

Fear Replaced By Peace

(Rom 8:15)

- Remember the context is the assurance of justification by faith
- I. “The Spirit of bondage to fear”
 - A) We concluded that this is the convicting work of the Holy Spirit upon those that are to be saved, and the experience is itself an assurance
 - 1. Gal 4:1-6- Parallel passage
 - 2. “First we hear Moses.....there is no going to Zion but by Sinai”- George Whitefield
 - i. Heb 12:18-24- Comparison of Sinai and Zion
 - ii. 1 John 4:16-19- No fear of torment in love
 - B) But there is the positive side of this, and an even greater form of assurance: having been led beyond this bondage to fear
 - 1. All of Rom ch 8 is really an amplification of 8:1-2: “no condemnation”
 - i. This is again a confirmation that our exposition has been correct, for this entire section started with:
 - a) Rom 5:1-2- “We have peace with God and access”
 - b) This also confirms Rom ch 7 and Paul’s detailing the Spirit’s work with the law in bringing the “bondage to fear”
 - 1) Rom 7:24- “Oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?”
 - (a) This is the cry of one in the midst of that bondage
 - 2) Rom 7:25- “I thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord”
 - (a) This is the praise of the one brought beyond it to peace
 - 2. But what about the “fear” of Phil 2:12-13 or 2 Cor 7:1?
 - i. Heb 12:28- Godly fear and reverence isn’t “bondage to fear”
 - a) Compare Heb 12:29 with Heb 4:16
 - C) Does having been brought beyond the Spirit of bondage to fear mean that there will be no doubts, anxieties or fears?
 - 1. There are certain types of personalities that are naturally introverted, and experience more of this than others, as well as depression
 - i. But this doesn’t equate to the “Spirit of bondage to fear” for the 1st time nor “again”
 - a) The devil cannot produce the “Spirit of bondage to fear,” it is exclusively the work of the Holy Spirit
 - 1) He desires us to doubt, “If you are a son of God..”
 - b) It is the application of the scriptures to the mind of the person that reveals the nature of the condition:

- 1) A lost person suffering natural fears finds no remedy in scripture
 - 2) A person who is actually under the “Spirit of bondage to fear” also gets no consolation from the scripture, he must be led to salvation by the Holy Spirit
 - 3) But the saved person, who has fell into this sort of doubt or depression is and will be consoled by the truth of the scriptures concerning justification by faith
 - (a) This doesn’t just mean a “feel good Psalm”
2. Backsliding into sin will also produce this depressed state and cause doubts, as well as periods of suffering
- i. But what is the saved person eventually brought to do in this state? Go to God!
 - a) Compare Psa 51
 - b) The child of God will always be unhappy in his sins
 - 1) But the child of God is not made to cry out again “Who shall deliver me from the body of this death”
 - (a) He instead cries to God like Job 23:3- “Oh that I knew where to find Thee”
 - (b) Song ch 5
 - c) The child of God is aware of the withdrawal of God, or broken fellowship, and seeks to be restored
 - 1) “Thou wouldst not be seeking be seeking Him if thou hadst not already found Him”- Pascal

II. “Spirit of adoption”

- A) Being delivered from the Spirit of bondage is great assurance, but the Lord doesn’t leave it in the negative, He gives us the “Spirit of adoption”
1. It isn’t simply the absence of the old fear, but a new and greater form still of assurance
 2. Just as the Holy Spirit caused the first part of the verse, He also is the cause of the 2nd
 - i. In other words, this is real and subjective, and not simply us convincing ourselves we are being led by the Spirit
 - ii. This causes us to “do” and “feel” certain things:
 - a) “Whereby”- The means through which”
 - b) “We cry”- We are made to cry
 - 1) Gal 4:1-6- “The Spirit cries.....” meaning it is the Spirit that causes us to cry this
 - c) “Cry”- Refers to the sound of a wild bird, “to groan, to cry aloud, to scream”

- 1) Rom 8:26- “Groanings which cannot be uttered” are made by us, and not the Spirit. He cause us to groan
 - 2) These “groanings” bring in the emotions, senses, it is more than formal understanding
 - d) “Adoption”- It is the Spirit of adoption (specific)
 - 1) My consciousness of my adoption by God, it is more than simple “head faith”
 - (a) “Head faith” doesn’t move the emotions, doesn’t stir within
 - 2) My awareness of God’s love for me, as in John 17:23: Perhaps the greatest statement in all the bible
 - 3) It is also the beginning of an awareness that I do possess a certain love for God now
 - (a) 1 John 4:16-19- “We love Him because He first loved us”
 - (b) The reaction produced within the child of God is another form of assurance
 - (1) We become aware of an affection where there was once only fear
 - (2) This is an actual emotion/feeling and can be experienced, just the same as the “Spirit of bondage to fear”
 - (c) We actually begin to “enjoy God” and to seek Him and His communion
 - (d) We begin to be made acutely aware of the fact that no harm can come to us (peace) because we belong to God
 - (1) Same as with an adopted child
 - e) “Abba Father”
 - 1) This isn’t used to show that God is the Savior of gentiles also, as so many so
 - (a) Remember again the context is always the key, and while that fact of gentile salvation is true, it would be completely out of place here (would go nicely in Eph ch 2)
 - 2) “Abba” is a child’s word, equivalent to “daddy or papa”
 - (a) The slave was not allowed to use this word, thus its use confirms adoption and an awareness of it; new relationship
 - (b) The relationship of bondage and fear is over; God is no longer at a distance to the believer
 - (1) Eph 2:13- “Made nigh b y the blood of Christ”
 - 3) Think of what a child cries when they are in trouble or danger: “Abba”
 - (a) Mark 14:36- This is the word the Lord Jesus Christ used in His agony
- *** Try praying “Abba Father” and meditating upon the experience