

2 Timothy 1: 7

God gave us a sound mind, NOT fear!

“For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

New International Version (NIV)

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I was talking with my teenage granddaughter the other day, and she indicated that she had been having trouble with fear! “But,” she told me, “it used to be that I was afraid fall asleep at night, afraid that I wouldn’t wake up. It’s better now. I am able to fall asleep.”

Several thoughts it occurred to me. First, young people (and OLD people too!) have a LOT to be afraid of in this world. Second, the topic of FEAR is a major topic in the Bible. Third, clearly a LOT of people today are reading the WRONG books!

Looking at the world today, we have drugs, alcohol, terrorism, none of which have affected my own life so far. Many people today are afraid of guns, especially in the hands of terrorists. Some think the answer is to outlaw guns, but then only outlaws would have them. Besides this, even if we somehow were able to keeps guns away from outlaws and terrorists, then they would just find some other way to kill, like with rental trucks!!

As I told my granddaughter, there are literally hundreds of places that the Bible says, “fear not”, beginning in Genesis 15, when God spoke to Abram, “Fear not: I am your shield.” This was even before Abram had a relationship with God, who changed his name to Abraham! Continuing to the New Testament, it seems that in every human/angel encounter, the first words uttered by the angel were “Fear not!” Perhaps in today’s world, we erroneously think of angels as cute, chubby infants. The angels described in the Bible, were more likely HUGE with supernatural powers. It’s understandable that their first words to humans should be “FEAR NOT!!”

One of my favorite “Fear Not” stories is about the prophet Elisha in 2 Kings 6:16. **The king of Aram was after Elisha, and he sent an army by night to surround the city and capture prophet. When Elisha’s servant went out early in the morning, Aram’s army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Do not be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are WITH us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." When the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, he was able to see the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

So often, in our own daily lives, as we try to do what is right, we find ourselves vastly outnumbered. We say to ourselves and to those around us, and we ask God, "Oh my!! What shall WE do?" We should remember what Elisha said to his servant, and what the Lord has said to us on so many occasions, "**Do NOT be afraid!**" Then we pray that the Lord will open OUR eyes and reveal to us the spiritual forces that surround us. There is so much that we cannot see with our natural eyes. Indeed, the "hills are full of horses and chariots of fire!"

Remember that when Lucifer led his rebellion in heaven, he was only able to persuade one-third of the angels to go with him. This means that for each wicked angel in rebellion against God, there are TWO good angels who remained faithful. Not that the numbers really matter! Heaven is NOT a democracy, where the majority rules!! In Heaven, God RULES, and Jesus Christ is LORD!

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