

BECOMING LIKE JESUS



11.26.17 | The House That Fear Built 1 John 4:18

“Normal fear protects us; abnormal fear paralyzes us. Normal fear motivates us to improve our individual and collective welfare; abnormal fear constantly poisons and distorts our inner life.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Fear isn't one thing. Fear is a bunch of little things all stacked up to look seemingly powerful. And, as much as I hate to give fear the credit, it is powerful. It stops you from moving forward. It makes you act smaller. It keeps you from being here now. Fear is the thing that says, ‘Don't go tonight. You don't belong

there.’ Fear is the whisper that says, ‘You? People don't like you.’ Fear is a voice I easily become immune to, not even realizing it is there and talking to me. It says right in the Bible that God didn't give me a spirit of fear and yet I take it with me on most mornings, the way you take your jacket for that October air.”

- Hannah Brencher

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

“Fear is the great enemy of intimacy.”

- Henri Nouwen

Psalm 46:1-3 (The Message)

God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help when we need him.
We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom,
courageous in seastorm and earthquake,
before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

1 John 4:17-19 (The Message)

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day — our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love. We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

“As Jesus travels with us in life, he teaches us how to return to the house of love. The fear may come back tomorrow and you will have to struggle, and you can again return from fear to love. Every time you feel afraid, you can open yourself to God's presence, hear God's voice again, and be brought back to perfect love that casts out fear and brings in greater freedom. Fear will come at you, in your house of love, to convince you that you are not safe. To make you question and become

consumed with threats, dangers etc. It will take over your mind - if you let it.”

- Henri Nouwen