

The **Resolved** Church
Pastor Duane Smets
May 22, 2016

Psalm 23 // "Fear No Evil" // Verse 4c

- I. He Who Deceives With Fear
- II. He Who Does Not Fear
- III. He Who Defeats All Fear

It is good to be with all of you today.

If you are new and this is one of your first times here or if you're just starting to work on making it a regular rhythm to be here every Sunday I'd like to extend a special welcome to you. It is a big deal to come to church and we believe it is worth it! We believe it's immensely good for our souls and that it produces a whole lot of joy in our lives.

My name is Duane. I'm the preaching pastor here. I serve equally alongside a team of pastors. We're all very different, which is good. We're very complementary. Only Jesus is the perfect pastor, which is why we call Him our Head Pastor. And it's our goal to always point to Him and look to Him, Jesus Christ our King and Chief Shepherd.

At our church we normally go through books of the Bible and call it a series. Right now our series happens to be one where we are slowly going through just one chapter of the Bible, Psalm 23. Each line in it is packed with substance and significance, which is why we are going slowly through it.

The line we come upon today is the line, "I will fear no evil." It's a packed line. Fear. Evil. Those are big, huge, gigantic, gargantuan, massive, enormous, mega topics. I was trying to think of as many big words as I could think of.

I mean fear. Fear is this basic, primal and powerful emotion. Everyone has something they are afraid of. Fear is immense and deep topic.

Evil? Wow. What is evil? Is it just a moral thing, like bad things that happen or that people do, like a school shooting? Or is it also a supernatural thing, where there is some dark force or person behind it? Evil too is an immense and deep topic.

To see how fear and evil get brought up in Psalm 23 and what God's answer is in regards to them, let's read verses 1-4 of Psalm 23 and while we're reading it let's all stand as a way of honoring and recognizing it as being words sent from God to us.

Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- Pastoral Declaration: This is the Word of the Lord.
- Congregational Response: Thanks Be To God.
- Pastoral Prayer

To begin, let's think about fear together. Here in Psalm 23 the picture of sheep and a shepherd. This is one of the primary pictures God gives to us about how He sees things. He sees human beings as sheep and Himself as a shepherd.

As we have been going through Psalm 23, the more and more I think about this the more the more I sense it changing me. Because what I think I am realizing is that I don't really think of myself as a sheep, or at least I don't want to.

I'm not really into sheep. I like lions. I've got one tattooed on my arm. Sheep seem silly and kind of boring to me. There's not really anything that cool about sheep. Now lions are a different story. They are tough, smart, and strong. They're kings and command respect. I like lions.

But God doesn't see us as lions. We're not that great. We're a lot more like sheep.

On top of that I'm a pastor, which is actually a word that means shepherd. Pastor comes from the word "pasture." Those who lead sheep to pastures began to be called "pastors" and this is word the Bible uses to describe the men God calls to lead His churches, pastors. Though He actually calls them "under-shepherds" or "under-pastors" because they always serve under the chief shepherd, the chief pastor, Jesus.

So I'm in a really weird place because I'm a sheep, but I'm also a shepherd. And when I say it's changing me, how I think it's changing me is it's helping me have more grace for myself and more grace for others... because after all we're just sheep. I'm not a lion, I'm a sheep and the people I'm leading are not my prey, they're sheep who need tender love and care.

One of the reasons I think God calls us sheep is because of fear. Sheep are one of the most frightful animals God made. They are easily spooked. Very skittish. Alarmed at the slightest hint of any danger. Sheep are very sheepish.

Like sheep, we as human beings are actually very similar. Many professional psychologists say fear is the number one driving force behind all human motivation and decision making.

Fear is basic to us. We don't learn it, it just happens naturally from the time we are children on. Our fears change, from being scared of the dark to be scared of all kinds of things. Money, work, a mate, children, disease, death. All kinds of things.

It's serious things and then also what sometimes is silly things. There are so many phobias out there it's insane. For example, any of you have "arachibutyrophobia"? It's the fear of having peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth.

I mean think about. There's fear of heights, fear of paper cuts, fear of suffocation, fear of mice or rats, fear of snakes, fear of flying, fear of the dark, fear of bridges, fear of spiders, fear of needles, fear of germs, fear of drowning, fear of dentists...and on and on and they all have fancy names that end in phobia!

Whether it's the serious things or the silly things, what we often don't realize is that fear is all around us and is often the thing driving us. Our desire for comfort is often driven by a fear of pain. Our desire for approval is often driven by a fear of criticism. Our desire for love is often driven by a fear of rejection. Our desire for money is often driven by a fear of not having what we need to live and to make it.

W. H. Auden, the American poet, said we live in an "Age of Anxiety", which continues to be a phrase that pops up all over the place.

Ed Welch is a licensed psychologist who also happens to be a Christian and a very good theologian too who helped start a whole Christian counseling foundation based out of Pennsylvania. He wrote what is probably one of the best books out there on fear titled, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry, and the God of Rest*. Here's some of the things he says in it...

