

# Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

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## January 14th, 2018 - Christiana's Progress

Stage 6 - Part 4 (pages 66-70)

Fear is a topic that we've covered a few times already in our reviews, and today, as you've read, one Mr. Feeble-Mind tells of his kinship or close relation to Mr. Fearing who we read about the other week. I'd encourage you to read or re-read the message review from December 3, 2017 where we talk in detail about Mr. Fearing. So today we'll see the fruit of fear in Mr. Feeble-Mind. Let's read a portion of the script;

*"GAIUS. "Well, now you are here, and since, as I know, Mr. Great-Heart is handy with his weapons, if you please, after we have refreshed ourselves, we will walk into the fields to see if we can do any good. About a mile from here, there is one Slay-good, a giant, that greatly annoys the King's highway in these parts; and I know where his haunt is. He is master of a number of thieves: it would be well if we could clear these parts of him."*

*So they agreed, and went: Mr. Great-Heart with his sword, helmet, and shield; and the rest with spears and staves.*

*When they came to the place where he was, they found him with one Feeble-mind in his hand, whom his servants had brought to him, having taken him in the way. Now, the giant was rifling his pockets, with the purpose later to pick his bones; for he was of the nature of flesh eaters."*

This giant was shaking down Mr. Feeble-Mind wanting to take everything he had and then to kill him. My question is; what demon of fear has taken you or some of your Christian brothers and sisters off the Kings Highway - the Christian walk, the call and election on your life - and is rifling through your pockets, with the intent of not only robbing, but killing and destroying your relationship with Jesus? The intent isn't just to rob, but to ultimately kill him. The devil isn't wanting to take captives, unless he can use you for a while for his purpose, but then it's to totally annihilate you. He's got a plan to take you as a Christian off of the Kings Highway - off of the purpose that God has called you to, that not only affects you, but your family, and other brother's and sister's in Christ.

**John 10:10** says clearly; *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* God has an abundant plan for the call and election on your life and for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

There's an abundant life to be found in Christ, a sound mind, but it will require you to stop fellowshiping with fear. Do you allow fear to natter in your ear? So long as your fellowshiping with fear, the devil has the right to take you off the Kings Highway. If you're in koinonia with the spirit of fear, listening to it, thinking about it, waking up in the middle of the night because of its torment and adhering to it, your heart is racing because of it, it means your adversary the devil has access to your life.

This is what fellowshiping with fear leads to as we read the meaning and secular perspective of feeble minded; it means a person who is unable to make intelligent decisions or judgments. Some synonyms are; stupid, idiotic, foolish, witless and empty-headed to name a few. It's a person having less than average intelligence. How often do we see that or have done it ourselves calling or being called by these names? You haven't been able to rise to the occasion of intelligence as you're peers or leaders want you to be. It happens day in and day out. It may be real, or not, or it could be a lie the devil is wanting to sow into your mind to get you to believe. Regardless, there is a spirit of fear that is behind it.

Here's a definition now from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, which is different than what we just read as it really has nothing to do with being idiotic. It says; *"Only in 1 Thessalonians 5:14 the King James*

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

*Version, in the sense of "fainthearted," as in the Revised Version (British and American). In Septuagint it is used as the equivalent of koshel, the tottering or feeble-kneed in Isaiah 35:3; 54:6; oligopsuchia occurs in Septuagint twice (Exodus 6:9; Psalms 54:7), for "anguish of spirit" and "trouble." The term refers to weakness of will and vacillation of purpose rather than to idiocy or morbid imbecility."*

So behind faintheartedness is the spirit of fear. Let's read the scriptures that are quoted above. I **Thessalonians 5:14** it says; *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."* This is our action to take as a Christian, we're to comfort the fainthearted, not to gossip, judge or talk about them, but to uphold them.

**Isaiah 35:3** says; *"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees."* If you see them going down, take them by the hand, help them, pray for them as there is fear trying to take them down. Now I'd just like to clarify that we are not talking about a person who is mentally incapacitated, but someone who has all their mental faculties in order, yet have opened the door to fear in some area of their life which is bringing on these symptoms.

**Psalms 54:7** says; *"For He has delivered me out of all trouble; and my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies."*

The script continues with this; *"Well, as soon as he saw Mr. Great-Heart and his friends at the mouth of his cave with their weapons, he demanded what they wanted."*

Don't let the devil demand anything out of you but rather respond like Mr. Great-Heart; *"We want you; for we have come to revenge the quarrels of the many you have slain among the pilgrims, when you dragged them out of the King's highway: wherefore, come out of your cave."* We know that we have authority in Jesus name to bind satan and his demonic assignments that are set out against us.

**Philippians 4:6-7** is an excellent cure for anxiety. It says; *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Speak blessing over that which is getting you to walk in fear, give thanks to Jesus that he's working on your behalf and it will be a guard over your heart and MIND.

This encounter with Mr. Great-Heart and Slay-good was fierce and lasted a long while. And yes, sometimes you're going to have to tarry for more than an hour in prayer fighting the devil that's robbing you or your fellow Christian brothers and sisters. It might even involve some angelic intervention, just remember where it says in **Romans 16:20**; *"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly."*

**Hebrews 2:14-15** says; *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, " and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*

The script continues with these defiant words by Slay-Good; *"Why are you here on my ground?"*

*MR. GREAT-HEART. "To revenge the blood of pilgrims, as I told you before."*

*So they went at it again, and the giant made Mr. Great-Heart give way; but he came up again, and in the greatness of his mind he let fly with such a strong blow at the giant's head and sides that he made him drop his weapon from his hand. So he smote him, and slew him, and cut off his head, and brought it away to the inn."*

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

Do you notice it says that Great-Heart came against him with his mind? How often do you read in the Bible how the mind affects our lives. Most all spiritual warfare takes place in our mind, it's the battleground. Here are a number of scriptures that talk about the mind and our thoughts.

