

## AGAINST FEAR

2 Tim 1:4-14

Liptovský Hrádok, 30 November 2014

**2Tim 1:4-14** As I remember your **TEARS**, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere **FAITH**, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame (*ἀναμιμνήσκω σε ἀναζωπυρεῖν*) the **GIFT** of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God gave us a spirit not of fear (*πνεῦμα δειλίας*) but of power and love and self-control (*δυνάμεως καὶ ἀγάπης καὶ σωφρονισμού*). <sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be **ASHAMED** (*μὴ οὖν ἐπαισχυνθῆς*) of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God (*κατὰ δύναμιν θεοῦ*), <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling (*καλέσαντος κλήσει ἁγία*), not because of our works but because of his own purpose (*κατὰ ἴδιαν πρόθεσιν*) and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light (*καταργήσαντος μὲν τὸν θάνατον φωτίσαντος δὲ ζωὴν καὶ ἀφθαρσίαν*) through the gospel, <sup>11</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup> which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup> Follow the pattern of the **sound words** (*Ἐποτύπωσιν ἔχε ὑγιαίνόντων λόγων*) that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, **guard the good deposit entrusted to you** (*τὴν καλὴν παραθήκην φύλαξον διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου τοῦ ἐνοικοῦντος ἐν ἡμῖν*).

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**4. CONCLUSIONS****0. INTRODUCTION: THE DAILY REALITY OF FEAR**

- \*אל-תירא\* 78x
- μη φοβ\* 129x (LXX + BNT)
- Roháček: 106x „Neboj(te) sa!“
- KJV: 63x “Fear not!”

**0.1. ON FEAR IN GENERAL****0.1.1. THE GIFT OF FEAR**

- psychology – in fear there is protection from danger (*normal fear...*)

- faith – in fear there is protection from sinning (**Pr 16:6** ...by the fear of the LORD (יִרְאַת יְהוָה) one turns away from evil.)
- Pharaoh → heart hardened → no fear of God
- The sons of Eli → bold to disobey

### 0.1.2. THE SIN OF FEAR

- **Rev 21:8** But as for the cowardly (τοῖς δὲ δειλοῖς), the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the **second death**."

### 0.2. FEAR AND COURAGE IN THE TEXT

- **A spirit of fearfulness** (*pneuma deilias*). Here *pneuma* is the *charisma* of verse 2Ti 1:6, the human spirit as endowed by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:15). *Deilia* is an old word (*deilos, deidō*) and always in a bad sense of cowardice, only here in N.T. **Of power** (*dunameōs*). One of Paul's characteristic words (Rom 1:16). **Of love** (*agapēs*). One of the gifts of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). "Which drives out fear" (Lock) as in 1Jn 4:18. **Of discipline** (*sōphronismou*). Late *Koin*, word (from *sōphronizō*, to control), self-control, here only in N.T. See 1Ti 2:9 for *sōphrosunē*.<sup>1</sup>
- 2 Tim. 1:7 **spirit**. Probably the Holy Spirit. **fear**. The Greek (*deilia*) in extrabiblical literature refers to one who flees from battle, and has a strong pejorative sense referring to cowardice. Boldness, not cowardice, is a mark of the Spirit (see Prov. 28:1; Acts 4:31).<sup>2</sup>

Paul mentions three characteristics of the effective Christian leader: power, love, and a sound mind (wisdom). These are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Follow his leading each day so that your life will more fully exhibit these characteristics. See Galatians 5:22, 23 for a list of the by-products of the Holy Spirit living in us.<sup>3</sup>

- ...the Spirit of of power and love and self-control... → **Rom 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" → **Gal 4:6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

**7. Spirit of fear** (πνεῦμα δειλίας). Better, of cowardice. N. T.<sup>o</sup>. Comp. Rom. viii. 15, and see on *the Spirit*, Rom. viii. 4, § 5.

