

DISSOLVING FEAR

I Peter 1:1-9

I John 5:1-4

I Corinthians 1:26-31

Romans 11:33-36

Covid-19, human trafficking, gender confusion, internet pornography, a roller coaster Dow Jones Industrial Average, teenage suicides, North Korea, the Middle East, terrorism, racial unrest, distrust of government, and economic uncertainty.

Reports about the condition of our world pump fear, anxiety, and discouragement at us from every corner. What are we to do? How do we counter the tidal wave of evil darkness and denigration that surrounds us?

The Bible gives us elements that dissolve fear.

¹ PETER, AN apostle (a special messenger) of Jesus Christ, [writing] to the elect exiles of the dispersion scattered (sowed) abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² Who were chosen *and* foreknown by God the Father and consecrated (sanctified, made holy) by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and to be sprinkled with [His] blood: May grace (spiritual blessing) and peace be given you in increasing abundance [that spiritual peace to be realized in and through Christ, freedom from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts].

³ Praised (honored, blessed) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)! By His boundless mercy we have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, - **I Peter 1:1-3 AMPC**

- We are resident aliens.
 - We are commissioned here on earth.
 - We are 'credentialed' from Heaven. (See **II Corinthians 5:18-21**)
 - We have been chosen by the sanctifying work of God's Spirit to obey Jesus and live forgiven and forgiving others. **I Peter 1:1-2** (see also **I John 1:7**)

Here is a great confession and declaration you can use in prayer: *According to **I Peter 1:2-3**, I have been chosen by God and the sanctifying work of His Spirit to obey the Lord Jesus in all things. By His boundless mercy, I have been born again to an ever-living hope through the power of His resurrection from the dead.*

- He has chosen us and caused us to be born again to a living hope!
 - Are you:
 - Jumping through religious hoops?

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- Jaded from religious hype?
 - Jilted by religious hurts?
- OR**
- Empowered and living by hope?

The First element that dissolves fear is a living hope.

⁴to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of souls. **I Peter 1:4-9 NASB**

- He has caused us to obtain an inheritance.
 - Imperishable – it’s everlasting.
 - Undefiled – it’s pure, perfect, and permanent.
 - It will NOT fade away – neither time, pressure, or exposure can touch it.
 - Available by reservation only.
- We believers are protected, guarded, and garrisoned by the power of God until... **(I Peter 1:5)**
- Faith empowered eyes can see and rejoice in the fear defeating truth of the hope that lives in us. **(I peter 1:6-9)**

¹Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **I John 5:1-4 NASB**

The power of obedient love...

- Lovingly obeying Him (we are chosen to be able to do so!) proves our love for Him, the family of God, and those who have yet to know Him.
- Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. **I John 5:4**

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For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. **Galatians 5:6**

- Faith works through love and when we love Him, we obey Him, as when we obey, we are loving Him.
- ..."and His commandments are not burdensome, because everything that has been born of God is constantly coming off victorious over the world, our faith. Who is he that is constantly coming off victorious over the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." **I John 5:4 Wuest Translation**
- The God-birthed faith in you overcomes the world and the fear the world throws at you because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

The second element that dissolves fear...whatever is born of God overcomes the world.

²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD." **I Corinthians 1:26-31 NASB**

- ..." God has chosen the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are." (**I Corinthians 1:28**)
- "By His doing, you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption." **I Corinthians 1:30**
 - Wisdom – right perspective
 - Righteousness – right standing
 - Sanctification – right living
 - Redemption – right relationship
 - God loves to nullify the fear of the world, the flesh, and the devil propagate by empowering people to experience His perfect love that overpowers fear. \

The third element of dissolving fear is the nullification factor.

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³³Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? ³⁵Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? ³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen. **Romans 11 33-36 NASB**

- ... “for from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things, to Him be the glory forever. Amen” **Romans 11:36 NASB**
- ... “yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are and through whom we exist. **I Corinthians 8:6**

The fourth element in dissolving fear is the ultimate supremacy of who Jesus is.

These elements actively energized by the Holy Spirit dissolve fear in our lives:

A living hope
An overcoming faith
The nullification factor
The supremacy of Jesus