



Freedom's Gate

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A Tribute to DADS

"Honey, I just put gas in the truck." I winced, knowing what was coming. My husband didn't disappoint me. "Robin Anne, you didn't!" He was mad and with just cause. I had just put gasoline in our diesel truck.

"What do you want me to do?" There was silence on the other end of the line.

"Jim?" He growled with frustration. "I don't know! I'm an hour away from home!" I sensed his tension mounting through the phone (imagine that!).

"Woman, what were you thinking?" Okay, that made **me** mad. I felt myself beginning to get defensive. For Pete's sake, it wasn't like I *meant* to put gas in the truck! He was acting like I had set out to ruin his day! Instantly, **several** things came to mind in reply, but hey, I haven't been married for twenty-two years for nothing. With a rare show of wisdom, I kept my mouth shut.

Now, I want you to go back and reread the above conversation. Do you realize there are two different conversations taking place? All the men reading this are focused on the truck and with a sad shake of their head are moaning in sympathy for my husband. All the ladies are focused on the fact that he called me 'woman' and what they would do if their husband ever talked to them that way! Am I close?

Do you see the difference? Jim was thinking logically. He not only was concerned about the truck and the damage done to the motor, but also the fact that I was at a truck stop with our two daughters and he was an hour away. Who was the closest available brother that could come get us? What vehicle was I going to drive while the truck was getting worked on? How much would it cost to get the truck fixed?

I, on the other hand, was thinking emotionally. I got caught up in his tone of voice and his obvious anger at my apparent irresponsibility. My thoughts had left the circumstances and were now focused on his treatment of me in this situation.

My point? Men think logically and in the future tense. God designed them that way. By nature, men are protectors, providers, and problem solvers and God placed them in a leadership role in the home for that reason. Men are driven to protect and provide for their families based on the future. All problem solving is sub-consciously done with that goal in mind.

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The Father's Love

"There is no fear in (perfect) love; but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18) Now, let's look at this verse a little more closely. It says, "fear has torment." If ever there was a word that describes the devil, it is torment. Another word for torment is torture. The devil loves to torment/torture God's people and his main weapon is **fear**.

Well, it is time to expose the devil for what he **really** is. I'm a man on a mission and the Spirit of God has put within me to reveal this terrorist for who he is. It is time that we the Body of Christ start terrorizing **him**!

Do you know what fear really is? F-E-A-R: FALSE EVIDENCE APPEARING REAL!

Since fear is false evidence, let's look at the Word to see what God says about this devil who has been defying the "armies of the living God!"

Truth evidence:

1. 1 John 3:8b: For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

2. Hebrews 2:14,15: Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

3. Romans 8:15: For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

4. Colossians 1:12,13: Giving thanks to the Father Who has made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light and delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

5. Colossians 2:15: Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a **public spectacle** of them, triumphing over them in it.

If God dealt with the devil and rendered him powerless in our lives, then why are we (Body of Christ) still so afraid? How is it that a defeated foe can use this weapon against us so effectively?

Go back and look at our opening verse. **Perfect love** casts out all fear. What is this perfect love? Let me ask you, do you know anyone who is perfect and do you know any man that walks in perfect love? I don't think so. This perfect love is talking about the person of Jesus Christ. **He** is the perfect love that casts out all fear.

If Jesus is the perfect love that we need to deal with fear, then your next question

probably would be something like this: "**How** do I get a hold of this perfect love so I don't have to be afraid?" John 15:4, 5 tells us we must abide in Him, for without him, we can do nothing. Then we need to look at 1 John 4:13 which says, "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."

Now, we're building a case here against fear. 1 John 4:15 reads, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God." Verse 16 tells us that God is love and if we abide in God then we abide in love. Perfect love! So, we see that it is our abiding place in Jesus that casts out the fear. If Christ is in you, then you abide in Him. (Romans 8:9) It's not some place you have to 'get to' – you are already there.

Dwelling in the abiding place is a choice that we make every day and on some days, several times that day. Recently I had to make a firm decision that I would **choose** the Spirit and not the flesh. Our four month old granddaughter, Gracie, went to be with

Jesus. From the beginning, I made the decision I would dwell in the secret place, that I would abide in Him. I daily made that decision and He has kept me in perfect peace and love. That **perfect love** has kept the tormentor away from me and fear has not had its way with me. At any time, I could have yielded to fear, grief, and sorrow, but I

chose the Spirit, the literal Body of Christ (in Him) as my refuge and He removed the burden of it from me.

How did I remain there? I took captive my thoughts and rejected my carnal thoughts and mind; I took on the mind of Christ. Philippians 4:8 says to think on things that are lovely, wholesome, good, etc. That does not just happen – you **choose** blessing or you **choose** fear and sorrow.

Look at the rest of 1 John 4:18 – but he who fears has not been made perfect in love. You can't make yourself perfect in love. You can't fix yourself – you can't make yourself not afraid! Another has to do that for you. And someone has! Jesus dealt with fear at the cross. At Pentecost the Body of Christ manifested. When you received Jesus as your Savior, He put you IN HIM. That is how you were made perfect in love; that is why you do not have to fear. You are hidden with Christ in God.

