

Sermon Notes  
**A SHOT ACROSS THE BOW!**  
March 15, 2020

Scripture tells us there will come a time of shaking before He returns.

- **Hebrews 12:26–29 (NLT)** <sup>26</sup>When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: “Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also.” <sup>27</sup>This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. <sup>28</sup>Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. <sup>29</sup>For our God is a devouring fire.

**HOW DO WE RESPOND TO FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN?**

**1. Rest in the Lord.**

**Psalm 91:1–4 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup>Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will **find rest** in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup>This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.

<sup>3</sup>For he will rescue you from every trap and **protect you from deadly disease**.<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. **His faithful promises are your armor and protection.**

**2. Pray and fast for family, friends, and this nation.**

**A Prayer from the Book of Job:**

- **Job 1:8–10 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup>Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”

**First God describes Job:**

- He is blameless;
- a man of complete integrity.
- He fears God
- and stays away from evil.”

**Satan describes Job:**

<sup>9</sup>Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. <sup>10</sup>You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is!

## Look carefully at Satan's description of Job; He is speaking to God ...

- "You have always put a **wall of protection around him** and his home and his property. "
- "You have made him **prosper in everything** he does."

**Notice:** Satan is describing the **results** of the life of a man who walks blamelessly before the Lord with complete integrity. A man who fears God and stays away from evil. Because of this life, this man has God's divine protection surrounding him and prospering in all he does.

- **Zechariah 2:5 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup>Then I, myself, will be a protective wall of fire around Jerusalem, says the LORD. And I will be the glory inside the city!"

**POINT:** If you walk blamelessly before for the Lord, in complete integrity, fearing God and staying away from evil, then He will establish a hedge around you, a wall of fire, and be the glory within. You will prosper in all you do.

### So, here's the prayer of Job:

- *"Father, help my family and me to walk blameless before you with complete integrity and fear of the Lord staying away from evil. Place a wall of protection around me, my home, and property that I may prosper in all that I do."*

### 3. Walk-in faith, not in fear.

As Child of God, you are indestructible. You are an eternal being living in a temporal body that is daily wasting away. So, walk in faith, not in fear.

- **Job 3:25–26 (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup>For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me. <sup>26</sup>I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes."

## THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF FEAR:

### 1<sup>st</sup> The fear of the Lord

- **Proverbs 9:10–12 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup>Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.  
<sup>11</sup>Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life.  
<sup>12</sup>If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.
- **Deuteronomy 6:24 (NLT)** <sup>24</sup>And the LORD our God commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear him so he can continue to bless us and preserve our lives, as he has done to this day.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Fear of self-preservation

- **Self-preservation** is a gift from the Lord. It helps us know our limits, honoring our needs and desires, and taking the time to heal and repair our bodies. So that we can be productive and live a healthy life.
- **Proverbs 22:3 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The **simpleton** goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.
- **POINT:** This virus is large and in charge! Wash your hands, avoid large gatherings, clean the surfaces in your home, and fight this virus by taking precautions: **WHY? A simpleton** goes on blindly and suffers the consequence.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> The spirit of fear

- **2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of power and love and a sound mind.
- **NOTE:** If a “spirit of fear” drives you then there are three things you lose ... power, love and a sound mind.

### You lose power

- The power of life and death is in the tongue. You begin speaking death instead of life. What a great opportunity for God’s children to be light in the darkness and life in death.
- **Psalms 91:5–7 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. <sup>6</sup> Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you.

### You lose love!

- A “spirit of fear” will drive you inward, and you will prefer yourself above others. Scripture says that “*perfect love cast out fear*” ... “*That the love of Christ compels us*”... To do what? To prefer one another, to love one another, and to encourage one another.
- India 38 years ago, I visited a leper colony.
- **The Chosen series:** Episode 6 scene: Healing of the leper! “**Don’t let him breathe on you!**” They didn’t know how leprosy spread, they thought it was air born. But Jesus touched him and healed him.
- We are way ahead of this virus at Crossroads. You have heard me say: “*At Crossroads, we don’t shake hands and spread disease; we give hugs and spread love.*”

**You lose the soundness of mind:** (This leads to foolish decisions.)

- *“The same person that pushes the fear sells the cure”* True.
- The spirit of fear is quickly commercialized. Some people benefit immensely from fear, and so they actively spread the “SPIRIT OF FEAR.” People lose soundness of mind.“
- **Polio pioneer...** 1955 Today with TV/INTERNET fear is commercialized and politicized.

You have heard it said, “If you want to make a change, create a **Crisis.**” A crisis will bring change, but often that change is not healthy.

- **Principle:** What you fear you will become. What you fear will define your life. Don’t let fear define your life. Guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

**Proverbs 4:23–27 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

<sup>24</sup> Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech.

<sup>25</sup> Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.

<sup>26</sup> Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

<sup>27</sup> Don’t get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

**REVIEW: How do you respond?**

1. **Rest in the Lord.**
2. **Pray and fast for your family, friends and this nation (Prayer of Job 1)**
3. **Walk-in faith, not in fear.**
4. **Enjoy time with those you love.**