The Fear of a Thing Brings it About...

*For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes.*  - Job 3:25-26.

This is one reason why we must take every thought captive to Christ. i

The battleground for the human soul is the mind. Our old adversary, the devil, knows that if one of his fiery arrows can get past our shield of faith and lodge itself in our thinking, it can enable fear to gain a foothold and begin operating from within like a fifth columnist.

Fear opposes faith. The bible tells us from beginning to end not to fear. There are 365 passages that speak of not hosting fear in our lives. ii Our Father in heaven states clearly He has not given us a spirit of fear, but power, love and a sound mind. iii

> “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Therefore if fear has a foothold we must ask where it came from, what is it rooted in? Now there are healthy fears, such as the fear of danger or the reverent fear of God, a fear, which the writer of proverbs describes as the beginning of wisdom. iv But fear of man, circumstances or our imaginations will lead us astray and even cause us to sin. Hence we must take every thought captive to Christ. Job said his fears had come true yet God said he was a *blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil.*

So what happened?

Job was a good and upright man yet he harboured deep-seated fears of men which came about. In the proverbs it is written that; "the fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." vi Job’s inner fears may have been the reason God said to Satan have you considered my servant Job? Did his fear give the legal ground Satan needed? His home, children and possessions were killed and taken by raiders and lastly a violent storm.

We know we are made righteous by faith, so our faith is what Satan seeks to destroy - hence the battleground in the mind. If our faith can be destroyed by fiery lies and deception we risk losing our righteous status. Hence, as the Apostle Paul said, we must take every thought captive to the teachings of Christ and weigh them against the immutable word of God. In other words, test everything.
“Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear.”
Corrie Ten Boom

Fear traps us into ungodly lifestyles and thought processes, and like a snare it’s often unseen until too late. Fear is found to be a root cause of many phobias, sicknesses and disease; it’s also a root cause of many psychological disorders. Fear is often rooted in rejection, lies or trauma. Whatever its root, the fruit will more than likely be in opposition to God’s will, so needs conquering:

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”
Nelson Mandela

As followers of Jesus, we should not be entertaining fear because God will not deliver us of a friend! So next time fear rises in you, immediately take it captive to the truth of God’s word and tell Satan to “get ye behind me”. Draw near to God, resist Satan and he will flee. Chose to submit any fiery thoughts to God’s immutable word and do not be deceived by feelings:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
Jeremiah 17:9

Dear friends, be strong and courageous, and do the work of the kingdom. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, your God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all is finished....

The Emmaus Group
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1 2 Cor 10:5
2 http://musingsofaministerswife.com/ministry/so-how-many-times-is-fear-not-actually-in-the-bible/
3 2 Tim 1:7
4 Proverbs 9:10
5 Job 1:9
6 Proverbs 29:25