

Two Types of Fear

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen's sermon emphasizes the importance of having a healthy fear of God to overcome earthly fears and live a holy life.

Duration: 57:20

Scripture: Genesis 39:9, Job 31:1, Psalm 34:11, Proverbs 9:10, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Isaiah 11:3, Matthew 10:28, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 5:7

Topics: "Fear Of God", "Righteous Living"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of the fear of God, contrasting it with earthly fears and the need to maintain a healthy fear of God in our lives. It highlights biblical examples like Joseph and Job who demonstrated a deep reverence for God, leading to righteous living and overcoming temptations. The speaker urges listeners to prioritize pleasing God in all aspects of life, preparing for the judgment seat of Christ, and cultivating a godly fear that guides their decisions and actions.

Transcript

I want to speak today on the subject of fear. The fear that we should not have and the fear that we should have. In the old covenant, they lived with a great deal of fear.

And it's important for us who have spoken much about the new covenant that we understand that that old covenant type of fear is not what we are supposed to have. But what has happened to many Christians is they've given up fear altogether. They've given up the fear of God.

But if you look into their lives, there's a lot of fear about many earthly things. They've done it all upside down. And I don't want anybody here to get it upside down.

We keep saying in this church that we are preparing people to get 100% in the final examination. And as for the judgment seat of Christ, it's my personal burden as a servant of the Lord that nobody to whom I preached, either in this church or anywhere in the world, should be able to say in the day of judgment to me, Brother Zank, you never told us the truth. I tell you, they will say that to many, many preachers in the world.

To most preachers in the world. So that is the burden with which I speak only to please God. I want to show you in Hebrews chapter 12.

It says that when in the Old Testament, that's starting at verse 18, they came to a mountain which may be touched in those days. And even Moses, verse 21, the site was so terrible that Moses said, I am full of fear. The mountain where God manifested himself brought such fear.

God intended it to bring fear upon people. Because that was the only way by which he could get people to be holy in those days. So he intended it to bring fear and even Moses, the greatest man of God, who was closest to God, was in fear.

And that brought a holiness in the lives of those people. That if we had that much fear in our lives, we would be a lot holier than we are. But in the New Covenant, it is even higher.

Now turn with me now to Romans chapter 8. In Romans 8, it says that God has not given us a spirit of fear. Now it's contrasting the Old Covenant with the New Covenant now. Romans 8 and verse 15.

You have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again. He's comparing with the Old Covenant. They were servants of God in the Old Covenant.

Today we are sons of God. I don't know whether you realize that it is a greater thing to be a son of God than a servant of God. Today a lot of people respect somebody saying he's a servant of God.

So if I say I'm a son of God, it looks inferior. That is the crazy idea that so many believers have. That a son is inferior to a servant.

It's not true in your home, is it? Is your son inferior to a servant? And yet many people talk about someone as a servant of God with great reverence. And they think of themselves, I'm only a son of God. These are some of the many, many foolishnesses that believers have.

Which never seem to be corrected, even after years of hearing the truth. And that's the reason why their lives are so shallow. Because they don't take the word of God seriously.

Man is supposed to live by every word that proceeds from God's mouth. So it says, you're being led by the spirit of God, you're the sons of God. And when you're the sons of God, you're not a slave.

You're not a servant. Only servants have that type of fear. What will my master do to me? But you have received a spirit of adoption as sons.

By which you cry out, Abba, Father. So the fear disappears when we no longer know God as master, but as father. There's a lot of difference between the two.

But it doesn't mean that because he's a father, we don't fear. Because the Bible says that we had earthly fathers whom we respected and feared. And it says in 1 Peter, chapter 1, verse 17.

If you address as father the one who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourself in fear. So if God is your father, you must have a fear. But not the type of fear that Moses had.

A different type of fear. Not the fear that you have in your office where your boss may fire you from your work. Or punish you in some way, unreasonably.

