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FAITH OR FEAR?

There was a story told that went like this, "Fear knocked on the door, faith answered, no one was there." It registers truth my friends. You cannot have faith and fear at the same time.

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

The definition of fear in this verse is "timidity." It comes from the Greek root word "deilos" which means faithless or fearful.

Timothy was young in his pastorship. Paul was reminding him that he should remember how through the "laying on of hands" (vs. 6) that he had received a gift from God. Paul wanted him to step out and not be fearful in using this gift.

He goes on to tell Timothy that God had given him "*power*" to do this. The Greek word for power is "dunamis" which means force, miraculous power, ability, strength. It was the same word "power" that Jesus told his disciples would be given them when the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost. This power came down at Pentecost and continues to be given to each believer to enable the disciples and us to be a witness with boldness. This power enabled them to do great exploits and even walk into a lion's den without fear. This power gives us the same ability to stand strong through battles and the darts that Satan throws at us.

The definition of sound mind is clear. It means to have a sober mind, clear of negative thoughts from Satan and self. It means to be able to think clearly without any doubt of who you are in Christ. It comes through renewing our mind by washing it with the water of the Word.

Fear dominates so many lives because they have not renewed their minds through the word of God. We must wear the helmet of salvation to ward off the attacks of Satan in our thought lives. We must never give in to fear because it will destroy you from the inside out.

Faith comes through hearing and meditating on the Word of God. This should be our "daily bread" that we need to feed our minds. It renews us and eliminates fear as we hear it and study it.

Living in fear or living in faith is a choice. As Paul told Timothy how to live, we should be listening to his advice as well and we will be fearless.