

I Love My Addiction

A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

Lesson Thirteen

Replace your Fear with Faith

Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever. I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? (Psalm 118:4-6)

There are two kinds of fear we will discuss in this lesson. Just like addictions, there is a productive fear and a fear that is destructive. A destructive fear will dominate your time, thoughts and actions. It often leads you back to the hiding place of your destructive addictions. When you confront those destructive fears head on with the shield of faith, you will come to see that your fears will fade away as your faith in the LORD increases, ***I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears*** (Psalm 34:4).

*One of the greatest discoveries a man makes, one of his great surprises, is to find he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do. —Henry Ford. **And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever** (Exodus 14:13).*

Fear is the torment before the reality! —Eric Peters ***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*** (1 John 4:18).

*Fear paralyzes the spirit, binds the mind, enslaves the will, weakens the body and poisons the soul. —Michael Adams **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** (John 14:27).*

Fear of the unknown is a perfectly normal emotion. Fear from past emotional and physical hurt is a reality! To replace your fear with faith in God, you must be willing to learn just how powerful the God of Heaven, your Great Shepherd really is! We have an example of a servant of the man of God who was in fear for his life when he realized they were surrounded by the enemy.

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (2 Kings 6:15-17).

This too is my prayer! If you could only see what God sees from the other side, you would not be afraid to sell out to the Great Shepherd, Jesus, and make Him **YOUR SHEPHERD!** The end result is located in our founding verse, ***The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want*** (Psalm 23:1). When you replace your fear with faith in God, He will get to work on your behalf, ***For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways*** (Psalm 91:11). With this in mind, you can rest assured that your Shepherd will guide and direct you to a place of safety and peace, ***But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil*** (Proverbs 1:33).

The Word of God has been preserved to give mankind all the tools needed to build a new peaceful and productive life. So far, we have learned to remove the old ways and to add many new things into our lives. Each of these new ways contain the backing of Scripture; not man's knowledge, but God's commands with promise for obedience. In the first chapter of the book of Joshua, Moses was off the scene and God was giving Joshua a commissioning speech—a charge or pep-talk!

We have heard Joshua 1:8 quoted before in the previous lessons. It will take faith in the Word of God to settle your fears and allow you to rest in His promises. ***Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,*** (Joshua 1:1). Notice what God told this young man who would soon assume the leadership of the entire nation of Israel:

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a

good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest (Joshua 1:7-9).

Although, these tactics had been proven to be successful by Moses, God wanted Joshua to hear them directly from Him, as His servant Moses did. Your instructors are proof that God's power to convert is still active today! Listen to the instruction given by God Himself to Joshua and ultimately, for our benefit too:

1. The LORD, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, spoke directly to Joshua giving him his marching orders to lead the people – ***Only be thou strong and very courageous***
2. The LORD left no room for Joshua to lead in his own power or wisdom – ***that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law***
3. A clear promise of success was given – ***that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest***
4. Then, we receive the Operational Manual for life – ***This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:***
5. As we have heard before, God made His promise clear to all those who choose to go God's way instead of serving self – ***for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*** This is the only time the word ***success*** is used in the King James Bible.
6. In verse nine, God asks Joshua a question – ***Have not I commanded thee?***
 - a. ***Be strong and of a good courage...***
 - b. ***be not afraid***
 - c. ***neither be thou dismayed*** {disheartened or deprived of courage}
7. Then the LORD Himself tells Joshua, and reminds you and I through His Word, the reason why there is no need to fear – ***for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*** {He is with you; the good fear is to be aware of His presence at all times}

It is interesting to note that God used the definition of the **productive type of fear** in the final statement to Joshua. **THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS DEFINED BY CONSCIOUSLY DWELLING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AT ALL TIMES. *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant*** (Psalm 25:14). You want to see a miracle, put your faith in the Miracle Maker!

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid... (Psalm 112:1-8).