But another type of fear that you should have, if you have a godly loving father, that you respect him, and that type of fear. So if you get rid of the old fear, and you don't have the fear of a heavenly father, that

could be the reason why you're defeated in so many areas still. I find so many believers who have heard the message of overcoming sin for so many years, and who are still saying, Brother Zach, I'm defeated, I'm defeated, defeated.

Consider if this is the reason. That you don't have a fear of your heavenly father. We've heard so much about the fact that we are forgiven, cleansed, the blood of Jesus has blotted us out, and God looks at us, our past as if we have never sinned.

All that is great. But if that leads to a life without a holy fear of God, it will not save us from sin. In 2 Corinthians 7, it says, it's talking about the promises we have.

And the promises are, chapter 6, verse 16 to 18. So let's begin there. God has said, I will dwell in them, I will walk among them, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

So we come out from others and are separate, and don't touch what is unclean. And he says, I'll welcome you, and I will be a father to you. You shall be my sons and daughters.

This is new covenant, 100%. I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters. Says God Almighty.

Let's absorb that. The ruler of this universe says to us, he'll be our father. Therefore, since we have these wonderful promises, beloved, what should we do? Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness or defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

You see that? You see in all these places that when God is your father, there is a fear that should be there in your life, which is far superior to the old covenant type of fear, which is a fear of punishment. Whereas here, it's a healthy fear and reverence for God. And the only way you can cleanse yourself, where's chapter 7 verse 1 from, all the filthiness that there is in your life.

The only way you can perfect holiness is if you develop this fear of God. And I'm sorry to say that many people do not have it. I fear that many who sit in CFC do not have it.

Because we've become so familiar with the truth. It's become something that we know, we feel we are better than other churches. There could be an attitude in some of your hearts saying, Lord, we thank you that we are in one of the best churches, we hear the greatest truths.

We're not like those others who don't have light. But some of those others may be living holier lives than you. For us, the example is Jesus Christ, not any man.

So let's see if Jesus had a fear about him or not. We know one thing, that there was never any anxiety in Jesus' life, never. When people came to capture him, you know, Roman soldiers, he knew that he was going to be crucified.

It's like if somebody comes to raid your house, to take you to jail, to hang you. And Jesus said, whom are you seeking? Jesus of Nazareth? That's me. Take me, leave the others.

Boy, I want to have that attitude. Zero fear. Because he knew, my life is in my father's hand.

What can any human being in the world ever do to me without my father's permission, if I'm seeking to do the will of God? See, that was the difference. If we are seeking our own and living for ourselves and

aiming to make money, etc., you can't say that. You can't say that everything will happen to you in the will of God.

It won't. But anybody sitting here, anyone, young or old, if your only ambition in life, and I wish this is your only ambition, is to do the will of God, whatever it is, and to finish the plan God has made for your life, which he made before you were born. You say, Lord, many years I wasted, but I'm not going to waste anymore, but at least for the rest of my life, my only ambition is to fulfill that plan you made for my life, which I messed up so many times, but I don't want to mess it up anymore.

If you will say that, even today, there's hope for you. But, if you don't take that seriously, that means that if you've done things in the past, wrong in the past, you've said it right. Like Zacchaeus.

And that's how we move on. That's the first way we prove that we fear God. We say, Lord, the rest of my life, I really want to live the way you want me to live, in that holy, healthy, new covenant fear of a Heavenly Father.

See, Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew chapter 10, now remember, this is speaking to his disciples who are apostles. Matthew 10 verse 1, he summoned his 12 disciples and gave them authority. And that part everybody likes to hear.

He gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and sent them out to preach. All that is wonderful. But he also told them that you will be called bad names, verse 25.

They called, Jesus said, they called me, the head of the house, Beelzebul, prince of devils, they'll call you by worse names. You know, when I read that verse 25, I take every word of God seriously, I hope you do. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his family.

So the way I looked at it is, Lord, if I am a member of your family, there should be people who have called me by worse names than prince of devils. So that's the meaning of that verse. Otherwise, I've got to check up whether I'm a member of your family or I'm a compromiser.

