



Session 2 Move Past Fear -

False Evidence Appearing Real

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Love and fear are complete opposites, leading you into two different directions in life. Fear will lead you into the depths of darkness, where satan and his demonic realm will rule over your life. Whereas God's love will lead you into experiencing His Kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy, and the life of God Himself. Fear gives you that feeling of foreboding darkness, while love gives that feeling that everything will be all right.
- B. What is fear? Fear as a noun is defined as a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined, the feeling or condition of being afraid. (Dictionary.com)

II. WILL YOU CHOOSE FEAR OR LOVE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS?

- A. To help you to understand a threat that is real versus a threat that is imagined, let us explore the difference between virtual and real cattle grids. A virtual cattle grid is made up of consecutive white striped lines painted across the roadway, that appear like a real cattle grid to the cattle, causing them to not cross over it, when in reality they can. This causes the cattle to stay within the boundaries of its owner.
- B. Fear can cause you to think that something is real when it is not, just like the virtual cattle grids, preventing you to advance into your future beyond the boundaries of the fear-provoking situations. What are the virtual realities in your life, that prevent you from living out your dreams and the good plans – the future and the hope – that God has for your life?
- C. A real cattle grid is usually made of metal bars over a pit. The bars are spaced in such a fashion that if an animal tries to cross it, it gets its legs or hoofs stuck between the metal bars, causing the cattle to stay within the confines of the boundary of the owner. What are the real threats in your life, that are causing you to become so afraid that you have decided to live within boundaries that seem safe, but in reality they are imprisoning you from becoming all God has created you to be and preventing you from moving into the good plans that God has for you?
- D. King David faced real threats throughout his life. He was given a prophetic word in his youth that he would be the king of Israel, but he met a lot of opposition along the way as King Saul along with the entire Israelite army relentlessly pursued to kill him. David speaks of this intense opposition in Psalm 27.
 - 1. If King David gave into his fears, he would have never reached his personal destiny on this earth as king over all of Israel and Israel would have never reached all that God had for them during that historical period.

2. Did he do this perfectly at all times? No, but he had made a resolute decision in his life that he was not going to be afraid – that He was not going to allow anyone or anything to become bigger than the presence of God – the reality of God.
3. Make David’s unwavering decisions from the depths of your own heart in the face of each and every fear provoking situation that you face.

*Psalm 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?*

Psalm 27: 3 Though army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

- E. No matter what fear-provoking threats you are facing – whether they are virtual or real, you have a choice to either give into fear or to go the opposite direction into God’s love. Fear will imprison and confine you, but God’s love will set you free.
- F. What causes cattle to not want to cross the virtual cattle grid?
 1. One theory is that they think they don’t have the depth perception to tell the difference between the real and the virtual cattle grid. Your spiritual depth perception, seeing from God’s perspective, is huge when it comes to going in the direction of fear or going in the direction of God’s love.
 2. Another theory of why the cattle do not cross over the virtual grid lines is because of their own experience or from the experiences of other cattle.
 3. One interesting thing that they have discovered regarding the virtual cattle grids, is that if one member of a herd discovers it can step safely on the lines, the others will follow.
- G. David found the secret of having his spiritual depth perception of God being constantly enlarged from a very young age, when he was found singing and playing on his harp as he tended his father’s sheep. And, King David constantly stepped on “the virtual and real cattle grid lines” in his life. And as a result he positioned the Israelite nation to have peace on every side under his son’s Solomon’s reign. (I Kings 5:4)
 1. It was through worship where David was able to behold the beauty and greatness of God. And, it was through worship, where he was able to enter into the presence of the Lord and not be afraid.
 2. King David was not afraid of fighting Goliath because his perception of God was so much bigger and greater than Goliath. The other Israelites on the other hand did not have the same firsthand knowledge like King David did, so their perception of Goliath elicited fear.
 3. Because David had already fought and won battles with God on his side, he had developed his own personal history with God. *1 Samuel 17:33-36*

