

Sovereign Grace Church

***“Fear and Faith”* outline**

July 16, 2017

Hebrews 11: 27-29

As the writer of Hebrews attempts to encourage his readers to resist the temptation to “return to Egypt” in the face of serious persecution, he brings to their minds similar temptations which the Old Covenant people of God encountered. In looking at the life of Moses the writer reminds his readers of both Moses' fear before the worldly powers of his day and then the courage that resulted from his continued walk with the Unseen God that overcame that fear and eventually delivered God's people.

Faith has a natural aversion to fear in that the stronger ones faith in God the less reason one has to fear anything of lesser power....which includes everything outside of God! We live in a world manipulated by visible power. This power is real and is able to preserve life as well as to take it, to honor and to dishonor, to reward and to shame. We naturally fear it. As we live within the confines of our own feeble strength we find ourselves seeking to manipulate and influence these powers in such a way as to make our lives as easy, influential and enjoyable as possible. But such effort always brings with it a fear that what we seek to manipulate and influence may be turned against us.

Faith removes us from the province of our own strength and places us within the protective sphere of the Sovereign Creator & Redeemer. Although the world cannot SEE this Power everything it has is undergirded by it. As faithful people understand this relationship the less reason there is to give in to fear of these dependent visible powers and instead courageously redirect our lives into God's program of cosmic redemption.

The power of Moses' faith to overcome his fear was expressed in three ways:

1. In forsaking Egypt v. 27

- **Did Moses “forsake Egypt” when he fled from Pharaoh?
Ex. 2: 14-15**

- **Or when he led the Hebrews out?
Ex. 3: 14**

2. In keeping the Passover v. 28; Ex. 12: 23, 29-30

- **Plagues were judgments on the gods of Egypt**

- **People went from passive obedience to active obedience**
Ex. 12: 3b-13

3. In crossing the Red Sea v. 29; Ex. 14: 16-29

Contrast:

Hebrew's Faith: *Deliverance*

Egyptian's "Faith": *Presumption*

I Cor. 15: 16-19

- ### **4. How do you handle things in your life of which you are afraid?** **I John 4: 18; John 19: 10-11a**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Of what sort of things are you naturally afraid? How have your fears changed from the time you were a child to today? If faith in God is a natural antidote to the crippling fears of adult life will it not also prove to be an antidote to the fears of a child? How can parents utilize the lessons from Moses and the Exodus to ease our children's fears?**
- 2. Can you think of a time when your fears of some real earthly power were overcome by your faith in Christ? How did your experience unfold? Has it had a lasting impact on the development of your faith? If so, how so? If not, why not?**
- 3. How do worldly powers react to people who show them little fear because of a faith in a Power which is completely unseen by them? Do you think worldly powers are afraid of faithful people? Why would such a fear be reasonable?**
- 4. What sort of powers are unseen by our materialistic world besides God? How does our materialistic world explain these powers? Are there some unseen powers that cannot be explained by materialistic explanations? How does our current worldly world explain the tenacity of Christians to refuse to submit to their efforts to make the immoral moral? (e. g., the acceptance of homosexual actions/desires as normal). How do they attempt to defeat this type of thinking?**