You know, if you're a compromiser, people won't call you bad names, they'll call you good names. A lot of famous preachers in the world are called a lot of good names. A lot of Christians get honor.

Jesus did not, they called him prince of devils. Religious people who had the Bible, the Pharisees, called Jesus the prince of devils. And religious people who have a Bible today, Christians, will call you by worse names than that.

Now, is that how you understand verse 25? That's how I understand it. So, if you're not being called bad names by other Christians, ask yourself whether you're a compromiser. Whether you're one who keeps your mouth shut, pretends to believe what they believe, don't want to offend any of them.

Then ask yourself whether you're being faithful to Jesus. If they have called the head of the house, Pilsicum, how much more the members of his family. Therefore, verse 26, don't fear them.

We don't fear people who call us by such names. You don't need that verse 26, because you have not even come as far as verse 25. If you haven't come as far as verse 25 where people are calling you bad names, why do you need verse 26? Verse 26 is for those who have come past verse 25.

That means people have called you bad names because you're standing up for Christ. Maybe you're ridiculed in your office, or you suffer something because you stand up for Jesus. Don't fear them.

Because everything will be exposed one day. There's nothing covered that will not be revealed. I want to tell you this, my brothers and sisters.

There is nothing that you have covered up in your life that will remain covered. It will one day be revealed. There's nothing that you've hidden in your life which will not be revealed one day.

Verse 26. And so he goes on to say in verse 28, don't fear those who can kill your body. What is the maximum any human being can do to you, kill you, hurt your body? Calling you bad names is nothing.

Like the old saying goes, sticks and stones may hurt my bones, but words can never hurt me. That's what worldly people, even a worldly person can say. But a time may come when they kill you.

Don't even fear that. But rather, fear Him. These are the words of Jesus, verse 28.

Fear Him. He's telling His disciples to whom He has given authority to cast out demons, to go out and preach to people with such authority. He says, you must fear God.

Who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Nobody preached on hell as much as Jesus Christ. Many preachers don't preach on hell.

And I'll tell you why. Because they don't love people like Jesus loved people. It's like a doctor who won't tell you that he's got cancer, because he doesn't love you enough.

He just wants to keep collecting your fees and let you die. That's how a lot of preachers are. They won't tell you about hell, but Jesus loved people so much.

He loved people so much that He was willing to die to save them from hell. That's why He said, there is a hell. Otherwise I wouldn't waste my time coming here to die for you.

To me, the greatest proof that there is a hell, a terrible hell, is the terrible death that Jesus died on the cross. And Jesus dying on the cross, that terrible death, is the proof to me that there is some type of terrible punishment for people who don't accept it. I believe it.

I don't doubt it, and that's why I preach it. So, on one hand he says, fear Him. Fear God.

Who can cast your soul into hell. To whom is He saying that? To disciples. Not to unbelievers.

I mean, we can tell unbelievers, hey listen, you've got to fear God who can cast your soul and body into hell. But read here, to whom is He saying it? He's saying it to disciples. Verse 24, a disciple is not above his teacher.

So don't fear the others, but fear Him who can cast your body into hell. Don't take lightly your relationship with God. At the same time, the very next verse, don't be afraid.

See the balance there? Fear Him, but don't be afraid. The two go together. The more you fear God, the less you'll have of any earthly fear.

So for myself, this is the way I assess it. The more I have of earthly anxiety and fear, it's the proof, it's the proof that I have very little of the fear of God. The two, you know, one side of the balance goes up, the other side goes down.

Like a seesaw. If I have a lot of fear of God, I have no fear on this earth. If I have less and less of the fear of God, the fear on things earthly, things come up.

That's what He's saying here. He's talking about not having a fear on earth. Aren't two sparrows sold for a cent? Not one of them will fall to the ground without your father.

The hairs of your head are numbered. Therefore, don't fear. You are of more value than many sparrows.