The List of benefits for living in the fear of the LORD far exceeds any pleasure that a destructive addiction may bring. This is just one place in the Bible where God lists the rewards for faith instead of fear:

1. He will be a happy man – ***Blessed is the man***
2. He will have successful children – ***His seed shall be mighty upon earth***
3. Financial success is also promised – ***Wealth and riches shall be in his house***
4. You will be remembered when you are gone – ***his righteousness endureth for ever***
5. God will make a way when the hard times come – ***Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness***

The man that fears God is marked by the character traits listed in Psalm 112:1-8:

1. He is kind and very friendly to all he comes in contact with – ***he is gracious***
2. He will hurt with you in your time of trouble – ***full of compassion***
3. He allows the Word of God to be his rule and practice in all areas of his life – ***righteous***

4. He will show kindness to those in need – ***sheweth favour***
5. He will think before he acts – ***he will guide his affairs with discretion***
6. Bad news will not shake his faith – ***He shall not be afraid of evil tidings***
7. He is not going to change for anyone or anything – ***his heart is fixed***
8. He does his part and trusts God to do the rest – ***trusting in the LORD***
9. He has a steadfast faith in God – ***His heart is established***
10. He does not allow fear to dominate his mind – ***he shall not be afraid***

You too can have these character traits as you yield yourself to a life of faith instead of fear. ***Happy is the man that feareth always*** {dwells in the presence of God at all times}; ***but he that hardeneth his heart*** {chooses to do it his own way} ***shall fall into mischief*** (Proverbs 28:14). You can either sell out to God or sit out in your sin!

The very first time we see the word faith in the Bible is in the book of Deuteronomy, ***And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith*** (Deuteronomy 32:20). The pattern of faithful men in the Bible seems to present to us that there are more people who lack faith in God than choose to rest in His faithfulness, ***Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:*** (Psalm 12:1-3).

Overcoming fear with faith is a choice you will have to make. If you choose to remain defeated and controlled by fear and addictions, your life is destined to be a disaster! But there is help for those who will put their faith in the One who formed the earth! Sixty-two times the phrase ***fear not*** is used in the Bible. The first time we see it used is found in 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.*** What a promise from the voice of God!

Psalm 27, a Psalm of David, is one of the greatest historical records given in God's Word that will help you replace your fear with faith in the Almighty God of Heaven. King David was a man that

experienced the strong hand of God as his help in trouble and as the chastening hand of a loving Father. If we could ask him face to face, I am sure he would say that it was much better when God was his shield of faith instead of the chastening {punishment for the purpose of reclaiming} Father.

A Psalm of David. 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? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock (Psalm 27:1-5).

1. David consciously chose to make the LORD his light and salvation. The light illuminated his path to the Saviour – ***The LORD is my light and my salvation***
2. This left absolutely nothing to be afraid of – ***whom shall I fear***
3. He knew that he was just a man, but he also knew that God needs faithful and fearless men to fulfill His plan. David made himself available – ***the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid***
4. He had experienced the saving hand of God on many occasions – ***they stumbled and fell***
5. David was confident that whatever came his way, God had his back – ***Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.***
6. The key element to David's success was the desires he had toward the God he served – ***One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after.*** This desire is what developed an addiction to the ministry:
 - a. ***that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,***
 - b. ***to behold the beauty of the LORD,*** (dwelling in His presence)

c. *and to enquire in his temple*

7. He was totally confident that his faith in God was exactly what he needed in the time of temptation, trial and turmoil – ***For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: {the presence of God} in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.***

It was David's great faith in God that gave him the confidence to accomplish everything God expected from him. The Apostle Paul also had this type of conquering faith, ***What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us*** (Romans 8:31)? He knew, if he was living His life according to the written Word of God, then God would always be on His side. He also realized that success was guaranteed—remember, the key to success is not having everything turn out the way you want it, but allowing God to be God in every situation. Live your life according to His Word and thank Him for everything that comes your way, ***In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*** (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

You are valuable to God; He has a plan for your life, ***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end*** (Jeremiah 29:11). God's ways are not our ways—sometimes He uses tragedies, messed up lives or even the death of a loved one to direct us to the plan He has for us, ***For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*** (Isaiah 55:8, 9). This type of faith will move the mountains that are in your life, ***And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you*** (Matthew 17:20).

Faith – Forsaking-All-I-Trust-Him! ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*** (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is believing in something you cannot see and having full confidence that it is exactly what is needed for you to succeed. Believing that God will give you His strength to fight against your addiction is the route Jesus wants you to use to replace your fears with faith. It is like the wind; you cannot see it, but you feel the effects of it every time it blows!

Acts chapter three gives us a great demonstration of the fruit of faith. Peter and John ministered to the needs of a lame beggar. Instead of giving the beggar the handout he desired, Peter and John gave the poor lame man the gift of healing his crippled legs, ***And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he***

leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God (Acts 3:7, 8).