"Fear and worry run deep in us all. Fear and worry have meaning. They say something. Fear and worry reveal to us the things we love and value. Any time you love or want something deeply you will notice fear and anxiety because you might not get them. Any time you can't control the fate of those things you want or love you will notice fears and anxieties because you might lose them. Life is risky. Treasured dreams often rise and fall on our performance and the outcomes. Fear is a door to our spiritual reality."

Fear is a big deal. Fear, which often expresses itself as stress, can cause all kinds of bodily symptoms such as: heart palpitations, sweaty palms, perspiration, tension headaches, clinched jaw, impotence, rapid breathing, loss of appetite, increased appetite, problems sleeping, high blood pressure and host of other things.

So yeah. Fear. It's a spiritual issue, which can become a medical issue.

If I was able to sit down with each one of you, one on one in my office and ask you, "What are your fears? What are your biggest fears in life?" What would you tell me? What are your fears?

We've all got them right? My biggest fears are for my kids. I fear for their safety. I'm afraid they'll grow up and not believe in God and love Jesus. I'm afraid they'll end up marrying some idiot.

I fear for the church. I get afraid for you all and how you are doing and the decisions that you make and the lives you are living. I get afraid of whether or not we'll make it financially because it costs a lot to be a church, this building, our staff and everything that goes along with it.

You see I've got fears. We've all got them. Fear is real and it's a big deal.

To help think through fear, learn what God says about it and what His antidote for it is I've got three points for us to walk through: "He Who Deceives With Fear", "He Who Does Not Fear", and "He Who Defeats All Fear."

I. He Who Deceives With Fear

With this first point, "He Who Deceives With Fear" what I want us to look at is the source of fear, where it comes from. I don't think it's accident that Psalm 23 links fear with evil.

What that tells us is that fear and evil are connected. And the Bible is pretty clear that fear doesn't come from God.

There's over a hundred different passages in the Bible where God tells His people not to be afraid. For example, here's just a few:

"Do not fear or be in dread...for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." – Deuteronomy 31:6

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God." – Isaiah 41:10

"God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and a sound mind." – 2 Timothy 1:6

So if fear doesn't come from God, where does it come from?

Once again like last week's sermon, and like most things, it has its origins in what happened in the Garden of Eden as it's described in the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

When God creates the universe and everything in it, and especially human beings, there is no fear. Life in the beginning was a happy life, with no problems, and no fear of being without any good thing.

Fear is first introduced by this talking snake who shows up in the garden speaking lies to the man and the woman. We'll come back to what he says and what he's doing in what he says in a few minutes, but first I want to talk a bit about this being, the serpent.

As the pages of the Bible progress out from the garden, we gradually find out more and more about him and that he goes by the name Satan, the Devil or Lucifer.

Interestingly we live in a culture that regardless of anything the Bible has to say, has this fascination with Satan.

There's been a ton of hit movies made about Satan, like The Exorcist, Stigmata, Legend, The Omen, my personal favorite, The Devil's Advocate and a bunch of others, not even counting the numerous horror films that are out there. It's a whole genre, there's so many. This most recent year, there has even been a new hit TV series on FOX called, "Lucifer."

Usually, the picture or depiction of Satan in popular culture is something like this:

He's a red figure, with horns and wings, he's holding a pitch fork and is surrounded with fire. Now, according to the Bible, very few of those things are actually associated with him. Where some of those ideas have come from I don't know. It's pretty phenomenal what evil creatures people can imagine in their minds.

And who knows? Some have said if you can imagine it then that means there is some corresponding reality to it in existence.

But that's not too trustworthy. What is trustworthy is the Bible. So quickly, what I want to do is give you a very brief run down of Satan in the Bible.

1. *He is an angel named Lucifer, which means Day or Morning Star (Isa. 14:12-14 & Ezek. 28:12-15).*

When God created all things, He created different classes of beings. Living organisms like flowers have a class of being. Animals have a class of being. Humans are a class of being. And angels are another class of being.

Several passages in the Bible directly speak about Satan's work in human governments and rulers. Two passages in particular, which start out talking about a human ruler, transition and speak about supernatural realities that transcend human rulership and when they do they describe how Lucifer rebelled against God in heaven and took one-third of the angels with him. Jesus called those who followed him in this rebellion "demons." So Satan and his demons are bad angels.

2. *He can appear in different forms (Gen. 3; Ezek. 28; Dan. 7:6-11; 1 Cor. 11:14; Rev. 12:9).*

Some angels, not all, are described with wings. So maybe that part of the pictures are right. But there's nothing ever about him being red, with horns or with a pitch fork. But Satan also appears as a snake, a beast with four heads, an angel of light, covered in jewels, and a dragon. Most of the time, he does not look evil but good, beautiful, and attractive.

3. *He is limited in power (Job 1:6-12).*

We'll talk about this a bunch in our next point. So I'll just leave it for now by saying, there's only certain things he can do and his chief power is deception.

4. *He knows the Bible really well (Matt. 4:1-11; Jam. 2:19).*

He actually knows it better than anyone, has all of it memorized. It's his chief tool in his art of deception.

