Overcoming the Fear of Rejection

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INTRODUCTION

- Remember, our job is not to do the converting. Jesus does the converting.
- Fear is not always bad. In some cases, it can be very good and healthy and necessary. And so there's a good fear and a bad fear.
- But living in fear is wrong. God certainly does not want us to be some sort of nervous Nelly.

1 Fear Indicates a Lack of Faith

Hebrews 11:6

- Why is it so serious that somebody can lose their soul over being too fearful? Well, I think the foundation of this is that it indicates a lack of faith.
- In Hebrews 11 and verse 6, we're told, without faith it's impossible to please him.
- He says to Peter, Oh, you of little faith, why did you doubt?
- The more faith we have, the less we're going to live in fear.
- This man wasted his life because he was paralyzed by fear instead of living by faith.

2 It Indicates a Lack of Boldness

Proverbs 28:1

- And secondly, and these are related, it indicates a lack of boldness.
- Ships were not made to stay in a harbor. Ships were made to sail the seven seas.
- But he says, in contrast to that, the righteous are bold as a lion.
- The early church was characterized by faith and boldness, a boldness that turned the world upside down.

3 It Indicates a Lack of Courage

Joshua 1:9

- But it also indicates a lack of courage, which is supposed to characterize faithful, fruitful disciples.
- Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God will be with you in wherever you go.
- Courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

4 Living in Fear Indicates a Lack of Love

- Living a life of fear also indicates a lack of love.
- In my mind, I tell myself, I love this person's soul. And I love God and I want to please him.
- Based upon my love and my concern for him, I'm going to overcome this fear, and I'm going to act in what's on his best interest anyway.

5 Don't Take Rejection Personally

- The Lord said to Samuel, listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, they have rejected me from being king over them.
- Be determined, you're not going to take rejections personally. I mean, the message is not ours, it is his.
- And so if they reject the message of the gospel, they're rejecting the Lord, not rejecting us.
- Be careful how you are talking to yourself because you are listening to yourself.

6 The Lord Goes With You

Zechariah 4:6; Jeremiah 32:17; 2 Timothy 1:7

- The Lord has promised over and over again to be with us when we are doing his will.
- Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them. For the Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you.
- Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. You go and I'll be with you.
- God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but instead of power and love and discipline.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If there's anybody here who is subject to the gospel in any way, won't you come?**

MY NOTES