**Of a sound mind** (σωφρονισμοῦ). N. T.<sup>o</sup>. <sup>o</sup>LXX, <sup>o</sup>Class. Not *self-control*, but *the faculty of generating it in others or in one's self, making them σώφρονες of sound mind*. Comp. Tit. ii. 4. Rend. *discipline*. See on *σωφροσύνη*, 1 Tim. ii. 9. <sup>4</sup>

- v. 10 – ...our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death... (**Heb 2:15** deliver all those who through fear of death (φόβῳ θανάτου) were subject to lifelong slavery.)
- ...the gospel by the power of God (κατὰ δύναμιν θεοῦ), <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling... not because of our works but because of his own purpose

### 0.2.1. TIMOTHY

- Paul remembers Timothy's (1) tears, (2) faith, (3) gift, (4) ashamed

Timothy was experiencing great opposition to his message and to himself as a leader. His youth, his association with Paul, and his leadership had come under fire from believers and nonbelievers alike. Paul urged him to be bold. When we allow people to intimidate us, we neutralize our effectiveness for God. The power of the Holy Spirit can help us overcome our fear of what some might say or do to us so that we can continue to do God's work.<sup>5</sup>

- fear of shame → the people's judgment (**Pr 29:25** The fear of man (מִדְּרֹת אָדָם) lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.)
- v. 8 – Suffer by the power of God! → power of love
- v. 13 – Follow the pattern of the sound words ... → power of the sound mind

<sup>1</sup> ROBERTSON, A. T. *Word Pictures in the NT*.

<sup>2</sup> *ESV Study Bible*.

<sup>3</sup> *Life Application Bible*

<sup>4</sup> VINCENT, M. R. *Word Studies in the New Testament IV*.

<sup>5</sup> *Life Application Bible*

- v. 14 – By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard...

### 0.2.2. PAUL

- v. 11-12 ...preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup> which is why I suffer as I do... (**1Pt 4:15-16** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.)
- v. 12 ...I know whom I have believed

### 0.3. THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- (1) The power to create, (2) the power to convict, (3) the power to regenerate, (4) the power to unite...

#### 0.3.1. ...AND POWER

- **Zech 4:6** "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,** says the LORD of hosts. (לֹא בְחַיִל וְלֹא בְכֹחַ כִּי אִם־בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה זְבָאוֹת)

#### 0.3.2. ...AND LOVE

- **Rom 5:5** God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

#### 0.3.3. ...AND WISDOM

- **Job 32:7-8** ...wisdom.' <sup>8</sup> But it is the spirit in man (רוּחַ־הַיָּיָא בְּאִנוּשׁ), the breath of the Almighty (נְשִׁמַת שְׁדַי), that makes him understand.

### 0.4. SERENITY PRAYER

God grant me the  
**Serenity**  
 to accept the things  
 I cannot change,  
 the **Courage**  
 to change  
 those things I can,  
 and the **Wisdom**  
 to know the difference.

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- *serenity*: Cheerful tranquillity (of mind, temper, countenance, etc.)<sup>7</sup>
- "Lord Jesus/Father in heaven, give me the *overcoming faith* to pray and work for the things you want to change through me, give me *loving patience* to bear things you want me to suffer and *the guidance of the Holy Spirit* to know the difference."

## 1. THE SPIRIT OF POWER (ASSURANCE OF VICTORY)

- "Things can be changed!"
- Power to believe: **1John 5:4** ...And this is the **victory** that has overcome the world - our **faith**.