Do you remember what Hebrews 2:15 said? Jesus, through His death on the cross, **released** those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. And Romans 8:15 tells us we "didn't receive

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"TRUSTING GOD AS MY DADDY HAS BEEN A WALK FOR MANY YEARS."

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the spirit of bondage **again** to fear, but we received the Spirit of adoption, by Whom we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

When we received Jesus as our Saviour, we were taken out of the kingdom of darkness (fear) and put into the kingdom of God's Son and God became our Daddy.

Trusting in God as my Daddy has been a walk for me for many years. The longer I have walked with my God, the sweeter He has become to me and the more trustworthy He is. Growing up, I had a good and loving dad. Did he make mistakes? Absolutely. Likewise, I tried to imitate my dad in raising my own children. I loved and enjoyed my children, but did I make mistakes? You bet I did! Earthly parents don't always 'get it right', but God, our Heavenly Daddy **always** gets it right. He is the perfect parent!

Absolutely **NOTHING** can come between you and Him. Even when the adversary gets in there and stirs things up in your life, your Father is there to pull you out and make all things new. Romans 8:38, 39 says, "For I am **persuaded (FULLY persuaded)** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love

of God, which is IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD!

"Yet in **all** these things we are **more** than conquerors through Him Who loved us." (Romans 8:37). A conqueror is one who goes to battle and wins. **More** than a conqueror is when someone else goes to battle and wins FOR you. That's what Jesus did for us. He went to battle and won FOR us. He fought the battle for God's love for mankind and WON. Our job is to accept that!

"Lord, You will establish peace for us (this was done for us in Christ – Ephesians 2:14), For You have also done all our works in (for) us. O Lord our God, masters besides You have had dominion over us; but by You only we make mention of Your name. They are dead, they will not live; they are deceased; they will not rise. Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish." (Isaiah 26:12-14)

Make the decision to abide in perfect love. Start your day with this declaration, "I died and my life is hidden with Christ in God and I abide in His perfect love." If you need reminded during the day, say it again and again.

I declare the Father's love and peace to you!

~ Joe Pranger

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Women, on the other hand, think with their emotions and in the present tense. Why? The word 'help meet' means to surround and protect. In other words, our basic nature nurtures those around us. That fact requires functioning in the here and now.

Before I go any further with this, I want to share two stories from my growing up years. After I graduated, I decided I was moving out. But my Dad had a rule: If you move out you don't come back, not for any reason. His philosophy was this: If you think you're capable of being on your own, have at it. But when you left, it was for good, so you better be good and sure you were ready for the real world. Whether or not he was right or wrong was irrelevant. I knew the man was serious and there was no backing up in him where that was concerned. He had five younger children to raise and he wasn't playing moving games. Once you're out, you're out.

My Mom knew it too. She told me later that she was in God's face about me leaving. She was torn between my Dad and me. But it's funny, I never knew it. She stood with my Dad as if the whole idea originated with her. Thank God, I did not know how she truly felt, because I would have worked her with it had I known. Instead, I didn't move out until I married.

This second story is actually one of my personal favorites. One night my one brother, (who wishes to remain anonymous, but Chris and Nick want you to know it wasn't them) had gotten in trouble with Mom and she had sent him upstairs to write three hundred "I will not..." sentences. After writing about ten of them he grabbed his tablet and went to the top of the staircase. Flinging his tablet down the steps he hollered belligerently, "I write enough sentences at school, I **am not** writing them here!"

Suddenly, he heard the click of Dad's recliner closing. *Dad was in the house?* Panic spiraled through him as Dad marched up the steps. He never said a word, he didn't have to. Grabbing

him by the shirt collar, Dad marched him down the stairs. When they got to the bottom, Dad grabbed him by the back of the neck and made him bend over and pick up the notebook.

"You will apologize to your mother and then you'll write double what she told you to do in the first place! Got it?" (That last statement wasn't really a question, it was a command. Ever get one of those?)

My Mom didn't have the revelation of being in Christ back then. The thing she did understand was that where there was unity God commanded a blessing and my Dad, right or wrong, was the God-ordained leader of her home. She pressed hard to allow him to be first a man and then leader of his home.

Today as a mom, I have to make a decision everyday to walk in Christ. Every day I am faced with opportunities to either allow my husband to lead our home or try to take the reins myself. As I look around in society today, I am alarmed at the amount of mama's boys out there. Ladies, it's time to back off and let our men be men. Allow them to lead the way they were created too!

This article is a tribute to the Fathers in a round about way. By addressing the Mothers it is my hope to make your job as Dad, protector, provider and problem-solver a little easier. A hard job can be made lighter when you have the right kind of support.

Girls, get behind your man and out of his way. Then stand back and watch your children blossom. It works, I should know. My oldest daughter is a third generation proof of the process.



By nature, men are protectors, providers and problem solvers....

