

The Degree of Fear or Faith We Experience Depends on WHO we are Depending On

Today's Scripture Text:

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.
Proverbs 29:25

1. Dependence on Man Results in Fear (Prov 29:25a)

His parents said these things because **they feared** the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. **John 9:22**

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but **for fear** of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. **John 12:42-43**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man."
Matthew 26:69-72

2. Dependence on God Results in Faith (Prov 29:25b)

Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD...Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD." **Jeremiah 17:5,7**

We know how much God loves us, and we have **put our trust in his love**. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be **afraid** on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has **no fear**, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that **we have not fully experienced his perfect love**. **1John 4:16-18** NLT

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **1John 4:9**

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. **Acts 11:24**

Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 6:5**

For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. **Galatians 5:5**

I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you **believe** the message you heard about Christ. **Galatians 3:5** NLT

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. **Romans 10:17** NLT

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