4. As a result, his confidence grew in God to such a degree that he makes bold declarations of faith in Psalm 27:1-6. In Psalm 27:2 David recalled past events when his enemies came against him and were utterly defeated. In Psalm 27:3 David runs through the scenarios about the “what ifs” that his future may hold and says “even though” an army is encircling me or war rises up against me, I will trust in God and I will not be afraid.
- H. The Psalms constantly reflect David making this quality decision to place his confidence in God and to not be afraid. The Psalms that David wrote and sang have fed many lives throughout the ages with strength and courage that they may never have had, bringing people to personally encounter God and to dwell in His presence.
 - I. David’s life of worship and dwelling in God’s presence despite what was going on around him, points us to Jesus, the true and greater David. Choice by choice Jesus chose the love of His Father, worshipping Him and following His leadership, even when it meant death on the cross.
 - J. Because Jesus endured the cross and was triumphed over death itself, each one of us can now step on and over the real and virtual cattle grids that held us captive in the kingdom of darkness. We do this by believing in Jesus and His victorious work of the cross.

III. WHAT EVIDENCE ARE YOU BELIEVING?

- A. An acronym for FEAR:
F - False **E** - Evidence **A** - Appearing **R** – Real
- B. In life you have one of two realities you can live from.
 1. One reality is earth-bound – the kingdom of darkness. This reality limits you to your natural senses and reasoning of what you can see, hear, touch, and experience.
 2. The other reality is limitless as it deals with the unseen realm and the greatness of our God and His kingdom.
 3. David describes these two realities in Psalm 27 and makes a quality decision to live in God’s presence, the house of the Lord, while he is here on this earth. From this decision he rejects the fears of this earth, so that he can live eternally in this reality.
- C. You can enter into the reality of God’s kingdom, to “dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life to behold His beauty and to inquire in His temple” (Ps. 27:4) through faith. In the New Covenant, you have been granted access into God’s kingdom and into “the Holiest” by the blood of Jesus. (Heb. 10:19; Rom. 5:1-2)
- D. God wants you to come anytime, especially in the time of your need, into His presence - His throne of grace. And, He desires for you to come with great confidence in His great love for you. (Hebrews 4:16)

- E. It is in God’s presence, that you will be able to walk confidently forward in life with God and without fear, regardless of your adversaries and the contrary natural evidence.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

- F. God invited David as seen in Psalm 27 to these face-to-face encounters, just like He does you and I. God said to David, “Seek My face.” How will you respond to God? Will you respond like King David did, “My heart said to You, Your face, Lord, I will seek” ? (Psalm 27:5)
- G. The challenge each one of us encounter throughout life is to live the “one thing” lifestyle – to seek God’s face and to always see His face before our eyes, so that no matter what we see on this earth we are not shaken.

Acts 2:25 I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

- H. When you take your eyes off of God and put them onto the circumstances, you will be prone to the “False Evidence that Appears Real.” God calls you to fix your eyes on what is eternal – to set your mind on the things above – and not what is temporal, the things that are subject to change. (Col. 3:1-2)

2 Corinthians 4:18 ... while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- I. According to the Bible, especially the New Covenant, what is the “False Evidence Appearing Real”?

It is any temporal evidence that contradicts the eternal Word of God, especially the eternal evidence of what Jesus Christ has already done for us through His victorious work of the cross for our salvation.

- J. When you put on the rose colored glasses, which represent what Jesus’ blood has done, you are able to have a depth perception like you have never had before.

1. You are able to see what Jesus Christ has already done for you through the work of the cross. (Ps. 103:3-5)
2. You are able to behold the glory of the Lord in the face of Jesus Christ, so that you are transformed into His image. (2 Cor. 3:18)

- K. You are able to see what is the “true evidence” from the “false evidence”.

True Evidence – “The Truth” is Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh.

False Evidence – Satan is the one who blinds people’s minds so that they succumb to FEAR: “False Evidence Appearing Real,” which occur from satan’s fear-provoking lies. Satan is a liar.

- L. Satan gives you “False Evidence Appearing Real” (F.E.A.R) because it prevents you from seeing the Truth (John 14:6), even when He is in your midst. (Mt. 13:14-15) Jesus spoke about how “the gods of this age have blinded the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4).

IV. FEAR OF THE LORD

- A. Fear defined as a verb: to regard with fear; be afraid of; to have reverential awe of. (Dictionary.com)
- B. David chose to live in reverential awe of God, the fear of the Lord, rather than in the place of fear regarding the circumstantial evidence. The main way that David entered into this place of reverential awe is through worship.