### 1.1. MIRACLES (FIGHTING DESTRUCTION)

- **Mt 9:6-8** ... "Rise, pick up your bed and go home." <sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.
- **Mark 4:39-40** ...And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" (τί δειλοί ἐστε ὅτι οὐπω ἔχετε πίστιν Ἰησοῦ)

### 1.2. REPENTANCE (FIGHTING LIES)

- **1Cor 4:20** For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. (οὐ γὰρ ἐν λόγῳ ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ ἀλλ' ἐν δυνάμει)
- **2Cor 10:4-5** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power (δυνατὰ τῷ θεῷ) to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments <sup>5</sup> and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

<sup>6</sup> [http://th08.deviantart.net/fs71/PRE/i/2011/037/0/8/serenity\\_prayer\\_by\\_paperpath-d38yvzx.jpg](http://th08.deviantart.net/fs71/PRE/i/2011/037/0/8/serenity_prayer_by_paperpath-d38yvzx.jpg) (29/11/2014)

<sup>7</sup> *Oxford English Dictionary* Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2009

### 1.3. EXORCISM (SPIRITUAL BATTLE)

- **Mk 1:27** And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

## 2. THE SPIRIT OF LOVE (FORGETTING SELF)

- "Things can be borne!"

### 2.1. COMMITMENT & LABOUR

- **1Thes 1:3** your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **John 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

### 2.2. SUFFERING

- **John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.
- **1Pt 3:14-15** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, (μὴ φοβηθῆτε μηδὲ παραχθῆτε,) <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

### 2.3. THE ATTRIBUTES OF LOVE

- **1Cor 13:4-8** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, (πάντα στέγει) believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends.

## 3. THE SPIRIT OF SOUND MIND (DISCIPLINED INNER LIFE)

- "Things must be discerned!"

### 3.1. ABILITY TO DISCIPLINE ONE'S INNER LIFE

- **Gal 5:22-23** ὁ δὲ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος ἐστὶν ἀγάπη χαρὰ εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία χρηστότης ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις <sup>23</sup> πραύτης ἐγκράτεια: κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος
- **2Pt 1:5-7** ἐπιχορηγήσατε ἐν τῇ πίστει ὑμῶν τὴν ἀρετὴν, ἐν δὲ τῇ ἀρετῇ τὴν γνώσιν, <sup>6</sup> ἐν δὲ τῇ γνώσει τὴν ἐγκράτειαν, ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐγκρατείᾳ τὴν ὑπομονήν, ἐν δὲ τῇ ὑπομονῇ τὴν εὐσεβείαν, <sup>7</sup> ἐν δὲ τῇ εὐσεβείᾳ τὴν φιλαδελφίαν, ἐν δὲ τῇ φιλαδελφίᾳ τὴν ἀγάπην

*σωφρονισμοῦ* (here only in N.T.), the power to make *σώφρων*; whether to discipline others (cf. Tit 2<sup>4-6</sup>), or to discipline oneself, to keep oneself in hand, free from all excitement or hesitation; it is "the sanity of saintliness," cf. Bp. Paget, *Studies in the Christian Character*, pp. 64-67. The context probably limits the reference here to self-discipline ("sobrietas," Vulg.: "*sanae mentis*," Tert. *Scorp.* 13); cf. 2<sup>22</sup>. *ἀγάπη* and *σωφρονισμός* control the exercise of *δύναμις*. The Christian minister must be strong, efficient, courageous, but never forget personal tenderness for others (cf. 1 Co 4<sup>20</sup>. 21 *ἐν δυνάμει . . . ἐν ἀγαπῇ*), or control of his own temper.

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### 3.2. TRUTH OVER EMOTIONS

- The gospel vs. public opinion (Apostle Paul in prison → resurrection)
- The temporary situation vs. eternal reality (suffering now → eternal life)
- **Nu 13:33 - 14:1** And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them." <sup>1</sup>Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

- The power of the Holy Spirit gives courage to fight and get victory over the enemy.
- The love of the Holy Spirit gives courage to labor and suffer for Jesus.
- The wisdom of the Holy Spirit gives courage to think according to the revealed truth when emotions threaten to overcome us.

<sup>8</sup> LOCK, W. *The Pastoral Epistles*, Edinburgh : T&T Clark, 1959, p. 86.