!

To expel means to dismiss, eject, or banish. And there is the problem with most people, we don’t cast out fear, we simply give it some Benadryl and temporarily put it to sleep.

Another reason some people never experience God’s perfect love is because of the persistence of fear. Fear always comes back, always wakes back up!

In Matthew 14, Peter magnified his faith over fear and begin to walk on water!

- Matthew 14: ²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. ²⁹ And he said, **Come**. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Just like Peter, many of us expose our fear by magnifying our faith, but we fail to expel it and begin to sink when fear wakes back up!

We have faith to believe, but when fear wakes up, we sink into doubt. We have faith for healing, but when fear wakes up, we sink into sickness. We have faith for prosperity, but we sink into poverty. We have faith for promotion, but we sink back into failure.

James 2: ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

To Expel our Fears, we must Work our Faith

1 John 4: ¹⁸ ... but perfect love casteth out fear:

Fear always wants to show up, but perfect love works your faith and fear must leave. And the more you work your faith, the less room fear has to remain.

When fear says you've failed, work your faith to know you're forgiven: Lamentations 3: ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

When fear says you're rejected, work your faith to know you're called and chosen: Matthew 20: ¹⁶ **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**

When fear says you're betrayed or abandoned, work your faith to know God's always there: Hebrews 13: ⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

III. Empowering Faith Over Fear (Strengthen Your Faith)

1 John 4: ¹⁸ ***There is no fear in love;*** but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Finally, to cast out fear, we must use perfect love to empower our faith over fear.

- Perfect Love Exposes Fear by Magnifying Your Faith
- Perfect Love Expels Fear by Working Your Faith
- Perfect Love Empowers Faith Over Fear by Strengthening Your Faith

To empower means to authorize, inspire, and enable.

The enemy wants to use fear to keep us powerless, impotent, condemned, fearful, and defeated.

Living a life with an "Imposter Syndrome," making us feel like we don't belong and never will.

To Empower our Faith over our Fear, we must Strengthen our Faith

1 John 4: ¹⁸ There is no fear in love ...

Perfect Love brings power over fear: Luke 10:19 (KJV) ¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Perfect Love brings confidence over fear: Philippians 1: ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Perfect Love brings courage over fear: 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.

Perfect love gives us confidence because our security is no longer based on our performance but on God's promises.

Faith isn't the absence of problems; it is the presence of confidence that God's love will carry you through them.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Perfected Love, Part II (Casting Out Fear With Faith))

Lesson Text

- 1 John 4:18–21

Sermon Outline

- I. *Exposing Fear (Magnify Your Faith)***
- II. *Expelling Fear (Work Your Faith)***
- III. *Empowering Faith Over Fear (Strengthen Your Faith)***

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is your favorite way to spend time with family or friends?
2. What’s something you’d like to try but haven’t yet?

II. Into The Bible

1. How is biblical perfect love different from human emotion according to 1 John 4:18?
2. Reference 2 Timothy 1:7: how do the distinct gifts of power, love and a sound mind work together to overcome fear and deepen our reliance on God?

II. Life Application

1. John says we love because God first loved us. How does trusting God’s love for you change the way you face fear, uncertainty, or feelings of unworthiness in your daily life?
2. According to 1 John 4, God’s love is made complete in us when we love one another. What is one practical way you can demonstrate God’s love this week, especially toward someone who may be difficult to love?