You see this contrast always in scripture? Fear God, but don't fear anything on earth. Fear God, but don't fear earthly circumstances and people. I want you to see today the very clear relationship there is between fearing God and all earthly fears and anxieties that you have about your health, your family, your children, your finances, your job, everything.

So where there is this healthy fear of God, I believe all earthly fear will go. That's how it was with Jesus. Jesus lived without any anxiety.

He said in John chapter 16 to his disciples, the last verse of John 16, 33. This is the last sentence that he spoke to his disciples. As a message before he went to the cross.

The next, chapter 17, is a prayer. And then he went to Gethsemane. But we can look at John 16, 33.

It's the last sentence that Jesus spoke to his disciples before he went to the cross. All these things that I've spoken to you for three and a half years, and especially here in chapter 14, 15, and 16, I've spoken that you might have peace in me. That is the opposite of fear.

In me you have peace. But in the world, you will have tribulation. But take courage.

Take courage means don't be afraid. It's the same thing. Don't fear.

It's the last words he spoke to his disciples. Don't be afraid. I have overcome the world.

And I tell you, we will need that message more and more in the days to come. To hear Jesus saying to us in different situations that we face, take courage now. Don't be afraid.

I have overcome this situation. I have overcome the world. You don't have to be afraid of people or situations or circumstances or anything on this earth.

Those were his last words to his disciples before he went to the cross. Now, we've seen what Jesus taught. Now let's look at his own life in Hebrews chapter 5. Hebrews in chapter 5. Please turn there.

It says here about how Jesus lived on earth in the days of his flesh. This is the one place in scripture where we read about in the days of his flesh. Hebrews 5.7. In the days of his flesh.

That means 33 and a half years. He offered up to his father prayers and specific requests. Replications means specific requests.

Not just father bless me, but something specific. And most of those prayers were related to being free from sin. Don't let the smell of sin come upon me.

Jesus hardly ever prayed for anything earthly. Because he knew those things would be provided for him if he sought righteousness and purity in his life. So his prayers were more related to being free from sin.

Because if there was even the slightest thought or attitude of sin, in 33 and a half years, he would not have been a holy sacrifice for our sins. So he had to be very, very careful. Never, never to sin.

I mean, you know how, supposing you're told, now tomorrow, from Monday, from morning till night, supposing I give you a project, tomorrow, homework, from morning till night, try never to sin in thought, word, deed, attitude, motive. I want you to take just one day seriously tomorrow. And if you do that, I believe you can do it.

I believe that if you seek God, you're born again, and you really say, Lord, I want to live like that today, just one day. I believe you can do it. And you'll find at the end of the day that you have lived in a completely different way.

You didn't gossip. You didn't backbite. You didn't reply angrily to somebody who spoke like that to you.

Because you determined early morning that today I'm going to live without sin. And you didn't look in lust at anything because you had decided, today I'm going to live without sin. And you'd have a wonderful day at the end of the day.

You'd probably have much better sleep at night as well. And then you come to Tuesday morning and you say, okay, one more day. I'm going to live one more day without sin.

I enjoyed it so much yesterday. I'm going to do it today, Tuesday too. And you'll be able to do it.

You'll need to pray many times, and the pressure gets a bit strong. The thing that we cry out with loud crying and tears, save me from sin. Because he's talking about that previously in chapter 4, verse 16.

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we can find grace to help us in our time of need. So he's saying, come to the throne of grace and ask for grace to help you in your time of temptation. Time of need, according to Hebrews 4.15, is the time of temptation.

That's what he's talking about, temptation. And Jesus, and then he gives this example of Jesus. He's saying, because of his godly fear.

So we've seen what, you know, the Bible speaks about God being our father and having a fear. And that is the way we are freed from earthly fears. I told you that this balance, you know, seesaw.

The more you fear God, your earthly fears come down. The higher you go, your earthly fears come down to zero. When the earthly fears start rising up, anxieties, you're not able to be free from them, it means your fear of God is coming down.

Remember this picture all your life. That's what we see in scripture. Fear him who can cast your body into hell, God, Jesus said.