- **1 John 2:13-14** says; "*I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one."*
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** says; "*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."*
- **Colossians 3:1-3** says; "*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*
- **Romans 8:5**; "*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."*
- **1 Peter 5:6-7**; "*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."*
- **Matthew 22:37**; "*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*"

Now Feeble-Mind confesses and shares how this giant Slay-Good captured him. The script continues saying; "*Then they asked Mr. Feeble-Mind how he came to fall into his hands.*"

*MR. FEEBLE-MIND. "I am a sick man, as you see: and because death usually once a day knocks at my door, I thought I should never be well at home; so I took myself to a pilgrim's life, and have travelled here from the town of Uncertain, where I and my father were born. I am a man of no strength at all of body, nor yet of mind, but would, if I could, though I can crawl, spend my life in the pilgrim's way."*

You may be or you may know someone who has come to Jesus on their death bed, and they know from the gospel that's been preached to them that their eternal destination in heaven depends on their decision to accept or reject Christ here on earth. He's got his spiritual house in order. **Matthew 16:24-25** says clearly; "*Then Jesus said to his disciples: If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find it.*"

We see how Jesus was moved with compassion when he saw many weak and destitute people that were following him. We read in **Matthew 9:36**; "*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*" This same compassion we read is what he had for Mr. Feeble-Mind when he came to the gate to get born again, he had compassion on him.

**Matthew 11:28-29** also says; "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*" You have to push through to touch Jesus like the woman with the issue of blood who pushed through the crowds to touch Jesus garment and she was healed.

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

We read the following where Feeble-Mind acknowledges fellow Christians who came along side him in his journey being in the weak state that he was. They even carried him to church (the Interpreter's House); *"When I came to the house of the Interpreter, I received much kindness there: and because the hill Difficulty was judged too hard for me, I was carried up by one of his servants. Indeed, I have found much relief from pilgrims, though none were willing to go as softly as I am forced to do. Yet, still, as they come on, they bid me be of good cheer, and say that it was the will of their Lord that comfort should be given to the feeble-minded. (1 Thess. 5:14); and so they went on at their own pace."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** says; *"My friends, we beg you to warn anyone who isn't living right. Encourage anyone who feels left out, help all who are weak, and be patient with everyone."* Isn't that powerful. The world usually promotes those who are strong, healthy, have a strong mind and are skilled. God's will though in the church is to be inclusive of those we are reading about today. He always looks out for the lost sheep, the wayward and outcast.

**Romans 12:9-11** says; *"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."* If you've been a Christian for a while, these scriptures can almost become cliché unfortunately, because it's easy to lose the application process to our life isn't it. Jesus wants us to walk them out every day though.

Here we see now the identity with Mr. Fearing. It says;

*MR. HONEST. "Have you not, sometime ago, been acquainted with one Mr. Fearing, a pilgrim?"*

*MR. FEEBLE-MIND. "Acquainted with him! Yes, he came from the town of Stupidity, which lies four degrees north of the city of Destruction, and as many off from where I was born: yet we were well acquainted, for indeed he was my uncle, my father's brother. He and I have been much of the same: he was a little shorter than I, but yet we were much of the same complexion."*

**The spirit of fear is well acquainted with an unsound mind - a feeble-minded person. Feeble-mindedness is the fruit of the spirit of fear, it's not vice versa.** **2 Timothy 1:7** says; *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* As a Christian then, this is your sword that you speak to fear when it tries to attack you.

Matthew Henry's Commentary says the following about this; *"The spirit God gives to his ministers is not a fearful, but a courageous spirit; it is a spirit of power, for they speak in his name who has all power, both in heaven and earth; and it is a spirit of love, for love to God and the souls of men must inflame ministers in all their service; and it is a spirit of a sound mind, for they speak the words of truth and soberness."*

*MR. HONEST. "I see you knew him, and I am apt to believe also that you were related to each another; for you have his pale look, a cast like his with your eye, and your speech is much alike."*

*MR. FEEBLE-MIND. "Most have said so who have known us both: and, besides, what I have read of him, I have, for the most part, found in myself."* In essence he confessed that the same spirit that was in his relative Mr. Fearing was in him too. Thus...he didn't have a sound mind but was feeble-minded. He had given himself over to the spirit of fear.

Fear an unsoundness of mind go hand in hand. Gaius continues saying; *"Come, sir, be of good cheer; you are welcome to me and my house. What you have a mind to, call on freely; and what you would have my servants do for you, they will do it readily."*

## Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

---

In understanding now of what has happened to Mr. Feeble-Mind, Gaius reaches out to bless him in spite of his unsound mind, he has compassion on him, knowing that he needs prayer and deliverance. He took the Christian love walk, because love conquers fear. When you see a feeble-minded person, trust God to work through you with the power of the Holy Spirit to pray for and over them so they can be delivered and set free.

Here are a few scriptures in closing to encourage you, as you may be struggling with fear.

**Isaiah 26:3;** *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."*

**Philippians 4:8;** *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."*

If you meditate on things that are false, dishonorable, unjust, impure, unlovely, negative reports, vice or iniquitous, or unworthy...you will not have peace but fear. Sometimes you'll have to turn off the news, the gossiping neighbour or family member. Maybe stop them and pray for them as you'll be able to see by what they're saying that they're riddled with fear. It's not that what their talking about isn't true or not relevant, but it's full of fear.

**1 John 4:18;** *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."*

**1 Corinthians 2:16** *"For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ."*

Keep your mind stayed on Jesus Christ and fear will be silenced.