



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

Fear

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 7

October 25, 2020

Bottom Line: Fearing God is the key to security.

Icebreaker: What's the best Halloween costume you ever had? Does your family participate in Halloween customs/fun? Why or why not? Do you do scary movies? Why or why not?

Key Verse: *Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell.* Matthew 10:28 NLT

Fear is an emotion every human has in common. We try to camouflage and deny it. But it is a fact of life. Like many of the issues we face in this complicated life, balanced fear is actually a necessary part of our lives. Yet, we can't afford to allow fear to lead our lives. Living under the spirit of fear will rob you of life and hope. It keeps us from feeling good, doing good, trusting God. It impacts all of our relationships. When Jesus was here, He repeatedly addressed the disciples on the subject of fear—He knew it would be their greatest hurdle. He said we fear the wrong things—our circumstances. But Jesus says, "Rest assured, God knows and God cares." We are so valued.

Even when bad things are happening, even when your prayers go unanswered, you can trust Him, He knows, and He cares. But we are called to fear God in order to beat the wrong fear. **Fear His position**—He is God with all authority, and we are not. **Fear His power.** He is the Creator of the universe. It is impossible to even imagine what His holiness looks like. The right fear of God is knowing what He CAN do, and what He CHOOSES to do.

The fear of God is for our **protection**. It enables us to know what to fear. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, which means we can get God's perspective on life. I can know what to avoid and what to embrace. The fear of God is also for our **provision**. God is committed to provide for me and take care of all my needs in every area of life.

God tells me that perfect love drives out fear because whatever I fear becomes my master. Fear is part of the human experience, but when I fear correctly, my fear draws me positively TO God, not negatively away.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

How is living without fear in life dangerous?

How is living without fear of God dangerous?

There is an element of truth in every fear experience. Discuss.

What happens when you are governed by the spirit of fear?

What typically triggers your fear?

We get in trouble when we "accumulate facts in our present or past situations and make predictions for our future." Do you have any "war stories" you could share? How do you defeat this tendency?

How does fear keep me from trusting God?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that (Proverbs 29:25). Reflect and discuss.

What does the Word mean by "Only fear the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell"?

How do you properly fear God's position?

How do you properly fear God's power?

How is God currently using His power to protect you?

How does the right fear of God impact your relationships?

The one who fears is not made perfect in love. Discuss this, especially as it currently relates to you.

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate whom/what you fear most.
2. Pray daily in surrender to His position and power.
3. Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT: *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”*

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Fearing God is the key to security.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20

Tuesday: Matthew 14:28-30

Wednesday: Proverbs 29:15

Thursday: Proverbs 14:26

Friday: Acts 9:31

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)