But don't fear. The hairs on your head are numbered. Two go together.

In the world, you'll have tribulation. But don't fear, don't be afraid. I've overcome the world.

What we do need to fear is that we might sin. He had a godly fear of sinning. So when I think of this proportion, I mean this balance of the seesaw, as I said, the more I fear to sin, the more I fear to sin.

That's how I prove my fear of God. Earthly anxieties go down and down and down and down. If earthly anxieties are going up and up and up in your life, you better know the truth.

You're not so serious about sin, brother and sister. You are not. Though you talk about it and act very holy, yeah, I'm very serious about sin, you're not.

The proof is your anxieties are going up. For myself, I take God's word. That if I have one fear, I won't have the other.

If I have a lot of that other fear, that means the fear of God has gone down. Maybe today things will change in your life. That's the only one he took out of those requests and said make sure you forgive others, otherwise you won't be forgiven.

In the same way, out of these seven titles of the Holy Spirit, one is taken out. Important. Verse three, he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will delight. You know, like ice cream. I want it.

Or chocolate. Or whatever you like. Biryani.

I don't know what you like. Delight. You know, you look at that food and say, wow, it's a special lunch today.

I thought it was just rice and sambhar today. No, it's a special lunch. Delight.

Oh, by the way, it's not. He will delight in the fear of the Lord. Think of that.

It's not something, oh, I have to fear God. It's not like that. You know, in the midst of all this talk about Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, around Pentecostals and everywhere, people talk about the Holy Spirit.

I wish it were this Holy Spirit, which rested upon Jesus. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him. I tell you honestly, this is the Holy Spirit I want to rest upon me, because this is the Holy Spirit that rested upon my Savior, that made Him live that wonderful life on earth, not just free from sin, but a life so full of love for others, compassion, goodness, a life of such strictness that anybody who tried to make money in the house of God, anybody who tried to make money in the house of God, he'd never speak gently to them.

He'd take a whip and chase them out. Go and make money in the marketplace, not in the house of God. I want to be like Jesus.

And you can turn to adulterous women and say, you're forgiven, don't sin again. That's the Holy Spirit. That's the only Holy Spirit I want to experience.

He may give me many other gifts, but those don't excite me so much. What is there to speak in tongues or cast out demons or even preach like this? I know I won't do this in heaven, there'll be no casting out demons or preaching or speaking in tongues in heaven because perfection would have come. All those things are for our imperfect state.

But there will be goodness and love and humility and compassion forever in all eternity. That's the Holy Spirit. So, whenever you think about the Holy Spirit and all that people talk about the Holy Spirit, check, is that the Holy Spirit the Bible speaks of? The Spirit that rested upon Jesus? The Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

The Spirit, the one that makes you delight in the fear of the Lord. And here's one, you know, when we think of delighting in the fear of God, the first sin that sort of comes to our mind is lusting with our eyes or getting angry. Hang on.

Here it speaks of another thing which we don't think so much about. When he delights in the fear of the Lord, he will not judge by what his eyes see. He will not make a decision by what his ears hear.

You know, we have such a tendency, all of us, we hear something without verifying it, we say, oh yeah, not only we believe it, we pass it on to so many others and later on we discover it was not true. How do you feel then? Or sometimes we say, it's not something I heard, brother, I saw it. Really? Are you sure what you saw was right? I'll give you an example.

A few years ago in one of our conferences that we had in the old Campus Crusade place, late in the evening after the sessions were over, there were a group of our own CFC young people who were sitting together, a small group, it was dark, and one young boy, young boy means maybe 10, 12 years old, he saw puffs of smoke coming up from that little group there. It was dark. So he went and told his mother, hey mommy, do you know that some CFC boys are smoking? Cigarettes, at night, and nobody was there.

And the mother, stupid woman that she was, by the way she's not in the church today, such people as good they leave, passed it on to others. Came to my ears. Whenever I hear something, I go and check it out.

