

A New Perspective on Fear

Writing this month's newsletter took a sharp turn this past Friday. I tuned into watch the Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, MO Friday evening service via the internet. Brian Zahn's message was on fear. It was a timely message considering that Halloween was two days away. He discussed how we are attracted to being scared. He went on to say that humans are even willing to put themselves in a place to be scared. We even pay for it. We buy scary books. Scary movies are very popular. We go to haunted houses this time of the year. Brian's premise is that fear gives us hope that there is something else out there. We can live with this fear because it gives us hope. However, we cannot live with the fear that there is nothing else out there. Brian believes that this attraction to fear is an unconscious process and is inherent in our nature. I don't pretend to say that I have wrapped my brain completely around this concept. It does make sense. I am still processing the information. I encourage you to listen to the complete message to experience it in its fullest. It is available as a free download. Go to <http://wolc.com/?sa=podcast> and click on the message dated October, 29, 2010. I would also recommend that you download the message Deep Structural Fear, July 9, 2010.

How does this apply to you and me? I believe this supports the stress model principle of two basic emotions - love and fear. If our children don't know or experience love, then they are consumed by fear. My experience is that many children, as well as many adults who have trauma in their past, have a fascination with scary things. They are already consumed with the fear that is associated with their trauma. I don't believe that the fear associated with trauma gives them hope. However, their fear can be transformed to be a catalyst to give them hope. They can connect with fear that is more manageable. Fear from books, movies, haunted houses, etc. They can use this fear as a survival mechanism because it gives them hope. I believe this highly unconscious in all of us.

Unfortunately, there is a subculture out there devoted to fear. It can draw our children in and strangle the life out of them. Harry Potter may seem benign on the surface. I believe the attraction to Harry Potter is the hope of something else. I strongly disagree with Harry Potter's something else because it's not of God. There is Wicca and numerous other cults that are available and willing to steal your soul. Luke 11:23 - "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters." I learned from Brian's message that holy means "separate, distinct, not common". He demonstrated that by transposing two letters in scared, it become SACRED. So if we are seeking something separate, distinct, and not common, where do we go? As Christians, that is easily answered. We seek love. We seek the God of love. God is separate and distinct from all other entities. Only He stands completely alone. God sent Jesus to teach us about love. Jesus is God's human example of love.

The evils one comes to kill and destroy. Christians have a solution for that. John 10:10 - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." I find it encouraging that God takes satan's tool of fear and again uses it against him. Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." This inherent fear driven response instilled in people by the fall of man (Genesis 3), keeps people seeking. As long as people are seeking we will have opportunities to witness to them. We will have opportunities to

let our Christ light shine on them. All we need to do is to plant seeds and God does the rest. God's word does not return void. Isaiah 55:11 - "so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

A PERSONAL NOTE

I have been more aware of God answering prayers this past month. This has been happening in my life as well as the lives of the people I am in contact with. There has been healing, checks in the mail, and jobs materializing out of no where. Just to mention a few. I am getting ready to launch the release fo my new book - Christian Parent Wisdom. Every step of the way the past six weeks has been met with opposition. The good news is that there has been victory over every opposition. Thank you for your prayers and support. Your prayers have carried me when I didn't see an answer or solution. Check your e-mails over next few days and become a part of my book launch.

Do all you can to connect in love - You can do everything in Christ who strengthens you
- Phillipians 4:13

In Christ,

Ken Thom