

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 2:15-22
Lesson #9
Spiritual security
10/14/2021



As Christians
we are not alone
*in more ways
than one.*



Fear

The **first negative human emotion**
expressed in the Bible

Genesis 3:10

"I was afraid because I was
naked; so I hid myself."

We fear the circumstances and
consequences of **failing to honor God.**

2

"Shame is the most
powerful, master
emotion. It's the fear
that we're not
good enough."

Brene Brown



**The Biblical narrative is about
life and death / peace and fear.**

Hebrews 2:14-15

"... He Himself likewise also partook of the same,
(flesh and blood) that He ... might free those who
through fear of death were subject to slavery
all their lives."

Romans 8

"¹⁵ For you have **not received a spirit of slavery**
leading to fear again, but you have received a
spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out,
"Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness
with our spirit that we are children of God,"

4



Fear

is perhaps the most
powerful negative
emotion in affecting
spiritual decisions.

5

A heart full of fear will lead us to make defensive decisions.



If we lead with hope & faith our hearts will follow with joy, peace, and freedom.



6

“Fear and anger should presumably function as alarm systems—and an alarm is not supposed to stay perpetually on,” It is not the onset of fear or anger that is most dangerous, “but stoking it, cultivating it, and dwelling within it that distorts and deforms.”



Kristin Kobes Du Mez
(Jesus and John Wayne - How white evangelicals corrupted a faith and fractured a nation)

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2 Peter Finding our way as aliens in this World

Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture.	Control your expectations and responses.	Clarify true and false hope.
1:1-4	1:5-15 1:16-21	2:1-22	3:1-18
	Holiness	Heresy	Hope



Alien life coaching

Aliens are spiritually secure through the Word of the Cross, more than the Way of the Cross.

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2 Peter 2

Identifying the wolves among the sheep

“¹⁵ **abandoning** the right way, they have **gone astray**, having followed the way of **Balaam, the son of Beor**, who loved the reward of unrighteousness;”

- Balaam (a Gentile prophet) who turned on Israel after speaking for Israel. Num. 22-31, Rev. 2:14

It's hard to bribe a fearless person.

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17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. 18 For, while speaking out arrogant *words* of no value they entice by fleshly desires, by indecent behavior, those **who barely escape from the ones who live in error**, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what anyone is overcome, by this he is enslaved.”

The shepherd's role is to equip the sheep to recognize and resist the predators.

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20 For if, **after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire.””

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Both the “knowledge of Christ” and escape from worldly corruption describe a Christian.

2 Peter 1

“3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the **true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 Through these (glory and excellence) He has granted to us His precious and magnificent **promises**, so that by them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.”

The same words are used in vs.20 of the predators.

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Observations and Questions

The false teachers were receptive to the Gospel at one time but later turned away.

Where they “born again” or just claiming to be Christians?

The untaught and unstable believers are most vulnerable and can be led astray.

Is the apostasy one of faith (Word of the Cross), ethics (Way of the Cross) or both?

What might this mean for us today?

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Where do most Christians agree?

The basis of the believer’s security

- The loving intent of God the Father.
- The finished redemption of God the Son.
- The indwelling comfort of God the Spirit.
- The faith of God’s people in the Gospel message.

Apostasy is real

- Some people repent of their faith confession.

Some false basis for security

- Membership in a church
- Confession of faith & water baptism
- Diligence in good works and moral discipline
- Signs and wonders, fruitful ministry, good witness

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Can a “born again” Christian turn away from the faith (Word & Way) and be lost?

- The serious **warnings** and language of the N.T. raises that question.
- The Apostolic teaching of the N.T. concerning the **Word of the Cross** is the Gospel and is quite clear - **salvation is by grace through faith apart from human merit (good works)**.
- But how is the **Way of the Cross (ethics)** related to the Word of the Cross? **Are they inseparable?**

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Where is the disagreement?

1.

What is the relationship between faith and works?

2.

Who is responsible for abiding faith?

3.

What is the significance of the warnings in Script.?

4.

How can a person know that they are secure?