I want to find out who are those young people. I want to find out, were you guys sitting there, out there at night? Was this somebody complaining about some puffs of smoke? They said, yes brother, we had put this mosquito coil there to drive out the mosquitoes. There were so many mosquitoes over there.

Oh, those were the puffs of smoke. Give me an example. Be careful that you don't even judge by what your eyes see.

Even there you could be mistaken. I believe God has allowed the sun to rise in the east and set in the west every day to tell us something. You cannot believe what your eyes see.

The sun is not moving. Go and tell that to somebody who has not studied geography. He will think you are crazy.

It actually happened in one of the village churches, not ours, another village church. Somebody asked me, Brother Zak, are you one of these foolish people who believe that the sun does not go around the earth? I said, yes, I am one of those foolish people who believe the sun does not go around the earth. He really believed.

This is 20th century. He believed that the sun does not go around the earth. We would have believed the same thing too.

Peter and James believed it. Did you know? They hadn't studied the geography, did you? It's not a sin to be ignorant of these things. But it's to prove to us you cannot believe what your eyes see.

You cannot even believe what you feel. Do you know that right now underneath your feet the earth is rotating at a speed of 1000 kilometers an hour? Does it feel like that? You feel you are in a vehicle going at 1000 kilometers an hour right now? It is. Whether you know it or not.

That's the speed at which the earth is rotating on the equator. All these things are there to show to us you can't believe what you see. You can't believe what you feel.

You can't believe what you hear. I've heard there's a thing called a dog whistle. A dog whistle, you know dogs have a very sharper sense of hearing than human beings.

I hope you know that. Just like some animals your frequency of hearing is your children against other older people in the church. Is that one reason why your children are not wholehearted Christians today? Ask yourself.

You can't do anything about it but you can repent of it. Ask God to give you the spirit of holiness, the spirit of impartiality. He will save your children from calamity thereby.

Believe me. All those who are favorite, who show favoritism to their children, I can see where their children are today. Father and father rise to the defense of their children.

Okay? You are going to reap calamity in their life one day and it will be much worse at the judgment seat of Christ. Earthly judgments and disciplines are to save us. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11 when the Lord disciplines us on earth it is so that he does not judge us with the rest of the world.

So to delight in the fear of the Lord in the margin of my Bible it says it will make him quick of scent in the fear of the Lord. I like that translation. Isaiah 11.3 and it reminds me of you know dogs have got a much sharper sense of scent than we have as human beings.

They can smell a handkerchief that a thief dropped and they can follow that thief even though the thief left hours ago. You don't sense any smell on the ground. The dog can pick up that smell which the thief handled that handkerchief.

These police dogs track criminals they go, go, go, go, go and they come to a fork in the road and they say not this way, this way. How does that dog know? Quick of scent. I've thought of that illustration quick of scent in the fear of the Lord.

I also sometimes come to a crossroad in my life. Shall I go this way or that way? I say Lord I want to be quick of scent in the fear of the Lord so I know which is the right way to go. What is the right way to react to the way this chap is acting towards me? Two choices, this way or that way.

I want to choose what the fear of the Lord tells me. Dear brothers, if you choose this way consistently, consistently, consistently, you know what will happen to the seesaw? You fear God more and more and more and more and more and more and more. I'm fine here.

I'm not getting anxious like I used to. I don't seem to be worried. But I'm not anxious.

How is that? You took God's word seriously. That's what happened. You stopped playing the fool with the things you heard in CFC all these years.

Turn with me now to 2 Corinthians in chapter 5. 2 Corinthians in chapter 5. We read here about the judgment seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians in chapter 5. Verse 9. We have as our ambition whether at home in heaven or absent from heaven on this earth. You see he's speaking about verse 1 about heaven is our home.

That's why I used that paraphrase there. Verse 9. Whether at home in heaven or absent from heaven on this earth. You know just like a foreigner who's living in India.

He says my home is in the United States. I'm absent from my home right now. I'm here in India for many years but I'm only a visitor.