You may have come to these classes just looking for a cure for your addiction, but Jesus has something much better in store for you—not just helping you with your destructive addictions, but a complete healing which will result in you leaping and praising God with a desire to be addicted to the ministry! When the men saw the drastic change in this formerly crippled man, they inquired the source of the healing, **And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering** (Acts 3:11). Peter was bold in his answer because he knew first-hand the Source of the healing power:

And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. (Acts 3:12-16)

1. Peter did not touch the glory of God by taking any credit for the healing – **why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**
2. He gave all glory to Jesus, where it belongs, and then reminded them of their evil deeds – **whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate**
3. Then Peter clearly declared where the source of the healing power that gave this man strength in his legs – **And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.**

You may be wondering how can anyone have a faith so strong while the destructive addictions are raging in your mind and body! There is only one simple, yet profound answer, **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God** (Romans 10:17). A constant, steady

diet of God's Word coupled with your decision to accept, by faith, every word written in It, will not only give you victory over your fears and anxieties, but will give you strength to overcome any and all temptations that comes your way and the faith to follow through, ***The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe*** (Proverbs 29:25). ***Shall be***, means to put it in the books, it is done! Every ounce of God's love for you is ready and available for your protection and prosperity! You just have to claim it!

The reason why many people wrestle with their destructive addictions' rests in the fact of their unwilling heart to allow Jesus to rule in **every area** of their life. The Apostle Paul's love for Christ and the faith he maintained in Him, is not only a great example for us, but also gives us the same hope to overcome any and all temptations and trials that come our way. In the book of Philippians, Paul is giving his personal testimony of victory through Christ:

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead
(Philippians 3:7-11)

There are some very significant truths to be found in this passage:

1. Paul realized that the only thing that really mattered in life was his relationship with Christ Jesus; his Master, Shepherd, Saviour and God, ***those I counted loss for Christ.***
2. He had a new reason to live and was more than willing to totally surrender every area of his life to serve Christ, ***I count all things but loss***
3. His new passion was to learn as much as he could about his new Master, ***for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.*** No longer did he serve self, but Jesus was his Lord, his Master and Good Shepherd.
4. He went as far as to say, that all of his old desires were no better than dung {manure}, ***and do count them but dung***

5. The key to full success in switching addictions from destructive to productive is total faith in Jesus and His righteousness! ***And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:***

6. The way to gain this type of faith is to learn as much as you can each day about Jesus, His resurrection power, and realizing that you too will suffer persecution for your decision to follow Christ, ***That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings***

7. Lastly, Paul states that just like Christ died for our sin, we too must die from our sin! That is to say, I am so sick and tired of my sin, that I do not even want the temptation of it to spark a single ember of desire. Death to sin is life to a productive addiction and a peaceful, prosperous, meaningful life, ***being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*** King David said it like this, ***For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me*** (Psalm 38:17).

Paul knew that his strength to put his old life to death and enjoy the promised eternal destination in Heaven, rested in the resurrection of Christ. It was his great faith, **A FAITH THAT WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT TOLERATE DOUBT**, that conformed him into the righteous, sanctified man of God who was addicted to the ministry, ***If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.***

God has given you the option of changing your master from self to the **GREAT SHEPHERD**. Now if God is your Great Shepherd, **HE WILL LEAD YOU WHERE HE NEEDS YOU** to tell someone of His wondrous works! **YOU ARE VALUABLE!** How will they; your friends, family members and co-workers, hear without a someone to tell them—that someone is **YOU!** ***For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself*** (Romans 14:7).

A person with strong faith realizes that God is well capable of handling every situation that arises in their lives. Instead of living in fear of how they are going to survive, they open their Bible, learn more about the Saviour, worship His holy name and then go about their day as an ambassador for Christ! **STRONG FAITH CRUSHES FEAR!** ***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*** (Philippians 4:13). ***These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*** (John 16:33).

Even the disciples struggled with a strong faith that could get them through their trials:

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? (Mark 4:35-40).

Once the disciples really got to know who Jesus was, all but one (John) were martyred for their faith in Christ; not including Judas Iscariot. When you allow Jesus to become your Master, you can rest assured that even the winds and the waves in your life will become calm. Notice His question to these men, ***how is it that ye have no faith?*** The necessary elements needed that will help you exchange your fear with faith is to spend time each day getting to know Jesus, and realizing that you are valuable in the eyes of God! Remember, He is the Word of God—so read and obey what He has to say!