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1.

What is the relationship between faith and works?

Jewish	Roman Catholic	Many Protestants	Radical Grace
Good works are all that matters	Good works are an expression of faith	Good works are a necessary marker of faith	Good works are the normal fruit of faith
Faithfulness	Faith	Faith	Faith
=	=	/	>
Faith	Faithfulness	Faithfulness	Faithfulness

17

True faith changes the heart (which only God can see) and leads to fruit that (man can see)

Ephesians 2

“8 For **by grace you have been saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

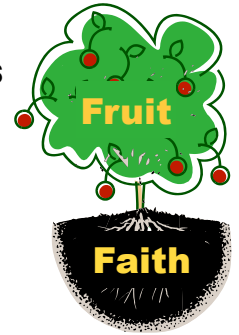
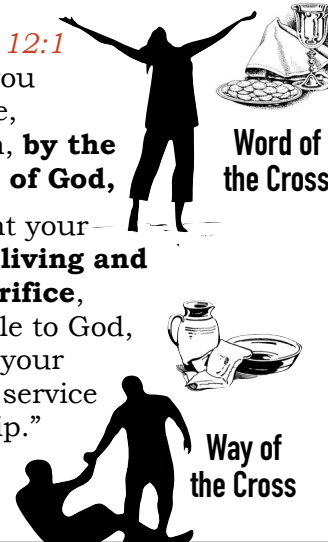


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Romans 12:1

“I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**,

to present your bodies **a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”



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Five concerns

If our security rests in **OUR** following the Way of the Cross

1. It is not **good news** for mortals.
2. It will be about **my merit** not Christ.
3. It makes my fate **uncertain**.
4. It invites **pride, shame, and fear**.
5. It cheapens the **Glory of God**.

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2.

Who is responsible for abiding faith?

God's preserving power (Decree)

Phil. 2:12

“God is at work in you”

Jn. 1:13

“who are born of God”

Rom. 11:5

“according to God's choice”

2 Thess. 12:13

“God has chosen you”

Man's persevering power (Diligence)

Phil. 2:13

“work out your salvation”

Jn. 1:12

“as many as received Him”

Rom. 11:20

“you stand by your faith”

2 Thess. 12:13

“through faith”

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NOTE:



- The Holy Spirit is a Helper not a Redeemer. He works with us, not around us.
- Believers are soldiers not spectators in Spiritual warfare.

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3.

What is the significance of the warnings in Script.?

1.

Those who emphasize the **sovereignty** of God.

The warnings are to distinguish the true believers from the false.

2.

Those who emphasize the **free will** of man.

The warnings are to keep us morally disciplined.

3.

Those who emphasize the **radical grace** of God and the **abiding faith** of man.

The warnings are to keep us growing in our faith.

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4. How can a person know that they are secure?

1.
Those who
emphasize
the **sovereignty**
of God.

**Only time can
assure them.**

Secured by
God's secret
decree

2.
Those who
emphasize
the **free will**
of man.

**Only a holy
life can assure
them.**

Secured by
their
holy living

3.
Those who emphasize
the **radical grace**
of God and
the **abiding faith**
of man.

**Only an abiding faith
can assure them.**

Secured by grace
through faith

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Lessons to be learned

1. **Faith** - Salvation in Christ is offered to all who truly believe and persevere IN FAITH (not works).
2. **Works** - We obey in response to our security in Christ, through faith, which is not a "meritorious work".
3. **Apostasy** - If we turn from our faith, we forfeit our experience of hope and recognition as Christians.
4. **False believers** - Not all who appear to be Christians truly believe and some who start believing do not finish.
5. **Warnings** - We must nurture faith and persevere in it lest we fall from grace and incur God's discipline.

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Hebrews 6:1

"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**"

Saving faith

is more than
intellectual
assent

is heartfelt
repentance
(turning) from
our dead
works to
Christ's
finished work

is less than
perfect
obedience

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2 Peter

Next week
3:1-2

How do we
know that we
have the right
Gospel?

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APTTEACH
A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2

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