

Chapter 2

We Have Been Delivered From Fear

God has already delivered us from fear. The foundational verse in Hebrews 2 says that Jesus went through death, so that He might deliver them who were bound by the fear of death all through their lifetime.

Notice in **2 Timothy 1:7** that fear is a spirit. This verse does not simply refer to a spirit of fear but the spirit of fear. Fear is a personality. Fear doesn't just come by itself. There is a design behind fear. There is a source and master plan behind fear. Fear comes from only one source. The scripture says God is not the source of fear. God is a Spirit but not the spirit of fear. **2 Timothy 1:7** says God has given us the spirit of power, the spirit of love and the spirit of a sound mind. **Galatians 5:22** lists the fruit of the recreated spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Fear is not included in this list. Fear is not a part of the fruit of the spirit.

We know from scripture (**1 John 4:8**) that God is love. **1 John 4:18** says perfect love casts out fear. Light and darkness cannot co-exist in the same place at the same time. Perfect love and fear cannot dwell together in the same house. If God is love and love casts out fear, then fear must not be from God. Since the spirit of fear does not come from God, we must conclude that the

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personality and the source behind fear is the devil.

The good news in **Hebrews 2: 14-15** is that Jesus went through death so that He might destroy the devil and release us from bondage to fear. The devil had the power of death until Jesus took that power away from him. After we become born again, we need to realize that we are no longer in bondage to fear or to Satan. However, it is possible for us to remain in ignorance and not claim the freedom that has been provided for us through the death, burial and resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ. The devil still has the power of death over those who are not born again.

Satan cannot get into our lives and overcome us unless we give him permission. The Bible says in **Ephesians 4:27** that we should not give any place to the devil. This means that the devil cannot have any place in us unless we give him that place. When the spirit of fear tries to attach itself to us and succeeds, then it means we have given him access or an open door in our lives. The devil cannot do anything in our lives unless we allow him to do it. The surprising truth is that even if someone is not born again, the devil still cannot do anything in that person's life unless he finds an open door.

Do you know that even God cannot do anything in our lives unless we give him permission? If it was all left to God, then all of us Christians will be prosperous and healthy because that is God's will for us. It is God's will

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for us to be healed (**3 John 2**). The reason God sent His son to die on the cross was that we would be saved and healed. The Bible says, "*By His stripes, we are healed*" (**Isaiah 53:5**). God wants to come into our lives and be a blessing to us but He chooses to wait until we give Him permission. See what God says in the Book of Revelation:

"Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him"
(Revelation 3:20).

So, neither God nor Satan can work in our lives without our permission. God is a good God. He only brings good things into your life. God wants to save you, deliver you, heal you and prosper you. But His hands are tied until you allow Him. The devil, on the other hand, wants to steal from you. He wants to kill you. He wants to destroy you. God tells us in **John 10:10** that "*the thief (the devil) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I (God) have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.*"

Remember that neither God nor the devil can do anything in our lives unless we allow them. If it was all left to Satan, he would have destroyed all of us. Satan has absolutely no love for humanity. But he does not have free access into our lives unless we give it to him.

We learn from several scriptures that the way we allow God into our lives is through faith.

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Faith comes to us by sowing the Word of God into our lives and watering that Word on a daily basis.

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10: 17).

The more we develop our faith in God, the more we allow Him to show Himself strong in our lives. We let God into our lives through the door of faith.

The opposite of faith is fear. We let Satan into our lives through the door of fear. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God and fear comes by hearing the word of the devil. Fear is the door or path through which the devil enters into our lives and our affairs. We are going to see from this Bible that there is a way for us to shut the devil out. We will learn how to open the door for God to manifest Himself in our lives. We will also learn how to shut the door to fear and to Satan.

Everything doesn't just happen to you, because we are in this world. We have more control than we realize over the things which happen in our lives. Our own choices determine how much good or bad things happen in our lives. We hold the keys that can open or lock the door to either God or Satan. A lot of Christians go through life asking "why?" Through our discussions in this book, we will get a better understanding and get the "whys" out of our lives.