That's how we are on this earth. Whether at home in heaven or absent from home I want to please God. And the way I've pictured that in my life is that in my direction in my life my ambition he calls it ambition.

My ambition is to go in this direction. Please God, please God, please God. Suddenly Jesus comes and I've entered eternity.

I continue to go the same direction. Please God, please God, please God. But think of someone who's a believer and who's got some other ambition I'm seeking to make a little more money get some honor from people certain different directions he's got in his life indulge in some pleasures be careless about sin and suddenly Jesus comes he's going to change direction.

Yeah, I've got to please God now. I'm in eternity. That'll be sad.

Paul is saying there's going to be no change in the direction of my life even if Christ comes right now. And my ambition is still the same. Here on earth I'm trying to please God.

Christ comes, I continue without even one degree change to please God. Will you make that your ambition? I tell you your life will come to an altogether different plane than you've ever experienced. It's easy.

That's the way Jesus lived. Don't let the world fool you. Don't let worldly Christians in CFC fool you.

I told you the story of how one brother came to me once and said brother, my little girl is asking me why can't I dress like some of these fashionable young sisters in CFC? They dress up very fancy clothes and jewelry and all that. Why you don't allow me to do that? So he came to me and said what should I tell her? I said tell her like this. In paradise, in Eden there were two trees.

One good, one bad. Even in paradise, Eden. And Adam was sent between the two to choose which way, which he would take.

I said in CFC those are the types of young girls. Those are the godly young girls who really seek to be free from the spirit of the world and their conduct and their dress whose parents put some fear into them and don't just allow them to do what they like or dress the way they like. And then there are others who are more worldly.

But they're born again. They don't have the same fear of God. So I said your little girl has got a choice.

And not everybody is worldly. She can look at both these girls and choose which one to follow. Just like Adam.

He could choose which tree to go to. So tell your little daughter that she's got a choice. And she doesn't have to look at the worldly ones and follow them.

If they want to be worldly, let them be worldly. If their parents want to let their daughters grow up worldly, let them be worldly. They will reap the consequences.

I promise you they'll reap the consequences in the days to come. Because there's a law in this world. What a person sows, he will reap.

The reaping comes years later. But it will definitely happen. What you sow now, you will reap in your children 30 years later.

Believe it or not. I've been in this church 41 years and I'm not talking theory now. What people sow, they reap.

They sit at home and criticize the people in the church. 30 years later, they'll reap it in their children who have no interest in spiritual things or go away from the church. It's a law.

You can't change the law of God. You can't sow potatoes and expect tomatoes at harvest time. It's not possible.

However much you pray, those potatoes will not get converted to tomatoes. You know that. We know that in the world.

What about in the spiritual realm? Sometimes we can sow whatever we like and then after 30 years say, oh God, I'm really sorry, I'm really sorry, please change it. He'll forgive you, but he can't change potatoes into tomatoes. You know that? He can forgive you for sowing potatoes, okay.

You really wanted to sow tomatoes and you take it seriously. He can forgive you, but how can he change it? Are you serious that your life should be so God-fearing that you'll be an example to your children? That you teach the fear of God to your children at home, that you don't speak things around your dining table that will turn them away from the church and turn them away from the Lord? That you keep your ambition to please him so that it never changes when he comes again? Then it says in verse 10, 2 Corinthians 5, 10, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one will be rewarded according to what we have done, the deeds we did in our body on earth, whether good or bad. You say, so what? Therefore, verse 11, knowing the fear of the Lord.

Back again to the fear of the Lord. I fear God. Do you fear God, Paul? Because I have to give an account of my life for the judgment seat of Christ.

Paul, you have to give an account of your life? Yes. No one will escape. And the only way I can be ready for that is to give an account of my life.

Let me tell you just a couple of things in closing. How is it that Joseph, Genesis 39, could overcome an attractive woman tempting him, tempting him, tempting him when he was a young 20 year old young man full of passion and this attractive woman tempting him every day in his place of work pulling him, come, fly with me. He said, no.