Psalm 27:6 Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

- C. Through worship, David set the Lord continually before His face. As he did this David encountered God’s supernatural protection along with the defeat of his adversaries.

Psalm 27:3 When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me... in the secret place of His tabernacle...

- D. To fear the Lord means that you are trusting in the Lord for your salvation. When you place your trust in God – in His name and His Word, you access His protection, provision, and power.

Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation... The Lord is the strength of my life... 9 You have been my help... 10 The Lord will take care of me.

- E. Fearing the Lord involves following His ways - His commandments. The more you perceive Who God is, being able to behold His face, the more you will be desire to yield to God’s ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 27:11 Teach me Your way, O lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.

Psalm 112:1 Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.

- F. God’s 10 commandments are all based on love, His nature. The first five deal with you and I loving God more than anything else. Your worship, your love for God, will be seen by how you prioritize your time, energy, and resources.

- G. Jesus’ teaches on the first and greatest of all commandments.

Mark 12:20-31 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.

V. SATAN TRICKS ADAM AND EVE TO WORSHIP HIM

- A. Satan understood the ways of God – that he was to worship God – have a reverential awe of God, but he chose to rebel against God’s ways. The basis of his rebellion was that he desired to be worshipped, rather than worshipping God.
- B. When God created Adam and Eve - the first of the human race - and saw that they were created in the exact likeness and image of God Himself, in the image and likeness of love, satan set into motion a plan so that they would not become worshippers of God, but rather would worship him.
- C. Satan did this by deceiving Adam and Eve with his fear-filled lies – F.E.A.R. = **F**alse **E**vidence **A**ppearing **R**eal, that he presented to them. His fear-provoking suggestions caused them to question God’s Word, just like he wanted.
- D. Satan’s fear-filled words appealed to Adam and Eve’s natural reasoning and to their natural senses, which caused them to take their focus off of God and His love based commandment and put them unto satan.
- E. Without realizing it, they had played right into the enemy’s hand. Instead of worshipping God, they had begun to worship satan.

VI. POWER TO YIELD TO GOD’S LOVE

- A. Adam and Eve’s core identity was marred. Instead of the Spirit of God, the spirit of love, ruling over their lives and that of their descendants, the spirit of fear and death entered into the world dominating mankind’s thoughts and actions. Mankind was held in bondage under the kingdom of darkness.
- B. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, however, God has made a way for mankind to be restored back to their original identity, back to being made in the image and likeness of God’s love. Each and every person has a choice once again to choose the way of love over the way of fear and death.
- C. As a born again believer you have been made a new creation in Christ. You have been given a new heart and a new spirit. (2 Cor. 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26-27, Romans 8:10)
- D. As a new creation in Christ, you are filled with God’s love.
Romans 5:5 The love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- E. Because you have been given the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ - the Spirit of "power, love, and a sound mind," fear no longer has the power to rule over you.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- F. Your spirit has been united with the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 6:17) This means that your spirit, which used to be under the dominion of satan and ruled by fear, is now under the dominion of God and is under the influence of His love.
- G. Your reborn spirit is to have dominion over your flesh – your soul and your body. In order for this to happen, you need to retrain yourself to walk by the spirit and not the flesh - to walk by the leadership of God’s love, rather than to be led by fear. (Gal. 5:25)
- H. Submit to God’s love and resist fear like you would resist the devil himself.

James 4:7 Therefore submit (yield) to God – (God’s love). Resist the devil (fear) and he will flee from you.

- I. Yield is another word for submit. Make a quality decision today and this week to yield to God’s love and not to fear.
- J. To love God wholeheartedly, David knew he had to say “no to fear” and “yes to God’s love.” David connected to God in worship and prayer, which enabled him to live with a wholehearted response to loving God.
- K. God desires each one of you yield to His love, rather than yield to your flesh and the “False Evidence Appearing Real”. When you feel yourself being driven by fear and fear-provoking situations, slow down and stop, so that you can allow God’s love, His goodness to pass before your eyes.
- L. One of best ways you can yield to God’s love is through worship and prayer – through connecting your heart to God’s heart. (Acts 13:22)
- M. Because David yielded his heart to God, David looked past the “False Evidence Appearing Real” to behold God Himself. He declared:
- I will not fear!
 - I will trust in God!
 - I will seek His face and dwell in His presence!
 - I will offer sacrifices of joy
 - I will sing praises to God.