



On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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All Scripture presented is from the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise noted. Comments and notations by this author within Scripture text will appear in brackets.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new web site.

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Fear Not

There are two great motivators which daily vie for our affection. They are fear and faith. Both are very powerful. But only one produces godly results.

II Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear [cowardice]; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Love is, of course, the complete opposite of fear.

I John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Perfect love is of God and a love which has realized its purpose.

That being to set man free from pain and bondage.

The Bible In Basic English:

I John 4:18

There is no fear in love: true love has no room for fear, because where fear is, there is pain; and he who is not free from fear is not complete in love.

God's very essence is love and love is the way He has chosen to motivate us.

I John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

His fundamental desire in this regard is that we exercise this love ourselves. First toward Him, then others.

American Standard Version 1901:

I John 4:19-21

We love, because he first loved us.

The reason we can love is because He loved us. Had He not, we would lack this ability. In short, our motivation for loving is love itself.

Verses 20, 21

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen.

And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

Clearly love and fear are antithetical one with another. There can be no argument about this. The question remains however, do we have faith enough in God's love to believe?

The Scripture speaks on John's behalf in this regard.

I John 4:16

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

The Bible In Basic English renders "believed" as "had faith in".

I John 4:16

And we have seen and had faith in the love which God has for us. God is love, and everyone who has love is in God, and God is in him.

This is an acceptable translation as faith is the overture of believing.

To have faith is to have enough confidence and trust in given information and its source so as to produce action. Faith being abstract conceptually, believing being literal action taken upon said concept.

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In like fashion, both love and fear are abstracts. But action based upon either most certainly is not.

As noted previously, fear and faith are powerful motivators. The same can certainly be said of love. The world around us prefers fear as its main motivator largely because of how swiftly fear motivated “results” are realized.

While it is true that fear motivates with alacrity it is also true that fear leaves scars. Love on the other hand never causes damage on any level.

Consequently, we must be sure to always motivate others by way of love.

We must also be vigilantly discriminating regarding that which personally motivates us. We must NEVER allow our actions to be based upon fear.

Yet, fear is exactly what motivates most people today. The current state of world affairs is such that many are trapped in its grip. Be it the threat of war or impending financial doom, fear runs rampant in the heart of modern man.

There is no denying that our times are turbulent and uncertain. However, this same thing can be said of times past. Perhaps there’s never been a time where man has said, “Peace and safety.” But some day there will be. Yes, there is a day coming when the “powers that be” shall declare this. That however, is just prior to the Day of the Lord. A time which no man is privy to.

I Thessalonians 5:1-9

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The breastplate of faith and love!
NOT fear and unbelief.

Faith and love are harmonious.

Galatians 5:6b

. . . faith which worketh [*energeo* = energized, operated] by love.

It’s important to remember that when we speak of faith and love we do so in accordance with God’s Word. In the confines of His Word our faith is in Him, His Son AND His Word. The love that energizes our faith is His love, not human love.

His love is what puts the “juice” to our faith and His love is supernatural.

Consider the following record:

Exodus 1:5-ff

And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt *already*.

And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we:

Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join

also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and *so* get them up out of the land.

Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve *with* rigour:

And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:

And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live.

But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

The midwives “feared” God! That does not mean they were afraid of

Him. It means they revered and loved Him.

Verses 18-22

And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women *are* not as the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

God had respect unto their love and faith. Accordingly, the results were goodly and mighty.

Nevertheless, Pharaoh remained dogged in his hatred and desire to destroy the strength of the Hebrews. What an awful situation! Can you imagine the horror that stalked the hearts of the Hebrew men and women? Not only were they slaves subjected to harsh conditions, but their new born baby boys were in dire jeopardy.

Exodus 2:1-10

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi.

And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he *was* a goodly child, she hid him three months.

And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid *it* in the flags by the river's brink.

And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash *herself* at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This *is one* of the Hebrews' children.

Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away,

and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

This archives the humble beginnings of one of the greatest men of God ever to walk the Earth.

Not only was his life spared and his future safely secured but he was also returned to his mother who was in turn paid to care for him.

What a stellar solution to a seemingly insurmountable problem!

Was it fear that motivated Moses' parents? Or was it faith?

Certainly they had every opportunity to be fearful and hand their son over to the Egyptians for slaughter. You can be certain that both his mother and father knew the seriousness of this threat. They no doubt witnessed many other new born Hebrew baby boys brutally taken from their parents and slaughtered.

Yet this did not happen to baby Moses for if it had the records in God's Word would read much differently. For one thing, the tribe of Judah might have perished in slavery, which tribe our Lord sprang out of. No Judah, no Jesus.

The Word of God declares the true motivation of Moses' parents:

Heb 11:23

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he* was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

It was faith NOT fear that motivated them! Surely they could have chosen to be afraid of Pharaoh's commandment but they chose to have faith in God instead.

Can we not do the same? Of course we can.

