

## SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY (part 7)

The spirit of fear in the soul of man  
(I John 4:16-18; II Timothy 1:7)

When is fear a spirit and not a reasonable natural feeling? The natural feeling of fear is based on the reality of danger, or of anything justifiable that controls behavior to avoid casualties. But it becomes crippling when it is the spirit of fear acting in one's soul. It manifests itself by avoiding activities for fear of accidents that might happen, or any possibility which is not certain to happen all the time. Fear of flying by plane for fear that it might fall from the skies; fear of driving a car, for fear of a possible accident; fear to eat a normal meal for fear of getting fat; a life controlled by the spirit of fear is timid and insecure. "I am afraid I will not do well, so I will not try".

The Bible calls fear a spirit when it comes with torment and with crippling and doubtful thoughts. The soul, the battle field where the enemy penetrates through the mind, is an open gate to receive fear and act upon its lies. The spirit of fear has the power to turn a mole hill into the Everest Mountain; it has the power to change possibilities into impossibilities; it has the power to control the mind into believing lies; it has the power to affect the functions of the body and of the mind; the spirit of fear has the power to lead one to his own death; the spirit of fear is the most powerful spirit of all evil spirits because it is, in my estimation, the spirit of Satan. It is the spirit of fear that leads one to commit suicide and homicide; it deprives one's mind of the ability of thinking, reasoning, and deciding; it confuses the organ of thoughts and deprives the mind of the concentration of thoughts, making man forgetful, passive, indifferent; when not killing man, it drives him to mental institutions, where he is pumped with drugs, causing him to lose his own personality. When man reaches this point, he is no longer functional; and in many cases possessed and tormented by fear, he becomes violent and isolated from the human world. He is labeled crazy; he has lost his mind.

Timothy suffered greatly from fear and insecurity, as we read in the pages of the letters Paul wrote him. To him Paul directed these words, **For YAHWEH has not given us the spirit of fear;** but of love, power and a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7); and to the Romans, he said, For [the Spirit which] **you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear,** but you have received the Spirit of adoption which we cry, Abba (Romans 8:15)! If this is what YAHWEH has given us at our new birth, why then are we still in bondage to the spirit of fear and victims of its torments? The reason according to Scriptures is because we are not exercising love in our Christian living. As a result, love, power and sound mind are not being part of the spiritual blessing, because it is in sharing love that we will experience YAHWEH'S power, love and a healthy mind. That's the only way that the door is shut to the power of the spirit of fear; and we will be made perfect in YAHWEH'S love. In his first letter, John gives us a picture of YAHWEH as being LOVE and the need for us to abide in His Love, and for His Love to abide in us. YAHWEH is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in YAHWEH and YAHWEH dwells and continues in him; in this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us . . . **There is no fear in love, but full-grown love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it**

**the thought of punishment, and he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love.** If anyone says, I love YAHWEH and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love YAHWEH Whom he has not seen?

So we conclude from these verses that YAHWEH is love; His Spirit, stronger than that of the spirit of fear, will throw it out of doors. The believer who lives controlled by the spirit of fear is not made complete in Love and is powerless to overcome the spirit of fear. How is one not being complete in Love? By not loving others. The love we say to have for YAHWEH is measured by how much we love each other. The absence of love in one's life is the absence of YAHWEH'S presence. The fullness of the HOLY SPIRIT is made known through the actions reflecting love. Love's expressions are kindness, mercy, forgiveness, patience, gentleness. So when we fail in expressing love to one another the spirit of fear enters our soul through the unloving door and causes damages to our mind. Few believers realize this but continue falling in this condition. Unless a person realizes his fall from the grace and mercy of YAHWEH he will not be freed from the torments of the spirit of fear.

How does the believer liberate himself from the power of the evil spirits, once he gave them a foothold? The liberation of the mind depends very much on man's choice of whether he will offer himself completely to YAHWEH or to the control of the evil spirits. The believer's Ignorance and spiritual blindness cause him not to recognize the evil influence in his life and the entrance he has given the spirit of fear to his own soul. The renewing of the mind after a person is born again is entirely dependent on the fact that we must surrender our soul completely to the control of the HOLY SPIRIT. The renewing of the mind happens when we take our position with YAHSUA on the cross and have it crucified with Him. When the soul no longer dictates the action of the flesh, the mind becomes a battlefield for its control between the flesh and the Spirit. The helmet of salvation must be part of the believer's mind in the salvation of the soul for him to gain his freedom in Christ. As long as he surrenders his soul's desires, emotions and the organ of thoughts to YAHSUA his mind will be renewed and the spirit of fear will lose its control of his mind; faith and love, the weapons of destruction of the spirit of fear's activities, will cause it to flee from him whose soul has been crucified with Christ, whose purpose in life is to obey and submit to his Savior, YAHSUA. We call it "the salvation of the soul". We don't think in this term, but we must realize that when we enter into the family of YAHWEH not surrendering the control of our soul to Him, it will not experience the new birth, we will not continue in Him and He will not continue in us. For us to experience the freedom of the mind from the spirit of fear's control and torment, it is necessary for us to be made perfect in YAHWEH, Who is Love, the perfect and the only Love that will cast out fear out of the soul.

Timidity, cowardice, and insecurity, are reflections of the spirit of fear in one's life. Yahweh continues to reach mankind with His love, forgiveness and holiness. He seals with His HOLY SPIRIT those who are willing to come to Him; He is in every born again person, that is, born of water, born of the Spirit and not of the desire of man. YAHWEH also will partake of His mind to those who will deny his flesh, his traditional way of thinking and faithfully follow Him. According to Watchman Nee, "nothing in the person's life is closer to the spirit than the mind". Therefore a renewed mind will listen to the regenerated spirit and guide the body to act in obedience. But

the mind that is controlled by the spirit of fear will rebel, and lead the person to behavior contrary to the principles of YAHWEH'S Word. Love will not be made perfect in that person until he surrenders his soul to the control of the HOLY SPIRIT. The Bible says, fear has to do with torment, the person who fears or is afraid, is not made perfect in YAHWEH, Who is Love.

The true love flows from a person who has the sincere love of YAHWEH; but love exercised for self-gain is a misrepresentation of what love means. Love gives, not expecting in return; love surrenders its desires for the sake of others; love thinks others; it measures no sacrifice to reach others; love forgives and forgets the evil committed against him; love submits to others and takes the last place; love shares what he has with others and sows contentment in the lives of others. Love is YAHWEH acting through those who love Him. The mind controlled by love has its gate shut to the spirit of fear and all other demons.

Exercise love, for love comes from YAHWEH; there is no fear in love; love unites the believer with YAHSUA and in this bond love is made perfect in him.