

Introduction:

- Generational Sunday. communion
- Today is #5 in a series entitled: Facing Fear. Gods objective in this series on facing fear is to bring us into a confidence of who He is. We call that "Faith"!
- You can only receive God to the level of what you trust Him in. Receiving Him is what gives you authority to become something...a master over fear!
- Three things that you must do to overcome fear in your life: 1. Stand your ground against fear. 2. Work the Word. 3. Dismantle fear. IE. Kelly, milk jug, boots. When fear hits you, you have to hit it back!

I. Stand Your Ground *"Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness."* (Ephesians 6:14, NLT)

- A. Stand your ground is a defensive posture. You react to what is happening to you. It is also called 'a line in the sand' or 'no duty to retreat'. It establishes the right by which one may defend themselves or others. Where you have a lawful right to be, you have no duty to retreat. In the spiritual realm, you have rights as a believer. And the greatest right you have is to live free of demonic oppression. Stand your ground is a defensive posture.
1. Defensive posture - the purpose of a defensive posture is to create conditions for a counter-offensive. Ie. Jordan and Hannah Taekwondo stance. Ie. Braedon In fencing, you parry.
 2. To take a defensive posture does not mean you are surrendering. It means you are standing your ground and looking for the opportunity to go on the offensive.
 3. When you stand your ground against fear, you are saying: "I am not retreating any further, and you begin looking for opportunities to go on the offensive. Ie. Snake boots.
- B. When you stand your ground, your mind is your bean patch!
1. What you sow in your bean patch will grow (good or bad). If you sow fear you will produce fear. If you let the devil play fear videos in your bean patch he will produce fear.
 2. You have to stand your ground and defend your bean patch, it is what warriors do!
 - a) One of David's mighty men was Shammah. When all Israels army fled he defended a bean patch all by himself. He did not let fear move him off of what he had legal right to.
 - b) *"And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord worked a great victory."* (2 Samuel 23:11-12, ESV)
- C. Standing your ground starts with a decision to get free. The is Sunday #5 on facing fear. I trust you are making some decisions to stand against your fears.
1. Defend what is yours. It is your legal right as a believer to live free from tormenting fear.
 2. Ie. Did you ever get called a name for being afraid?
 - a) What names were you called? A name is used to create identity.
 - b) My cousins and I would call each other 'Fraidy cat' when we were scared to do something. Nobody wants to be identified as 'Fraidy cat!'

3. Defend your identity in Christ! Your identity is who you are in Christ. Do not let fear steal your identity! You are a child of God. You are the righteousness of God in Christ. You are healed in Christ. You are a son of God. You are an overcomer. You are a joint heir with Jesus. You are more than a conqueror in Christ. You were born to live free from sin, sins domain, sins torment and sins punishment! Standing your ground starts with a decision to live free from fear.
- D. Be proactive in facing what you fear. IE. Get snake books.
1. You go into a defensive posture...
 2. for the purpose of making an offensive move! Ie. I bought snake boots so I could hunt safely.
 3. You may be tempted to be afraid but know that God wants us to be confident in Him.
 4. Take the fight to the devil when he intimidates you with fear. Here is how we do that, we...

II. Work the Word

- A. Offensive posture - In the offensive position, your intention is to attack. You make things happen.
1. The offense is about action. You create the movement.
 2. The offense is about momentum. You create forward movement with mass=momentum.
 3. The offense is about responsibility. In defense, I can't control what happens to me but on the offense I take responsibility and create action to attack my opponent, in this case it is fear.
 4. Taking the offensive is about taking the fight to your opposition.
 - a) Ie. Jordan and Hannah - kick and break a board.
 - b) Ie. Braedon - move from defensive to offense and make tag with epee'
- B. The Word of God is also called the sword of the Spirit. Eph 6:17.
1. It is the only part of the armor for offensive movement. The word requires us to take action, build momentum and take responsibility.
 2. In Mk 4, we find the parable of the sower. Jesus says, "*Let me explain: The farmer sows the Word as seed,*" (Mark 4:14, TPT) The farmer, assumes responsibility, takes action and builds momentum.
 - a) The farmer sows the seed for the purpose of producing something.
 - b) What you sow will be what you reap. Law of Genesis: everything produces after its own kind.
 3. One of four things will happen to you today after hearing this message, according to Mark 4.
 - a) Satan will come immediately and take the word away. vs. 15
 - b) We will not let the word grow deep and when the heat is on it will wither in you. vs. 17
 - c) We give our attention to other things and those things will choke the life out of word so that it will not produce in our lives. vs 19 IE. Weeds in the bean patch.
 - d) We hear, accept and produce a harvest of that word! 30, 60, 100 times what was sown.