Does it really matter to God what the circumstances surrounding you are? Of course not.

In His own Words:

Jeremiah 32:27

Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

The obvious answer to the above is NO, nothing is too hard for the Lord.

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

When tempted to fear, we must challenge our minds to remember the following:

Romans 8:31b

... If God be for us, who can be against us?

In like fashion, we need to heed the flawless words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

John 14:1 & 27

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid

The world cannot give the peace that Jesus gives because the world endeavors to motivate by fear.

God and His Son always motivate by love, never by fear.

Hebrews 13:5,6

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Perhaps a better understanding of the above can be gained from the American Standard Version:

Hebrews 13:5,6

Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee.

So that with good courage we say, The Lord is my helper; I

will not fear: What shall man do unto me?

The world would have us believe that it's all about the economy. But is it?

Free from the love of money! Freed indicates deliverance from bondage and entanglement. Isn't that what the "good life" is really all about?

Who among us enjoys being in bondage? And there's no bondage worse than financial bondage. Free from the love of money and content with what we have. That is the ONLY way to live.

He will not leave you, He will not fail you, He is your helper.

Why then should we fear?

Psalms 27:1

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Is the Lord your light and salvation? Is He the strength of your life? If He is, you need never be afraid of anyone or anything.

With God on your side you can reject fear and embrace faith!

Psalms 118:6

The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms 56:4 & 11

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

The phrase "fear not" appears many times in the Bible. It is significant that the first occurrence is concerning Abraham, the father of faith.

Genesis 15:1

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

I suggest you read the preceding context to enhance your appreciation for what Abraham had gone through prior to this revelation. God's Word to him, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."

Most of us would be thrilled for a reward, much less an exceeding great one! God is that exceeding great reward and the shield of all those who put their trust in Him.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

There's never a good reason to act out of fear, NEVER!

It's always a GREAT reason to act on our faith, ALWAYS!

Having material need is not something assigned to our generation alone.

Ponder what Jesus taught his disciples on the subject:

Luke 12:22-32

And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

The life is more than meat, and the body *is more* than raiment.

Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Imagine that! The Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom! Dear reader, this goes far beyond what we eat, drink or wear. This delves deeply into eternity and it's His good pleasure to give this to us. Wow!

The circumstances in life do not matter. What does matter is how we deal with them. Do we choose to do what we do out of fear? Or out of faith?

The choice is yours. Make the right one and enjoy the outcome, make the wrong one and . . .

Psalms 46:1-3
God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

SUE'S NEWS

It's been a while since I wrote so I thought I'd bring you up to date on what's been going on here in Alaska.

This past August, we celebrated 11 years since we opened and dedicated the Teaching Center. We

have seen a lot of good people come through the doors in those years.

Linus celebrated 23 years since his Ordination and continues to hold fast to the Word of God and teach it with great accuracy. I am blessed to be among those who sit in the Teaching Center every Sunday to hear him teach.

Our family has grown by two grandsons. Malachi Andrew Mathis was born September 11, 2002 and Arin James Mathis was born June 5, 2004. Our son, Linus, is very proud of them both.

Malachi started Kindergarten this year and seems to be enjoying it. He's a smart kid and very good with his hands. If you need something put together, Malachi is the kid to ask!

Arin is as cute as a button and has that mischievous look about him. You can see photos of both of them with Granddaddy on the web site in the near future.

We still have and love our Malamutes. We lost two of them the end of last year and that was a very sad time for us. We have four of them now to keep us busy. It's always such a pleasure to go out and see them. They are always so happy to see us that it just makes our day, no matter what else is going on around us.

This summer, three of Linus' old high school friends came up for a visit. They spent a couple of days repairing our deck (bless their hearts!) then spent the rest of the time visiting, sight-seeing and just having a good time. Both Linus and I were very blessed to have them.

We also got to see Sal and Linda Arico for an afternoon while they were waiting for a flight out of Anchorage. They were here with family on vacation and it was great to meet their family and to spend time with Sal and Linda.

Carmine and Fran Cannavo and their beautiful daughter, Melissa, have been here to visit with us a couple of times. We have stayed in touch with the Cannavo's over the years so their visits are always special. Melissa is a wonderful girl and a pleasure to be around.

It's been 13 years since we left New York for the frozen north. We still love Alaska every bit as much as we did when we first moved here. Things are changing but the mountains are still beautiful and I am still in awe every time I look around at the beauty of God's creation. You can see some of what I am talking about in the photo albums on the web site. We'll be adding some photos of the wonderful believers as soon as we can get them all to stand still long enough!

So I hope I have covered everything. Any questions, please email me at sjm@mtaonline.net or write, we are at the address on the bottom of this and every issue of On The Frontier.

God bless you all!

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh;
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must -- but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow --
You might succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man.
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup.
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out --
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt --
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit --
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

The Anvil Of God's Word

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling eye,

"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
"And so," I thought, "the Anvil of God's Word

For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."