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## You Are Not Alone

A person should never be alone in this world. What a horrible experience some have in life when they have no one to walk alongside them. The struggle to know what to do and having to make large decisions without anyone you can trust for help or advice. We are not meant to go through life alone and separated from people but especially from God. Unfortunately, that is precisely what religion does to us; it causes us to feel afraid that we are never good enough for God.

Religion will rob you of receiving the embrace of our Heavenly Father even though the scripture promises us differently. It says in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Religion tells you that you are unworthy and I, like many Christians, lived in fear of being abandoned by God. I was afraid of Him, afraid of failing Him, afraid of not living up to expectations, and mostly I was afraid of Him rejecting me. I suspect that many believers live in that same fear of God, leaving them to be alone. In the scriptures, it does say to fear God, but I would like for us to take a closer look at what it means to fear the Lord.

The word fear does have many different meanings, and it is essential for us to know the difference so we can be at peace with our Heavenly Father. There is a fear that means to be terrified and scared for your life as a zebra feels when it runs across a pride of lions hiding in the grass. This is the same terror that Moses and the people felt as they experienced God's presence in the Old Testament. They were frightened almost to death when they stood in the holiness of God.

We need to realize that they were not born again at that time because Jesus had not yet come. Let's be very clear that if we ever stand face-to-face with God and are not born into His family, we should be terrified. This is the balance we need to understand when looking at the fear of the Lord. If you are not born of God and born again, then you should be terribly fearful and scared to death to stand before Him.

This is described in Hebrews 12:18-21, "For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")." This is the fear every non-Christian should have towards standing before the Lord. But for those of us who are born again, we have a different definition.

There is a meaning of fear for family members, which means respect and honor. As a believer, your salvation was actually being born into God's family, and God truly became your Father. You now have His nature within you. God has never changed, but we did when we became His children. Before your salvation, you were like that zebra walking into an ambush of lions as you could see the eyes of the giant male lion staring at you. After your salvation, you became family with the same nature, so now you are the little lion cub fearlessly climbing all over the manes of the adult lions.

A person should be fearful and terrified to stand before God and not be family with Him. Yet once we are born again, we should never have that type of fear in us because He is our Father, and we are family. That what it means in 1 John 4:17-18 "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." When you became family with Him, His love for you should remove any fear of Him rejecting you.

It is still important that we have a healthy respect and honor (fear) towards our Heavenly Father, but it is equally important that we do not ever think He is capable of leaving and abandoning us. What a joy in life to know every morning when you wake up that you have a Father who loves you, and every night you go to sleep, your Father believes in you. In every question you have and choices you must make, He will be there for you. You are His child, and He will never leave you alone in this world, not for a second. What peace and what courage we should have in knowing this truth. Let's go change the world.



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