

Nothing is Done Out of Fear in the Kingdom

Fear is a tool of the enemy and a feature of his kingdom and his mode of operation. The Kingdom of God is opposite, it operates by faith and faith is its feature here on Earth. To Paul, faith is such an essential component of the Kingdom that he taught that action without faith is sin.¹



Thayer's definition of the Greek word *pistis* (πίστις) translated as 'faith' is: "a conviction of the truth of anything, belief". The faith that is opposite to fear is a different type of faith – so don't be confused. I prefer to use the term 'trust' rather than 'faith' as it's what the outworking of faith looks like. Therefore, if you are working in faith, you are trusting God in what he's said and what he will do for you.

We are all very aware of fear in the forms of phobias, terror, anxiety, fright, etc. These are obvious and should be dealt with so that faith is used instead of fear. There are, however, hidden fears that most believers are unaware of. These hidden fears control their lives preventing them from fully pleasing God.²

So what are some of these fears that impact us without our knowledge:

1. Women may wear make-up or jewellery to look attractive because of a deep underlying fear that others will think they are not beautiful. This is more common than most of us believe.
2. Wearing fashionable clothes and designer t-shirts can be founded on the fear of not belonging. That is, not being accepted by those who are want to be connected to.
3. Peer pressure is an outworking of the fear of man.
4. Embarrassment is the fear of being seen to be not capable.
5. Not taking on a challenge can be due to the fear of failure.
6. Not eating meat or types of meat can be unconsciously based on a fear of getting a heart attack. This is different to abstaining with the aim of being healthy.
7. Doing exercise and eating a particular diet to get a manly figure can be based on the fear of rejection or the fear of not getting married. Psychoanalysis and counselling has uncovered that this is usually based on a fear of not having someone who genuinely loves you.
8. Eating 'organic' food can be based on a fear of sicknesses caused by agricultural chemicals.
9. Not using fly sprays can be based on the fear of the chemicals causing sickness or death.
10. Fear of cancer causes people to restrict what types of food they eat or drinks they imbibe.

1 – Romans 14:43

2 – For the idea that Father looks to be pleased with us, see Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; 1 Corinthians 10:5; Hebrews 13:16.

11. Praying for protection before every car trip is based on the fear of injury, damage or death.
12. Saying 'grace' before dinner can be based on the fear of offending God.
13. Staying close to adult children instead of moving house when the Spirit tells you can be based on the fear of losing contact with them.
14. Babbling (talking all the time) can be based on the fear of rejection.
15. Constantly sipping out of a water bottle mostly originates from the fear of dehydration.
16. Always having a bright, shiny and clean car can be based on the fear of what others may or may not think.
17. Always doing tasks properly can be rooted in the fear of failure and the fear of being punished.
18. Not looking for or wanting to have a spiritual father to mentor, father or coach can come from the fear of authority and the fear of being corrected.

On reflection, can you now see areas in your life where you unknowingly operate out of fear? I can in my life.

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