

## Fearless 2 – 05/15/11

Fear is the great inhibitor.

Fear says “No” before you ever get the chance to consider “Yes.”

Fear removes God from the equation.

When God would give instructions about the future, He would often precede it with the words, “Fear Not.”

More than 100 times in the Bible we are told to “FEAR NOT.”

All fear is rooted in the absence of God from the circumstance.

Fear forecasts the future based upon the assumption that God’s power and grace will be absent.

### What is fear?

- Fear is a BELIEF, conviction or persuasion of the heart, which governs our lives and choices, based upon external evidence and experiences that leads us to eliminate God and His resources from our future.

### What is faith?

- Faith is a BELIEF, conviction or persuasion of the heart, which governs our lives and choices based upon evidence provided by the Word and Faithfulness of God, which leads us to project God and His resources into our future.

**II Corinthians 5:7** - For we walk by faith, not by sight—or that is why we live by believing and not by seeing.

The trajectory of our lives is not determined by our desires, education, prayers or even the will of God, but rather on the beliefs that govern our hearts.

### Obvious Beliefs vs. Conflicting Beliefs

The fears that torment us are not those that are “**OBVIOUS**,” but rather those that are “**HIDDEN**” and have become “**EMBEDDED**” into our hearts and thus become “**CONFLICTING BELIEFS**.”

### Marriage and Conflicting Beliefs

**OBVIOUS BELIEF**      I vow to . . . **GIVE**  
**CONFLICTING BELIEF**    I expect to . . . **RECEIVE**

**CONFLICTING BELIEF** – I get married *promising* to be a giver and leave the altar *expecting* to receive.

### This conflicting belief will:

- Make your ability to give to your spouse **CONDITIONAL**.
- **Make you base your love and willingness to GIVE on your FEELINGS.**
- Make you ask the wrong question:

- Have I found a partner who will meet my needs? *Real Question* – Have I found a partner that I can devote my life to in order to meet his or her needs?
- **Cause you to live in FEAR of not getting your needs met and marital failure, and instead will undermine your ability to meet your partner’s needs, which brings marital success.**

## **Receiving from God and Conflicting Beliefs**

### **I John 4:18-19**

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment and so he who is afraid (of punishment from God) has not reached the full maturity of love and is not yet grown into love's complete perfection.

19 We love Him, because He first loved us.

What conflicting belief do we have about God that negates our ability to trust Him and receive from Him?

**OBVIOUS BELIEF** – God loves me

**CONFLICTING BELIEF** – God wants to punish me.

**CONFLICTING BELIEF** – It is impossible to receive good from the hand of God, while possessing a “**Conflicting Belief**,” that produces a **FEAR** that God is your “**Punisher**.”

We often focus our pursuit of Bible knowledge on the areas of the Word of God that we know we believe or that center on our need.

In reality, we should be focusing upon that which we have embraced that “opposes our beliefs.”

We would assume that the issue is a lack of faith in God as our provider. From this perspective we begin our quest to obtain more faith about God as our provider.

Let us say that in this scenario the person has guilt about a past occurrence or sin. Guilt always assumes the need for punishment; the King James terminology for this is condemnation.

In the expectation of punishment, it is impossible to experience God as provider.

It is impossible to experience God as “provider” while at a deeper level expecting Him to be your “punisher.”

More faith in God as provider will not bring the desired result. There must first be a resolution to the conflicting belief.

What this person really needs is more faith in God’s love, mercy and forgiveness, not more faith for provision.

The underlying or “Conflicting Belief” that God is the “Punisher” is the problem, not the “Obvious Belief” that “God is love.”

The underlying or conflicting belief would be identified as “OUR DOUBT” or fear of the absence of God in meeting our needs.

Doubt doesn't mean that we aren't convinced that the Word of God is true, it is that we have a conflicting belief that undermines the power of the Word of God in our lives.

Doubt does not mean that you do not believe God. It speaks of a determination or judgment that you have made about something else. In other words, there is something else you believe; there is some contradictory belief that is more real to you than what you believe about God."

God's love for you should cause you to believe He has a plan for your life and that plan is for your good.

**Deuteronomy 6:24** - And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.