Faith says God can do it; patient says I'll give him time to get it done! –Dr. Charles Keen

To overcome any destructive addiction, you must exit the comfort zone of what you have believed is normal and acceptable. For some, a life of substance abuse is the only life they have ever known. Their parents were involved, it was part of their life growing up, everyone they have ever been close to is or was involved in the same activities.

What God is asking you to do, is realize that destructive activities are not acceptable in His sight! He wants you to understand that He will give you the power, through His dear Son, to overcome your addictions and become the person that He is proud to call His child! ***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*** (2 Timothy 1:7). It is faith in God's power that will conquer your fear and give you the sound mind needed to rest in the resurrection power of Christ; your new Master, Shepherd, Saviour and Loving Father! ***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*** (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Even though this new life will be difficult at times, you can rest assured that your Great Shepherd has your back! There are many examples in the Bible of men being addicted to the ministry. In

Acts chapter seven we see Stephen boldly standing in front of the Jews proclaiming the Gospel to an angry mob. Yes, he was martyred for his faith, but look what his preaching accomplished!

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:54-60).

1. His faith led him to preach without fear! ***And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people*** (Acts 6:8).
2. His faith caused Jesus to rise to His feet, a symbol of honor!
3. His faith gave him the ability to forgive!
4. His faith led to the conversion of the greatest evangelist that ever lived—from Saul (an addict of religion and power) to the Apostle Paul (a man of faith, addicted to the ministry)!
5. Also note what the persecution of Stephen also produced, ***Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only*** (Acts 11:19). His persecution led to the spreading of the Gospel in different cities.

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? (Psalm 118:6). I wish there was a way to explain to each of you the peace that comes with allowing God to be God by faith. Because of God's great love for you, He will allow you to choose your master. Joshua said it best, ***And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*** (Joshua

24:15). Look around you and see what God has done for those who are investing their lives in you! That is the evidence of what faith in Christ will do! You cannot blame God if you choose to deny the love of God or mingle your sin with your Saviour:

1. ***If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*** (Psalm 66:18).
2. ***Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth*** (John 9:31).
3. ***Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer*** (Psalm 4:1).

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD (Psalm 31:24). To be fearful is to be faithless! Replace all your fears with faith in the One who created the world and has promised you freedom from the destructive additions that have dominated your life! Jesus asked this question, ***...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth*** (Luke 18:8). I pray He will find faith in you! Jesus is the Author and finisher of our faith! ***Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God*** (Hebrews 12:2).

1. What will a destructive fear will dominate and where will it often lead you?
2. What would take place if you could only see what God sees from the other side?
3. The Word of God has been preserved to do what?
4. What did the LORD Himself tell Joshua the reason why there is no need to fear?
5. Define the Fear of the LORD.
6. List three of the ten-character traits of a man that fears God.
7. How many times is the phrase *fear not* used in the Bible?
8. What was David confident of in Psalm 27?

9. How can anyone have a faith so strong while the destructive addictions are raging in your mind and body?
10. What is the key to full success in switching addictions from destructive to productive?

(Answers to these questions are all located within the pages of this lesson)

Regardless of what you have been told or even what you may think, God loves you enough to make you free from your destructive addictions and restore your life to the purpose in which He created you—***Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*** (Revelation 4:11). By changing your shepherd from self to Jesus, the ***Good Shepherd***, you will begin to bring God the pleasure you were created for. God wants to use you to tell others how to receive the same freedom you now have and introduce lost souls to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. ***Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins*** (James 5: 20).

God the Father wants His children to be successful and prosperous, ***Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long*** (Psalm 35:27, 28). As you continue to trust in your new Shepherd, Jesus, He will make you prosperous so you can cheerfully, without being ashamed, tell others about His great love—you are valuable in His eyes! ***Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee*** (Psalm 51:12, 13).

Seek Knowledge

Apply the new-found Knowledge and Wisdom to your life

Then, teach others the secret to your success!

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

Memory Verses:

Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee (Psalm 56:2, 3).

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God
(Hebrews 12:2).

Suggested reading:

- A chapter of Proverbs each day according to the day of the month
- Five chapters of the book of Psalms each day
- Psalm 136

Model Prayer to help exchange you fear with faith:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for giving me Your strength to endure the battles I am facing. Please give me the faith to conquer my fears and replace them with total confidence in You and Your great love for me. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

Be sure to pass out at least five Gospel tracts this week and invite at least one person to come to class with you next week. Use your past to build your future!