

Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries

January 2024



“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7

Greetings to you all, our partners and friends!

For us, the new year will be starting with ministry at a church in California and then at a church in Colorado. At the end of the month, I will be ministering via the internet at an arranged meeting in Scotland. Technology keeps us connected on a world level. What a blessing!

Days of Anxiety and Fear

We live in a day when the transgressions of the wicked have become more prevalent—a day when there are wars and rumors of wars, a

day of financial uncertainty in which it seems that the foundation many have trusted in has deteriorated.

Luke 21:26 (NKJV)

Men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth.

One of the things that I have been made aware of—I believe by the Holy Spirit—is that within the hearts of many Christians, there is an influence of fear in relationship to living life. An anxiety is affecting our perceptions and the decisions we are making concerning this life.

This kind of anxiety, a mild form of fear, caused Abraham, the father of our faith, to say to the king of the Philistines in Gerar that Sarah was his sister, not his wife.

Genesis 20:11

And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife."

I believe that we are living in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot in which the ways of people's lives are as in Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:20-37). I believe that we are living in the day before Jesus' return, which could possibly be in our lifetime.

Because of the days we are living in, there is an uncertainty in the hearts of many people that, if allowed to remain, will eventually produce a root of fear.

One of the greatest dangers of our hearts being in this condition is that we can listen to the teaching of the Word of God but be unable to mix with faith what we are hearing (Heb. 4:2). We can listen to the teaching of the Word of God but not really trust that what we are listening to will bring about an obedience as that truth becomes our way of relating to life.

This can be so subtle that on Sunday mornings, many Christians are listening to their pastors, who are ministering the Word of God, do this, without even realizing what just happened.

This insight was made known to me after returning from ministry travel for a month and listening to my pastor teach on finances.

He taught with such sincerity. Truth from God's Word not only changed his own life but also produced results in his life, as he is not just a pastor but a businessman. He is a person who went from a life of poverty to a life of financial abundance because of the truth in God's Word that changed his way of thinking and believing.

The truth that we are in Christ is not a reality to our hearts if we are relating to life like unbelievers. Just like people do not believe that they are healed because the physical problem is still in their bodies, people do not believe that they are blessed because of the financial challenges in their lives.

We end up identifying with beliefs produced from our problems instead of an identity in Christ that is practically applied to those problem areas. This is what the Bible calls unbelief, beliefs contrary to the truth of God's Word that limit Jesus in our lives as areas of life become about us and not Jesus.

In life, the willingness to change requires us to begin to humble our hearts, realizing that the reason we have a problem is because we have become the problem.

In Genesis 26, Isaac, Abraham's son, faced the financial challenge of living in a land where there was famine. In verse 2, Isaac had a supernatural experience where the Lord appeared to him, telling him not to do what the problem convinced him to do. He was about to go to Egypt, but the Lord told him to "*live in the land which I shall tell you.*" Isaac was obedient to the word of the Lord, but he had unresolved issues of unbelief within his heart that were rooted in the same kind of anxiety I have been talking about.

Isaac was obedient to stay, but his heart was not yet fully persuaded in trusting God, as he did not have the confidence to sow in the land in order to receive a harvest. Isaac was blessed of God, but he was not relating to life like he was the blessed of God.

The issue of fear that was in Isaac's heart manifested outwardly. Like his father, Abraham, as soon as Isaac was challenged about his wife, he said that she was his sister out of fear that he would be killed for her, as she was very beautiful.

King Abimelech discovered that she was indeed his wife. He made a bold decree throughout the land, saying, "*He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death*" (Gen. 26:11). I believe that the king remembered the experience he had with God over Abraham that put the fear of God within him, and that is why I believe that he purposely looked through the window concerning Isaac. The king realized that Isaac, in this area of life, was just like his father, and that is why the king made such a strong decree.

Genesis 26:12

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.

Once the issues of the fear of man were resolved within Isaac's heart, he had confidence to act on what the Lord spoke to him, saying, "*I will be with you and bless you*" (Gen. 26:3).

Isaac limited God! He could have experienced the hundredfold blessing a lot sooner if he had acted on what the Lord had already spoken to him.

Many believers today are like Isaac, with issues of fear that lead them to find truth in life's circumstances instead of allowing the Word of God to have a dominating influence through the help of the Holy Spirit.



**Pastor Ramin
& Yasmin Parsa**

In last month's newsletter, we spoke about CLPMI giving to the building fund of a church in Jerusalem. For those who have it in their hearts to give to this project, our ministry will continue to give each month until our pledge of \$10,000 is fulfilled. Presently we have given \$2,000 and possibly more by January, as this letter was written at the beginning of December.

To give toward the purchase of this church building, you can donate through our website, by phone, or by mail:

clpmi.org • 719-243-4100

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I believe that in heaven, we will see all the fruit of the lives that were spiritually changed, with so many testimonies of the Lord's goodness. Thank you!

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

If you are dealing with any form of anxiety or fear, I encourage you to first put your focus on God's love for you. Then, out of a revelation of His love, you will experience freedom, resulting in a sound mind through the power of the Holy Spirit. Once God's perspective is established within your heart, you can act on what the Holy Spirit is revealing for you to do and receive His results.

Testimonies

At one church, a lady had had an operation on one hand for carpal tunnel. The pain from the operation left, giving her freedom of movement, and her other hand was healed, so she did not have to have the operation on it.

At another church, an elderly man's knees were healed, resulting in

freedom of movement with no pain. The manifestation also brought about a big smile!

A man with osteoporosis in his back was healed, and that allowed him to bend over for the first time in a long time with no pain and with freedom of movement.

Thank You!

Lisa and I are very grateful to you, our friends and partners of this ministry, as together we are seeing lives changed. We believe that you, our partners, are greatly prospering—spirit, soul, and body—as you experience increase in the seed you have sown multiplying and increase in the fruits of your righteousness. God's richest blessings in Christ are already yours. Believe and establish this truth in your hearts and have open hearts to receive all that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

Happy New Year!

Love and blessings,

Cecil + Lisa



As a reminder, you can also download nearly all of our teachings and e-books for free from our website!