You know what he said in Genesis 39, 9, the last part, how can I do this great evil and sin against God? That woman could have said, your parents are not here. They are 500 miles away in Canaan. My husband is not here.

Nobody is here. The room is empty. And Joseph says, but God is here and I fear him more than I fear your husband.

If your husband were here, do you think I would touch you? No. If God is here, how can I do it? If my father were in this room, would I touch you? No. So what if my father is not here and your husband is not here and nobody is here? God is here.

Imagine, if you young people had that attitude in your place of work, in your house, what Joseph had, who had no Bible, parents far away, all alone, no fellowship, no meetings, no conferences, nothing. The fear of God. That's enough to keep you from sexual sin.

It's enough to keep you from pornography on your computer. If you don't have it, you can talk about speaking in tongues, you can talk about fullness of the Holy Spirit, you can talk about new covenant, new and living way, 101 things. It's all absolute nonsense.

I tell you, you will not even get angry with your husband and wife if you fear God, if you believe that Jesus is right there in your house. What is missing is the fear of God. One more example.

There was a man in the Old Testament called Joe. He was a very rich man. Do you know that rich people can also be spiritual? It's a wrong concept that only poor people can be spiritual.

Noah, Abraham and Joe were very rich. You can't build a ship like Noah if you're not a rich man. He built it with his own money.

Abraham was extremely wealthy. Joe, he was the richest man on earth. But there was nobody who feared God like him.

Jesus and Paul were poor. There was nobody who feared like him. Which teaches us that the fear of God has got nothing to do with your income or your wealth or your possessions.

It's like hearing is one thing and sight is one thing. Your sight is not dependent on your hearing. Your fear of God is not dependent on your income or your wealth.

Remember that. Job, the Lord could say about him to Joe Satan, there's no one like him on the earth, Job 1A, who fears God. Job must have been about 130 years old then because his children, 10 children were all grown up, living in their own houses.

And here's one proof of the fear of God in him. Job 31, verse 1. I have made a covenant with my eyes. How can then, how can I then look at a woman to lust after her? I said, Job, did you get a copy of Matthew chapter 5 somewhere? No, no, no, I don't even know what Matthew chapter 5 is.

Have you got a copy of Genesis about, no, no, no, Genesis, Bible is not written. Then where did you learn that you should not look with lust at a woman? Fear of God in my heart. But Job, you're 100 years old, you're still tempted? Yeah, I don't know whether I'm tempted or I'm just careful.

I don't want to look and then decide whether I'm tempted or not at the age of 100. What a wise man. What a wise man.

He didn't want to look to see if he's tempted or not. I remember hearing the story of a very godly man. He and his wife were walking down the street in Bombay.

This was years ago when things were not as bad as today. And his wife said, see that filthy poster, big billboard on the side of the road, immodest woman. You know what he said? He said, I don't want to look because I don't want to be tempted.

Boy. What an attitude. And I want to tell you, he was a brethren man who did not believe in baptism in the Holy Spirit.

But he had more Holy Spirit than the people who talk about it. I'm absolutely convinced that a lot of people who preach about baptism in the Holy Spirit don't have the Holy Spirit at all. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of the fear of God.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Your life can be changed today if you take seriously what you heard. Your life will be freed from anxiety and fear because you choose Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, as we bow before you, help us to value the things that need to be valued and not to waste our mind and concentration on unnecessary information, especially about other people that has no value for us. Help us to be sensitive to the fear of God, to fear you, to be righteous in judgment, to hear your voice, that still small voice speaking to us in our conscience when we have to turn our eyes away from something or not to read something. Our time is short and we want our spiritual edge to be sharp.

We want the word of God in our mouth, in the mouth of every person here to be sharp like a two-edged sword. We don't want to be a church that just glories in doctrine, but in a godly life. And most of our brothers and sisters, if not all of them, help us to bring up our children in the fear of God as well, to look at the good examples and the bad examples around us and to learn lessons.

Help us, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/R8ahCcBQoos.mp4>
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/two-types-of-fear/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net