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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Hebrews 2:14-15
Lesson #29
The Nature and Origin of Fear
08/11/2019



Natural disasters call for acts of God!

**God's providential
circumstances may be
unclear, but His plan for
our response is not.**

1



Natural disasters call for acts of God!

**It's not what happens
to us but rather how we
respond that shapes our
lives going forward.**


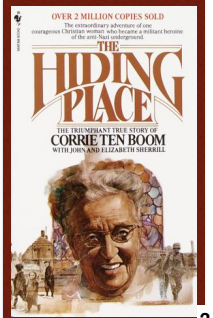
2

Betsie Ten Boom

was imprisoned with her family for hiding Jewish refugees as a part of the Dutch resistance during WWII.

Before her death, she experienced three visions about what she and her sister, Corrie were to do after their release. Her first vision was of a **house for former prisoners**. The second was to own a **concentration camp where they could teach Germans to learn to love again**. The third was that she and Corrie would travel the world telling what they had learned of God while in the camps.

Betsie died in prison at age 59. Corrie was released due to a clerical error and went on to tell the story of God's love conquering fear in **THE HIDING PLACE**.

3

**What enabled these
two girls to turn a
fearful situation into
a blessing?**




4

How to read the Old Testament



New Covenant Freedom and Old Covenant Fears

5

Much of the O.T. is written **FOR** us
but not **TO** us or **ABOUT** us.

**Failing to see this will lead to a
distorted image of our hopes
and expectations.**

Old Covenant

"The Spirit works
through **outer**
circumstances"

"temporal blessing"
"political power"
"external Law"
"holy temple"
"holy land"



New Covenant

"The Spirit works
through our **inner**
response to life"

"spiritual blessing"
"Body of Christ"
"internal Spirit"
"inner temple"
"heavenly home"



6

Deuteronomy 28:1,3-6, 30:16

"And **if you faithfully obey** the voice of the
LORD God, ... **blessed** shall you be in the
city, and **blessed** shall you be in the field.
Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and
the fruit of your ground and the fruit of
your cattle, the increase of your herds and
the young of your flock. **Blessed** shall be
your basket and your kneading bowl.
Blessed shall you be when you come in,
and **blessed** shall you be when you go out."

**Note the means is *obedience*
and the blessing is *material*.**

7

**The Cross, Resurrection, and
Pentecost *mark the change from the
Old Covenant to a New Covenant.***

Hebrews 7:18

"For, on the one hand, there is
a **setting aside of a former
commandment** because of its
weakness and uselessness (for
the Law made nothing perfect),
and on the other hand there is
a bringing in of a **better hope**,
through which we draw near to
God."



8

**The great symbols of the faith
are NOT**



The Law



The towel and basin



Crown of a King

***reminding us of the life of
Jesus.***

9

**The great symbols of the faith
ARE**



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

***reminding us of the death and
resurrection of Jesus.***

10

FEAR



11

Some overlooked signs of fear:

- ✓ **Need to control** - minimize the unknowns
- ✓ **Need for closure** - get it settled ASAP
- ✓ **Black and white** - gray areas are unsettling
- ✓ **Resisting change** - low risk tolerance
- ✓ **Worry / whine** - things will or have gone bad
- ✓ **Conspiracies** - organized doom
- ✓ **Low creativity** - avoid risk of failure
- ✓ **Cup is half full** - bad things will happen
- ✓ **Social withdrawal** - relationships are risky
- ✓ **Don't question** - questions bring uncertainty

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Is it better to be
confused while
seeking the truth
or certain in
believing a lie?



Strong faith
in a false hope
is not a virtue.

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ACTS 17:11 13

Doubting is not
idolatry
but faith in the
wrong thing for the
wrong things is.



Strong faith
in a false hope
is not a virtue.

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ACTS 17:11 14

Genesis 2

“¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it **you will surely die.**”

15

Death is the absence of life.

Sensual

Separation
from physical
wellbeing

Social

Separation
from others

Spiritual

Separation
from God

Hell
is the domain
of death.



16



Genesis 2:17

“for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

1. Life is lost when we **declare our independence from God.**

17



Genesis 3:5

“in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When God trusted humanity with freedom, He took a risk that they might turn from Him.

2. The heart of all temptation is to **declare independence from God.**

18

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”

Jeremiah 2:13



19



Genesis 3:10

“I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

3. Fear is the **primal emotion** of the Fall -

20

The primal impulses in life as a result of the sin of Adam & Eve

Fear leading to **Hiding.**



21

Depression is the **exhaustion of our defensive strategies** to manage our fears.



22

Hebrews 2

“¹⁴ since then the children share in flesh and blood, he (Jesus) himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death he might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ and might deliver those who through **fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.**”

Satan **tempts** us (like Eve) to -

- ✓ fear the **goodness** of God
- ✓ and to place faith **in and for the wrong things.**

The **incarnation** addresses these issues.

23

Ephesians 4:15

“but speaking the **truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,”

Hate is not the first enemy of truth and love,
FEAR is.



24

Many of us
project an image

we can't
live up to



and can't
live with.



25

Ephesians 4:15

“but speaking the **truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,”

Christian Ethics is the triumph of **truth** over falsehood and **love** over fear.



26

Genesis 3

“¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.””

Our defensive strategies

- **don't remove our fears**
- **but further isolate us from God & others.**

27

Matthew 25

“²⁴ And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. ²⁵ And **I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent** in the ground; see, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, . . . ²⁹ For to everyone who has shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.’”

**Fear sabotages
our significance, potential, & blessings.**

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Facing Fear

1. In every circumstance I should ask - **What fear might this event stir within me?**
2. Renew a commitment to seeing life from a kingdom perspective - **Am I looking for the wrong kind of blessings in the wrong places?**
3. Turn (repent) from seeing myself apart from Christ to seeing myself in Christ - **How would Christ want me to respond?**
4. Present myself in every situation as a disciple developing & demonstrating God's image - **How can I be better because of these circumstances?**
5. Work with others to cultivate a life driven by love rather than fear. **Help me get past this.**

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