
Love That Overcomes Fear (From Fear to Faith)

Love That Overcomes

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Sermon: Love That Overcomes: Love That Overcomes Fear (From Fear to Faith)

Series Text

Romans 8:35–39 (KJV)³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lesson Text

1 John 4:18 (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.

James 4:7 (KJV)⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

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

Introduction

All year long we've been talking about God's Love!

- It is what should Identify us: John 13: ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**
- The lack of it is what is destroying us: Matthew 24: ¹⁰ **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another... ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**
- We've studied the Power of God's love by Defining Love, Putting Love First, Activating First Love, Being Rooted & Grounded and Love, and in our last series, being Transformed by Love.

But now we are going to discover that God's love doesn't just change us—It gives us victory!

Paul declares in Romans 8 that trouble, hardship, persecution, danger—not even death itself—can separate us from the love of God. In other words, God's love guarantees us victory by giving us power to overcome.

Over the next several weeks, we'll discover how to overcome some of life's greatest enemies — and we begin today with one of the greatest enemies we all face: Fear!

Today we will learn how God's love overcomes fear, but next week we're going to deal with something that has kept too many people trapped in their past: SHAME!

Many times, God has forgiven us, but we haven't forgiven ourselves and are trapped by guilt, regret, and condemnation. But let's start this new series by looking at fear!

How many of you have every had a failed relationship? How about a business or career that didn't work out? How about experiencing doubt from unanswered prayers or promises?

Fear is one of the greatest enemies we will ever face. An emotion so powerful that it can control us before anything ever happens to us. Fear can make us worry about tomorrow, retreat from opportunities, question our abilities, doubt God's promises, and imagine the worst before the worst ever occurs.

Fear can imprison us while the door is still open. Stop us from moving when God has already made a way. It can make us doubt what God said, question what God promised, and run from what God has called us to do.

Fear does not put chains on your hands; it puts them in your mind. And this is torment!

“What if I fail?” “What if I lose it?” “What if they leave?” “What if I don't have enough?” “What if things don't work out?”

Our lesson text gives us the answer to overcoming these fears: **“perfect love casteth out fear.”**

Through God's love, we're able to overcome our fears with faith!

Fear asks, “What if something goes wrong?” Faith declares, “Even if it does, God is still with me!” Fear asks, “What if something bad happen?” Faith declares, “I may not know what is going to happen, but I know Who is going to be with me when it does happen.”

To overcome fear, we must Recognize Our Fear, Resist Our Fear, and Replace Our Fear.

Series and Sermon: Love That Overcomes: Love That Overcomes Fear (From Fear to Faith)

(Confronting What Torments Us, Submitting To Who Keeps Us, Choosing What Guides Us)

I. Recognize Your Fear (Confronting What Torments You)

1 John 4:18 — “...because fear hath torment.”

You cannot overcome a fear that you are unwilling to confront. To recognize your fear is to confront it.

- David recognized Goliath when he said, “Who is the uncircumcised giant?”
- Jesus recognized Legion when he said to the man possessed, “What is your name?”

John recognizes fear in our lesson text, by identifying its greatest characteristic: torment!

Fear can make us experience pain from something that has not even happened. It takes a possibility and turns it into a probability.

Then it takes the probability and convinces you that it is an inevitability; before long, you are suffering today over something that might never happen. That is torment!

Sometimes we disguise fear by giving it other names; “being cautious”, “being realistic”, “thinking things through”, or “protecting yourself or your heart”!

But sometimes what we call caution is really fear keeping us from moving forward.

David understood that fear had to be identified before it could be defeated.

Psalm 34:4 — “I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

David identified his fears, but he also knew where to take them. He said, “I sought the Lord.”

You don't overcome fear by denying it. You overcome fear by bringing it into God's presence.

Psalm 56:3 (NLT)³ But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.

Fear may be an emotion, but trust is a decision.

Feel afraid but obey God. Feel afraid but take the next step. Feel afraid but still believe.

Recognize what frightens you. Recognize what keeps you awake. Recognize what causes you to hesitate. Recognize what has been tormenting your thoughts.

And once you recognize your fear, begin to resist it!

II. Resist Your Fear (Submitting To Who Keeps You)

James 4:7 — “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

We resist what fear says by submitting to what God says.

We are given a powerful principle for overcoming anything the enemy uses against us: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Notice the order: Submission comes before resistance.

Sometimes we are trying to fight fear with our own strength. We tell ourselves, “I'm not going to be afraid. I'm not going to worry. I'm not going to think about it.”

But spiritual resistance does not begin with self-confidence—it begins with God-confidence.

Before James says resist, he says submit: Submit to God Before You Resist Your Fear.

To submit means I bring your thoughts, feelings, and fears under the authority of His Word.

Fear says, “You're not going to make it.” But God says, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Fear says, “You can't handle what is coming.” But God says, “My grace is sufficient for thee.”

Fear says, “Something terrible might happen.” But God says, “All things work together for good to those who love God.”

And once we submit to what God says, we can resist what fear says, and it will flee!

We may feel fear, hear fear, and even come face to face with fear; but when we resist, it flees!

Deuteronomy 28:7 (KJV)⁷ ... they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Recognizing fear identifies what has been tormenting me. Resisting fear declares that it must flee me. Finally replacing fear allows God's faith to guide me.

III. Replace Your Fear (Choosing What Guides You)

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.”

Overcoming fear requires more than casting fear out; we must replace fear with faith.

Something is going to guide our decisions, guide our movement, and guide our response.

The question is: Will it be fear or faith?

If it is fear, know that it doesn't come from God - “God hath not given us the spirit of fear.”

But if it's faith, know that God has given us: “Power, Love, a Sound Mind.”

If it's fear, you feel powerless; but if it's faith, God gives you power.

If it's fear, you feel all alone; but if it's faith, God gives you love.

If it's fear, you lose control; but if it's faith, God gives you a sound mind.

Faith becomes your guide: 2 Corinthians 5:7 — “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Psalms 27:1 — “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Faith replaces worry with worship, panic with prayer, and doubt with declaration.

Conclusion

Fear may have brought you here, but fear does not have to leave you here.

When Faith Overcomes Fear:

No fear: 1 John 4:18 — “Perfect love casteth out fear.”

No weakness: Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

No loneliness: Hebrews 13:5 – “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

No defeat: Isaiah 54:17 declares, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper.”

No separation: Romans 8:38-39 ... neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Love That Overcomes Fear (From Fear to Faith))

Lesson Text

- **Primary Text**
 - **Romans 8:35–39 • 1 John 4:18**
- **Supporting Texts**
 - **James 4:7 • 2 Timothy 1:7**

Sermon Outline

- **I. Recognize Your Fear (Confronting What Torments You)**
- **II. Resist Your Fear (Confidence in Who Keeps You)**
- **III. Replace Your Fear (Choosing What Guides You)**

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

I. Getting To Know “Me”

1. Do you prefer to go to a restaurant you’ve been to before or try someplace new?
2. Do you like to park close to the store or far away from other cars?

II. Into The Bible

1. When we look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, how do the limitations of human love fall short of perfect love?
2. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to trust God with all our hearts. How does acknowledging God in our decisions help replace the fear of the unknown?

III. Life Application

1. What fear are you facing right now, and how is it influencing your thoughts, choices, or actions?
2. What would it look like for you to replace that fear with confidence in God’s love and choose faith instead?