

## Faith vs. Fear

### What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### How do I get faith?

Romans 10:17: So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### How do I exercise or activate my faith?

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

### What is fear?

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. In short, to fear means to not trust God; it means to lean to your own understanding.

### How did I become fearful?

2 Timothy 1:7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

### How do I deactivate fear?

1. Psalm 34:4: I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.
2. Matthew 6:34: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Faith and fear are on the same spectrum, but on two opposite ends of that spectrum. According to Oxford Dictionaries, a spectrum is used to classify something in terms of its position on a scale between two extreme points.

Human beings are creatures of substance. Because we were created by the Creator, we are creative. In other words, we are constantly creating something; we are always building structures to house our beliefs. These structures are called belief systems.

Belief systems start with a single belief. The first building block of a belief system is called doctrine. This is what we build on. Once we hear something that supports that belief, it becomes a building block of our faith or better yet, it becomes our doctrine. We create systems around that belief so that we can continue to build on it.

We do this by simply taking words that support a single belief or a group of beliefs. We then pile up these words to build structures for ourselves. These structures are our personal temples; they are the places we go to worship, and they determine who we choose to

worship. These structures are not physical buildings, they are the spaces we create in our minds for our deity or deities to exist and exercise authority over us.

To build these structures, we must first start building horizontally. We do this by creating relationships. This is where we get the word relative. Relative means on the same plane. A modern-day word that we use for it is eye-level or we see eye to eye. It also means agreement. In other words, once we find people of a like mind or of a like faith, we begin to build with them in a system called agreement. We do this so that we can understand and relate to them; this allows us to continue building with them.

Once we establish an agreement, we begin to build vertically. These structures are the mental spaces that we create for our children and their children to dwell in. We also invite people into these structures who are either faithless or have what the Bible refers to as little faith. Once we have gathered people into these structures, we have established an agreement called religion. Merriam Webster defines the word “religion” this way: a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held together with ardor and faith. (Ardor simply means passion or charisma).

Once we have started building our religion or principles, we start building floors or levels to house our relationships and beliefs. Each person who adheres to these principles is called a sheep; every leader who builds or runs a structure that God has established is called a shepherd. Any leader who builds or runs a structure that God is not in is called a wolf.

Every temple has an altar. As a matter of fact, no religion or relationship is established without a sacrifice, and in order for a sacrifice to be made, an altar has to be established. Altars are the centerpieces of worship. Altars are the equivalent of building permits. They are the legal premises by which a thing is established, consecrated or dedicated. For example, in an ungodly friendship, you have to sacrifice your morality—there has to be an agreement somewhere that allows the two of you to walk together. And since you're on different levels, you'll have to come down to sustain that relationship, since your friend cannot legally come up. Gangs usually have initiation ceremonies that require new and potential gang members to rape, rob or murder someone to prove their loyalty. In other words, they are dedicating themselves to the god of that gang, oftentimes, through the shedding of blood. Fraternities often practice a ritual called hazing. Google defines hazing as humiliating and sometimes dangerous initiation rituals, especially as imposed on college students seeking membership to a fraternity or sorority.

In romantic relationships, people engage in a form of hazing called fornication. In fornication,

both parties sacrifice holiness in their attempts to go to the next level with their insignificant others and to grow their love for one another. The problem with this, of course, is that any sacrifice made outside the will of God is an ungodly sacrifice meaning, God is not in it. God is love, according to 1 John 4:8. This means that they do ungodly things in their attempt to reach one of the blessings of God. This is what the people did when they were building the tower of Babel. The people came together horizontally and then started building vertically.

Genesis 11:4 reads, “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”

What was the reason behind the people's attempt to build a tower that reached to heaven? **Fear.** The scripture says, they reasoned with one another saying, “Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, **lest we be scattered** abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” The word *lest* in the Bible literally means, “for the fear that.” In other words, they feared that they would be scattered abroad if they didn't start building something together—something that reached heaven. In short, they tried to get to heaven without agreeing with God, meaning, they weren't building with Him or for Him; what they were building was established on the foundation of fear. And for this reason, what they feared came upon them. Proverbs 10:24 confirms this; it reads, “The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.”

Genesis 11:6-9 reads, “And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.” Get this. God said the Behold, which means to look; He said that the people are one. This literally meant that the people had a soul tie, and since God wasn't in it, they had an ungodly soul tie. This is the VERY SAME thing that people do in fornication—yes, even Christians! Because they fear that the other person will leave them, they present their bodies as a sacrifice to their lovers, hoping that the sacrifice will allow them to continue to walk together, and eventually, they'll be able to build together. But how does God respond to structures built with man's hands or man's efforts without holiness? He confuses their language and scatters them. Any and every relationship built is a religion; when it is not built on holiness, it is an ungodly religion.

Every altar requires blood, sweat and tears. When an altar is godly, it requires that we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is our reasonable service. Jesus already shed His blood on our behalves; all God asks us to give Him our bodies and our will. Remember, obedience is better than sacrifice.

Lastly, every established religion, faith or structure has a roof. The roof represents a few of the beliefs that the people under it adhere to. These include culture and traditions. A culture is the personality of an organization or group. Merriam Webster defines culture this way:

1. the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group
2. the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization

Any culture established without God is a cult. Even if God's name is found on the doctrines of it, if Jesus is not the chief cornerstone of a culture, it is a cult. Any culture that centers around a person or personality is a cult.

Tradition, on the other hand, are religious practices. Merriam Webster defines tradition this way: an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (such as a religious practice or a social custom). In other words, cultures are built; traditions are established.

There is a spectrum of good and evil. Anytime we try to build a structure, be it a relationship, business, organization or family, we are building on the foundation of either good or evil. We build according to where we are. God wants to grow our faith in Him so that what we build will be established on solid ground, however, man is impatient, ambitious and fearful. For this reason, we often build structures in the unholy side of the spectrum, all the while planning to invite God into those structures later.

So, how does one get from fear to faith? It's simple. You have to seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all His righteousness, and allow Him to add everything else to you. This means that you have to travel from the unholy side of the spectrum to the holy side before you start building. You do this through prayer, mediation, praise & worship (both privately and corporately) and by establishing and maintaining godly friendships. Proverbs 14:10 says that the heart knows its own bitterness. In other words, you know if you're ready to start building or not. Deception is building an establishment on the wrong foundation and expecting God to

dwell there, meaning, your religion is centered around yourself. In short, its an attempt to get God to serve you and not the other way around.

How do you get rid of fear? You have to stop investing in old belief systems and stop building everything that God is not in. It's a waste of time. God let the people of the earth build the Tower of Babel for more than 100 years before He confused their language. In other words, He made it so that they couldn't understand each other, and where there is no understanding, there can be no agreement. God will allow you to build a family, organization, relationship or whatever it is that you're building for decades on end, only for Him to come along and disrupt the foundation of your relationship. All He has to do is blow on it; if it's built on His Word and the building blocks in it are holiness, obedience and agape, it won't fall. Nevertheless, if it's built on fear, which is the equivalent of sand in the Bible, it will fall. Understand this: a believer's life is full of ghost-towns or establishments they've had to abandon in their pursuit of God.

To rid your life of fear, you have to trust God, but to trust God, you have to know Him. Not just in name, but in character. And you have to continue getting to know Him, and building for His Kingdom with Jesus as the chief cornerstone. This is how you build sound establishments that the enemy can't penetrate; this is how you build structures that outlive you—structures that remain generation after generation.

Racism is a religion

Poverty is a religion

Fornication is a religion

To go forth, you must come out of them.

This is the only way you can build the structures that God will be willing to dwell in.