

The Doctrine of Fear: Principles of Application; Summary of Emotion, 1-11

F. Principles of Application:

- 1- Adversity is an outside pressure of life. Stress is an inside pressure of the soul.
- 2- When there is no problem-solving device, then the adversity becomes stress and stress enables the sinful nature to take control of the believer's soul.
- 3- Problem-solving devices prevent the outside pressures of adversity from becoming the inside pressures of stress.
- 4- Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional.
- 5- Doctrinal rationales enable the believer to deal with his own problems in the privacy of his soul.
- 6- The result is the neutralization of all emotional and arrogant sins including fear, panic, anger, bitterness, and malice.
- 7- Volition grants the believer the freedom to make his own choices but it requires that he take responsibility for his decisions.
- 8- Choices made from a position of strength give momentum to one's spiritual growth, increase wisdom, and promote spiritual self-esteem.
- 9- The presence of fear stops one's momentum, distorts wisdom, and destroys spiritual self-esteem.
- 10- This is not what God intended. In fact, quite the opposite is true beginning with the first stage of the Adult Spiritual Life:

2 Timothy 1:7 - God has not given us a lifestyle of fear, but of power [**spiritual self-esteem**], and of virtue-love [**PSDs 7&8**], and of sound judgment [**Cognitive self-confidence**].

1 John 4:18 - Fear does not exist in virtue-love but virtue-love drives out fear because fear has self-punishment. The one who fears has not been matured [**the adult spiritual life**] by means of virtue-love.

- 11- Virtue-love is the absolute standard which destroys the false variable called fear.

G. Summary of Emotion:

- 1- Legitimate emotion can respond to doctrine but it can never legitimately apply doctrine.
- 2- Emotion becomes illegitimate when under stress it motivates irrational thought.
- 3- Illegitimate emotion is a psychic and physical reaction subjectively experienced as one's "feelings" and often expressed as an irrational opinion or belief. [W9NCD]
- 4- Legitimate emotion finds its source of origin in the soul while illegitimate emotion finds its source of origin in the sinful nature.
- 5- Legitimate emotion was not designed by God to be the originator of thought, decision, or action, only the appreciator of thought, decision, or action.
- 6- God's Word condemns the function of illegitimate emotion as a problem-solving device.
- 7- Such emotion is a part of the three arrogant skills with emphasis on self-absorption.
- 8- Consequently, neither legitimate nor illegitimate emotions contribute anything to the inculcation of truth nor can be depended upon to sustain the spiritual life.
- 9- Illegitimate emotion expresses itself in emotional sins like fear, worry, anxiety, and panic and become the motivation for inordinate ambition and competition, gossiping, maligning, judging, violence, and even murder.

- 10- Over-emphasis on self and preoccupation with one's own problems is an emotional state typical of the cosmic system.
- 11- This status of illegitimate emotion is destructive because it does not contain the following virtues:
 - 1) Rational thought under the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) The ability to draw conclusions from a doctrinal inventory under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3) The wisdom contained in spiritual common sense.
 - 4) A technical vocabulary with which to analyze exigencies in order to apply pertinent problem-solving devices.