

nov 14

phantoms of fear

"for the thing i greatly feared has come upon me, and what i dreaded has happened to me." job 3:25

fear is the opposite of faith. fear is expecting the devil to act. faith is believing God to act. fear is essentially faith in the devil.

and now, a little story.

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two brothers and a demon

once two brothers were passing through a forest. a lot of time passed while walking and sun was about to set. seeing that it was not possible to proceed further in dark, younger brother said, "brother, we should stay here till morning and as soon as dawn breaks, we will proceed to our destination." elder brother said, "but staying at night in forest can be dangerous. it will not be appropriate to sleep here. one of us have to stay awake to keep watch." Younger brother agreed and said, "Okay. Let's do this, first i sleep and till then you keep watch. When you feel sleepy, wake me up, then i will keep watch and you can sleep."

elder brother agreed. in few moments, younger brother went into deep sleep. just then elder brother saw a terrible figure coming towards him. it was a demon. as soon as demon got close to elder brother, it screamed. elder brother was horrified to see that demon. yhis incident had a strange effect. due to

fear of elder brother, size to demon started to increase and it became huge. after that demon screamed again. elder brother trembled in fear and now demon became bigger than before. demon slowly started moving toward elder brother. seeing that huge demon coming towards him, he shouted loudly, "brother..." and as soon as he screamed, he lost his consciousness and fell down.

hearing his voice, younger brother woke up and seeing his brother lying, he thought that his elder brother fell asleep because of tiredness. now, younger brother started guarding. after sometime, same demon appeared in front of him and shouted loudly. but even after listening to demon loud voice, younger brother didn't panic and said, "tell me, why are you crying? what do you want?"

now, again something strange happened. due to courage of younger brother, size to demon decreased and it became smaller. for first time, demon had met someone who was not afraid of him. in panic, he shouted loudly again at younger brother. this time also younger brother didn't get scared and because of this, demon became smaller than before. in last attempt, demon screamed with all his might but younger brother smiled and said, "tell me, what do you want?" because of this, demon shrunk to a very small size and younger brother took it in his palm and tied it in his handkerchief and kept it in his bag.

it was morning in no time. younger brother woke up elder and asked to proceed to their destination. they slowly started moving forward. just then elder brother

remembered incident that happened at night and said, "do you know what happened last night..! a terrible huge demon had come to kill us..!"

just then younger brother took his handkerchief out of his bag and showing demon to elder brother he said, "are you talking about him?" "yes!! it is same demon but when i saw it yesterday, it was huge. how did it became so small?," elder brother asked in surprise.

younger brother smiled and said, "when in life, we try to avoid something that we must face, then it becomes bigger than our self and starts to control us. but when you face what you must face, it became smaller and then you can control it."

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this is an imaginary story but it illustrates a greater truth. fear is one of satan's greatest weapons. most things we dread never even come to pass, but if we allow ourselves to dwell upon them they can overwhelm us. and yes, there may be really big demons at times, but for that we have an even bigger God.

i once heard a story. i think it was about smith wigglesworth. he was awakened one night by a presence. he looked up and saw the devil himself standing at the end of his bed. he bluntly asked "what do you want," and then proceeded to turn over and go back to sleep. true or not it illustrates the power and authority we have in the name of Jesus.

"but I will show you whom you should fear: fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!" luke 12:5 there is a

place where fear can be justified and our Lord illustrated it in the above verse. all unbelievers and mockers should have a fear of God and His coming judgement.

when one accepts the truth of Jesus and His grace, that fear is turned into reverence. "for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 tim 1:7 He has given us power to drive back those demons, love to embrace His truth, and a sound mind to enter into peace.

"for yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more." psa 37:10 our race is almost over. will you win, place, show or be in the lingering group of stragglers left behind?