

# #11 Northside Natter

3 June 2020

Today's topic - **Perfect Love Casts Out All Fear**

What does that even mean? How does someone apply that to their own lives? Let's see if we can make practical sense of this statement.

## **1 John 4:18**

*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

John tells us that not only does God's perfect love cast out our fear, he also tells us that fear comes with torment. Torment in this context equals mental anguish. A tormented mind is not a peaceful mind. We are further told that the fearful person cannot be made perfect in love.

That's a warning to us all. As Saints, we look forward to being made perfect in God's love, yet here we are told we can't be made perfect. If we give in to fear, God cannot work in us. Our fear repels God's love from our lives because it is strongly linked to unbelief. This is a dangerous position to put ourselves in

In our world, there are people who are living in fear brought on by irrational thinking. For example, they fear to go to a café with friends because a bomb was set off in a café ten years ago in their city. They fear to go to the park because a drug-driven youth murdered his mother there a short while ago. They fear to go to the shopping centre because a lunatic went crazy with a gun in another state. Sadly, these people are very fearful.

Of course, there are loads of other things in this world that torment fearfuls. For instance, some people strongly fear spiders, but there's not a spider on earth that can't be slapped between two things to get rid of it. Some fearfuls have the same approach to the dentist and avoid them, leading to health problems. Yet fearfuls can't think logically when in a state of mental anguish as the emotion simply overwhelms them. They are hamstrung by their fear. What they really fear is death, which every human ever born must experience – without exception.

Then there are those who manage their fear. They are rational about the things they can change and the things they can't. They take the precautions they are taught to take to minimise danger. They are at peace because they are focused on getting on with their own lives and tending to their own responsibilities to those in their immediate sphere of influence. We'll call these people the 'peaceables'. Peaceables know that they cannot control anything outside themselves, and therefore, do not allow fear to consume them.

The peaceables are a well-grounded community and live their lives happily with a 'wait and see attitude'. It is much easier to be a peaceable with the Lord in the picture than it is without him, as the following scriptures show.

**Psalms 56:11** *In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.*

**Matthew 10:28** *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

## **2 Timothy 1:7**

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

The Lord's Saints have been given a spirit of power, love and a sound mind. This is the definition of a peaceable. Saints don't have to worry about a thing or torment themselves with mental anguish when the Lord is ever-ready to help them. Why wouldn't we want to take advantage of that?

I would suggest to you that the Lord is also asking his Saints to step it up even further. He is asking us not to fear death. He is asking us to trust him and not concern ourselves with those who can destroy our bodies. He is telling us that our only fear should be the destruction of our soul; the loss of our salvation. Death is not a consideration for his children because he gives them eternal life.

If we trust in the Lord, he will deliver us from any situation. Do we believe what he says? Or do we harbour unbelief?

## **Deuteronomy 10:12**

*And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*

This is what we have to do. This is all we have to do. We don't have to do anything more than what he says in the above scripture. We don't need to bother ourselves about troubles and strife. We don't have to be focused on our trials and tribulations. We don't even have to put ourselves through mental anguish by fearing what others can do to us. What's the worst that can happen? Death. Yes. That's the worst. Our spirit sleeps until the Lord returns. In death there is no sorrow, no pain, no tears, no hate, no striving, no hunger nor thirst, no anguish, no fear. The worst doesn't sound too bad for peaceables like us. If that's the worst anyone can do to us, why fear it? We know what comes next. So, let's concentrate on walking in his ways, loving him, and serving the Lord with all our hearts and souls. That's what our daily focus must be.

## **Luke 12:5**

*But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yeah, I say unto you, Fear him.*

So many people unnecessarily fear things in this world. Fearfuls don't have a peace-filled life. How can they when they are so afraid, falling easily down that rabbit-hole of mental anguish? If you are one of the fearfuls, you should know the answer by now. Focus on the Lord instead. You have his power, love and a sound mind.

**Psalms 34:9**

*O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*

God will supply all our needs. He will comfort us. He will protect us. He will heal us. He will help us. He loves us as a father does. He guides and teaches us. He is there for us. All he wants in return is for us to trust him and believe he will keep his promises. We are to respect him, hold him in awe, reverence and worship him. We are to build our lives around him, with him as the hub of activity in our daily routines. He is who we go to first – not last.

When you have someone like the Lord in your life, what is there to fear? Set yourself free today, cast out all fear and focus on him for God's perfect love fills your whole being. Accept it. Believe it. Trust it.

A practical application of *Perfect love casts out all fear* begins with believing God.