- e) Some of you will go home, recognize you are in fear, pull out podcast, study the notes and actually bear fruit! Thus putting fear under your feet. Activate the Word with prayer and faith.
- C. Put your faith in the Word.
 1. *"But the officer said, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.'"* (Matthew 8:8, NLT) Just say the word! One word from God! Just one scripture and POW! you could be free from fear.
 2. The centurion is called a man of great faith by Jesus! NOT: 'Fraidy cat!'
 - a) Faith Mt 9:29 according to your faith let it be done to you.
 - b) The farmer sows for the purpose of producing.
 - c) Then he stands in faith while waiting in the growing season.
 3. Mt 8:8, Centurion "only speak a word" vs. 13 *"...because you believed it has happened!"*
 4. Mk 11:24 *"what ever you say.* Speaking with authority. You speak with authority when you believe. The Word has a mission to produce: Ps 107:20; Is 55:11; Mt 7:24
 5. The Word in us is created to dismantle fear!

III. Dismantle Fear

- A. Dismantle - to disconnect the pieces of. By standing our ground and working the Word we dismantle the stronghold of fear. We tear fear apart piece by piece.
 1. IE. To be torn limb from limb is to be physically dismantled. That is what we are doing to fear.
 2. Fear can come into our lives in a multitude of different ways. But it never comes in by itself! Fear always brings its companions of: worry, anxiety, phobias, sicknesses, perfection, control, rejection, disassociation, self destruction, etc. etc.
 3. Together they form a stronghold. A stronghold - *is an area of the mind where darkness reigns. It is a system of logic that an individual has come to accept.* John Paul Jackson, p173 Unmasking Jezebel.
- B. Dismantle fear by admitting you have it and that it has you. You recognize fear operating in your life.
 1. Fear is a spirit/demon. It is spirit sent to torment you. And it will be a thief that steals your quality of life and relationship if you continue to let it.
 2. Fears assignment is to neutralize your faith in God. To cause you to trust more in the devil than God and His word.
 3. It begins with vain imaginations that for many have been brought on by sudden traumas. Pain of broken heart, disappointments, etc that continue to replay in the mind.
- C. We go back to where that fear entered our soul and we close that door. In other words you go back and face your fear. Face your fear! Remember the... IE. Clint Eastwood in the street.
 1. IE. You may have a fear of water because at some point you almost drown. Fear of fire. Fear of trusting because you have been hurt...by a pastor, a spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend.
 - a) Forgive the person who cause the initial pain. You must release them. "Father forgive them they do/did not realize what they were doing." Lk 23:34

- b) Events - recognize it for what it is...was it accident, rare event like dog bite, spider bite, etc.
- D. Take captive every fearful thought. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy **strongholds**.⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ," (2 Cor 10:4-5 ESV) *"We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One." (2 Cor 10:4-5 TPT)**
1. You have to tell it "NO!"
 2. You have to tell it to "Obey"
 3. You talk to it: "You do not have authority over me. I belong to God. God is my Rock. You are powerless."
- E. We must then cast down that 'vain imagination' through faith in God and God's Word. We replace the lie with the truth. But Jesus said,
1. *"But Jesus said, 'And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" (John 8:32, NLT)*
 2. Demolish fear with the Truth. *"We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. (2 Cor 10:4-5 TPT) Create a new video in your head/heart. What's playing? The Truth!*
- F. We ask God to fill us with His love. *"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."* (1 John 4:18, ESV) This best happens by just sitting in the presence of God. Just sitting and receiving His love.
1. When our mind is ruled by the presence of God and the life of His Word. We experience freedom from fear. We create a new video to watch in our hearts and head.
 2. Note: This all happens in the heart! Faith. Faith in the Promises. Faith in who He is.

Conclusion:

- Fear is a trespasser.
- Fear is a destroyer of our quality of life and of relationships.
- Go on the offensive! Face your fear and win!
 - Stand your ground against fear.
 - Work the Word against fear.
 - Dismantle fear and Win!