

Let Us Avoid Being Fearful
(1 John 4:18)

Introduction:

1. In Mark 4:40 Jesus asked His disciples a question after He calmed the storm by saying, "Peace, be still" -- "Why are ye so fearful?"
2. In 1 John 4:18 the Bible teaches us why we must avoid being fearful as well as how to avoid it.
3. In our lesson we are covering a number of passages that show us:
 - a. why we must avoid being fearful
 - 1) We will look at some Bible characters that struggled with "fear."
 - 2) We will look at the consequences they faced because of "fear."
 - b. how to avoid being fearful.
4. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE ADDRESSES DIFFERENT TYPES OF "FEAR"
 - A. On the positive side, the Bible teaches us to "*fear God*" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
 1. This type of "fear" involves respect, honor, and reverence.
 2. This type of "fear" will lead us to do God's will [this point is well illustrated by Noah -- Hebrews 11:7].
 - B. On the negative side, the Bible teaches us not to allow our hearts to be filled with "fear" (John 14:27).
 1. This type of "fear" involves dread, apprehension, anxiety, etc.
 2. This type of "fear" must not be confused with "caution."
 - C. With these general matters before us, let us allow the Bible to show us . . .
- II. WHY WE MUST AVOID BEING FEARFUL [A number of Bible characters struggled with "fear," and they faced some serious consequences]
 - A. Abraham
 1. He demonstrated his "fear" in Genesis 20:1-2, 10-11.
 2. "Fear" led Abraham to practice deceit.
 - B. Moses
 1. He demonstrated his "fear" in Exodus 3:11, 13; 4:1, 10.
 2. "Fear" led Moses to offer excuses to God.
 - C. Elijah
 1. He demonstrated his "fear" in 1 Kings 19:1-4.
 2. "Fear" caused Elijah to become despondent.
 - D. Job
 1. He demonstrated his "fear" in Job 3:25.
 2. Job's "fear" became a reality.
 - E. Peter
 1. He demonstrated his "fear" in Matthew 14:30; 26:69-75.
 2. Peter's "fear" caused him to sink in the water and to deny Jesus.
 - F. The one-talent man
 1. He demonstrated his "fear" in Matthew 25:24-25.
 2. "Fear" prevented this man from using what he had been given.
 - G. These Bible characters show us why we must avoid being fearful.
 - H. Let us turn our attention to some verses that teach us . . .
- III. HOW TO AVOID BEING FEARFUL
 - A. We must remember that the Lord forbids "fear."
 - B. We must remember that "fear" does not come from God (2 Timothy 1:7).
 - C. We must remember what will happen to "*the fearful*" (Revelation 21:8).
 - D. We must place our trust in God, especially when it comes to things that are unknown (Proverbs 3:5-6).

E. We must live one day at a time (Matthew 6:34).

F. We must fill our hearts with love (1 John 4:18).

Conclusion:

1. Do you "fear" God?
2. Do not let the wrong kind of "fear" prevent you from doing what He wants you to do.