

Proverbs 19:20 (NKJV)
20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
That you may be wise in your latter days.

When God's word comes to you with counsel don't be embarrassed because you fall in whatever area of weakness you have!

That is the natural condition of mankind, everyone falls in their area of weakness.

That's why God provided the solution because man is unable to succeed without Him. So don't be proud and make excuses, when you fall, just humbly journal and be receptive to counsel and be receptive to counsel with thankfulness.

Fear Love and Peace

1. Promises of God:

Psalms 98:12 (NKJV)

12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Key memory
versus

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

10 Fear not, for I am with you, I'll not dismay you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV)

8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

2. The challenges of life, hard times, and difficulties:

a.

God doesn't promise us in Scripture that we won't go through hard times and difficulties and challenging circumstances.

L.

Sometimes the difficulties we go through is just due to a lack of knowledge of God's word, and so we're operating on human viewpoint to handle the situation, and this approach **always** results in failure!

We should always ask ourselves: **is my approach working?**
is my approach kind?
is my approach gentle?
is my approach insisting on my own way?
is my approach long-suffering?
is my approach the way I would want to be approached?

Sometimes our difficulties are self-induced due to sin/rebellion, stubbornness, just failure to apply ourselves to God's word; and so the difficulties are divine discipline.

God's discipline is to encourage us to be humble and obeying His word

Sometimes it's the result of the failure of others we're associated with in this circumstance.

3. It's important for us to understand the meaning of this word "fear"

a.

Healthy Fear:

There is a healthy fear or anxiety about life. If you're getting ready to give a presentation and you're going to speak in public you may have stage fright. You may be a little concerned, a little anxious about what you are going to do and that just gives us an edge that pushes us to perform better to be well prepared with everything well-thought-out.
When as a parent you are concerned about the safety of your children and what they are doing, it motivates and pushes us to do the right thing or be a little more diligent, a little more focused on what we are doing.
That is not really the kind of fear or anxiety that we're talking about in these passages.

b.

Sinful Fear:

A fear that drives us in a direction that disobeys God and to seek solutions apart from God's Word.
The problem of fear, a problem of worry, the problem of anxiety, is basic to the human fallen condition.
Fear is basically an emotion that is caused by the anticipation or the awareness of danger.
In some sense we feel that our security, our safety is personally threatened and/or those we love have their security or safety threatened.

We can apply that to almost any area weather has to do with:
(health
(family
(future
(finances
(career
we can easily manufacture a lot of fear and anxiety and some people are better at it than others.

So we have to recognize that fear is generated from our sin nature.

4. Juxtaposition of Love and Fear? Not hate?

a.

1 John 4:18 (NKJV) **LOVES** indicates that process of trusting.

18 There is no **fear**, **love** but **perfect** love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. **But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

When love is absent, then what is present in the soul is that instability, that uncertainty that comes as a result of the dread of fear. And so John is talking about this in terms of the spiritual life. He says,
"18 There is no fear in love; but **perfect** love casts out fear"

The terminology here indicates it's an either/or, that what resolves fear is understanding God's method for handling the challenges of life through his definition of love.
So we must grow and mature in our understanding and application of that love; that when we are able to translate his definition of love into action and in our thinking, it removes that focus of fear and dread.

L.

Hoarding:

Hoarding is a general term for a behavior that leads people or animals to accumulate food or other items during periods of **uncertainty**.

Security

When people are controlled by insecurity and fear, one result is that we want to hoard what we have. Whatever little bit we might have that gives us a sense of comfort, a sense of security, we look to those possessions or those things as ours. When a people, either as a group or a person as an individual, are controlled by fear and desperation, they want to protect what they have rather than feeling the freedom to reach out and develop and to risk something going into another situation.

b.

What happens with any believer that wakes up in the middle of the night, or going through the day and something happens that catches your attention. You lose your job, or your health is threatened, the health of your children is threatened. Any of these things can happen, and all of a sudden we realize how finite we are and **how incapable we are of controlling the details of our life.**
So we have one of several directions to go, but the direction we should go in is that of depending upon God, remembering that we may not be in control **but God is in control**
God is the one who can handle the circumstances, and I need to let Him handle the circumstances because I'm incapable. I'm not **knowledgeable** enough but He's **omniscient**.
I'm not **powerful** enough but He is **omnipotent**.
I certainly am not **wise** enough of what is going on, but He is because He is **omnipresent**.

So we recognize that **fear** is the ultimate mover, the ultimate motivator within our sin nature, and recognize that this is one of the most dangerous things that we can give into.
We recognize that there are going to be circumstances that make us aware of these limitations and that we will be fearful, but that does not mean that we should cave into those emotions that arise from the uncertainty of certain circumstances.

5. So are you giving in to the uncertainty of the circumstances with fear?

6. Fear and the solution:

a.

Fear is an emotional sin that lies at the center of a web of mental attitude sins:



Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2. Fear is a negative in our spiritual life.

Therefore, if we are being fearful, we are out of fellowship.

That is a really clear barometer:

if I'm anxious, if I'm worried, I'm out of fellowship, and I'm not trusting God. I'm not in right relationship with Him.

3. To be fearful is to walk in darkness;

To abide in Christ is to walk in the light, which means you're holding onto the truths of Scripture to obey them in the face of uncertainty.

So you're either walking in darkness, OR we are walking in light.

4. Fear sees the problem and it intensifies. Fear focuses on the problem
Faith looks at the solution, faith is focused on Scripture. Faith minimizes the problem in light of Scripture

Proverbs 3:21 (NKJV)
21 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

b.

Psalms 55 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. With Contemplation of David.

1 Give ear to my prayer, O God, And do not hide Your self from my supplication.
2 Attend to me, and hear me: I am restless in my complaint, and moan loudly.
3 Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me, And **multiply afflictions**.
4 My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
5 Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me.
6 So I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.
7 Indeed, I would wander far off, And remain in the wilderness. I seek
8 I would hasten my escape From the windy storm and tempest."
9 Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, For I have seen violence and strife in the city.
10 Day and night they go around it on its walls; Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it.
11 Destruction is in its midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets.
12 For it is not an enemy who reproached me; Then I could bear it: Nor is it one who hated me: who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him.
13 But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance.
14 We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.
15 Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell. For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them.
16 As for me, I will call upon God, And the Lord shall save me.
17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.
18 He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me.
19 God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides firm of old. Settle Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God.
20 He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him: He has broken his covenant.
21 The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.
22 Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you, He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
23 But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in You.

7.

8.

We want to control the situation, and we try to control the situation but that always results in failure

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Focusing on the problem
Overwhelmed with fear
Human viewpoint solution

The circumstance

Changing the focus to faith in God

The promise of God

7.

8.