5. *He has been defeated and has a final end coming (Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:10).*

This is the most important thing to know about him and we'll spend the bulk of our time talking about it in our third point. On the cross Jesus won the war against him and then promises that when he returns he'll throw Satan into a lake of fire forever, where he will remain forever and ever.

Okay, so now that we know who Satan is, let's look at what he does. The chief thing he does is deceive.

So if we look in on the Genesis story and what happens here's what Satan says there, "He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Gen. 3:1)"

"Did God actually say?" That is key. That is what Satan does. This is his chief tool and goal. His tool is to take God's words and to twist them and question them. And his goal is to turn people against God.

Then look at what he says next, "*The serpent said, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil (Gen. 3:4).*"

This is it. This is where fear all begins. You see, Satan here creates the fear. He instills a fear in the man and the woman that maybe God didn't tell the truth, maybe He was wrong and most of all maybe He was holding

out on them. Satan makes them afraid that their life was not good or good enough and could be better.

His chief tool is God's Word. His chief goal is to turn people against God. And His chief tactic is deception.

Here's what Jesus says about him in John 8:8, *"The devil...He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

This is important. Listen. Underneath every single fear we ever have is a belief in a lie. Underneath every single fear we ever have is a belief in a lie. So...

If you are afraid of losing your job the lie you are believing in is if you do lose it you won't be okay and that God won't take care of you.

If you are afraid of getting some disease or getting in a car accident the lie you are believing is if your life will surely be miserable and that God could not make any good come from it.

If you are afraid of not finding a spouse or not being able to have children, then the lie you are believing is that you must have those things to be happy and that God is holding out on you.

If you are afraid of deep relationship believing the lie that you will be hurt so it's not worth it and that God won't work within that relationship/

If you are afraid of not making or having enough money then the lie you are believing is that God doesn't know your needs and will not provide for you.

You see, underneath every single fear we ever have is a belief in a lie. The devil does not speak truth, he speaks twisted truth, which are lies.

And the reason that is so important to see is because this is where the evil comes from. Evil enters in at the point of lies which creates fear. Every single evil that has ever taken place comes from this point.

Every murder. Every murder has taken place because someone was afraid either of what the person they killed would do if they didn't kill them and they believed a lie that God would not be just and judge the person for their wrongs one day.

Every war. Every war that has ever been waged is due to fear. Fear of what would happen, if arms were not taken up. It doesn't mean there are not just wars. But the motivation of fear is still the reason.

So let me offer you this. Both secular psychologists and guys like Ed Welch say we can do is to face our fears. Welch asks the question, "What will really happen if our fears come true?" Funny enough, the secular publication Psychology Today phrases it this way, "Exposing ourselves to our personal demons is the best way to move past them."

So do that. Ask yourself, "What am I really afraid of?" Then ask, "What lie am I believing?" Then look at what would happen if what your fears came true and begin to look for God's promise to you in that situation. I promise that will help you.

Okay, now that we have a good understanding of fear, it's source and Satan's role in it, let's transition and talk about God and His power over Satan in our second point for today, "He Who Does Not Fear."

II. He Who Does Not Fear

To start us off here, I need to clarify something. When we ask, "What is evil?" What we have to recognize is that is a moral question. Some people have said there's no absolute truth, what's true for you may not be true for me and we all have the right to our own opinions and beliefs.

Now you can say that, but if you do you don't get to ask what is evil? The question of something being evil is

a moral question where in it we are asking if there is actually anything that is universally and objectively wrong. And when it comes to that question what theologians have recognized is that there are two kinds of related evil.

There is natural evil, which are things like floods, fires, earthquakes, cancer and death. They are called evil because of the destruction they bring, chiefly being the destruction of human life, which we recognize as having a natural and special value and worth.

Moral evil is when a human being does something wrong and it has destructive results. It's breaking the universal moral law of God.

Now according to the Bible's story we just went through fear was introduced by Satan, which led to moral evil where the man and woman believe his lie and then the result is natural evil the result. God in His holy justice is bound to respond to this eternal rebellion and as a result curses are handed out to the animals, the woman, the man and even the ground itself.

We went over that last week, if you want to revisit that in more depth. What we need to learn and see today is that God retains power over all of it, including Satan himself. And that happens to be a very different idea than the popular idea of good versus evil in our culture.

You guys know what it is right? Any one in here like Star Wars? The Force Awakens was great wasn't it. In the Star Wars world throughout all the movies, what's the primary theme? It's the force versus the dark side right? What you have presented in that with Star Wars is the classic belief of what's called "cosmic dualism."

Cosmic dualism is the belief that there are two equally opposing powers of good and evil who are in an eternal battle against one another. It actually has its roots in an ancient religion called, Zoroastrianism. It's one of the world's oldest religions. A dwindling number of people practice it, principally now in India and then a fairly significant number in the US.

It was founded by a man named Zoroaster about 3500 years ago and its principle doctrine is that there are two gods, a good god named Ahura Mazda (that's where the Mazda car company got their name) and the bad god named Angra Mainyu (he's angra)...and these two gods, the good god and the bad god have been waging a battle against one another since eternity.

Now, what you've got to know is that is NOT the view of the Bible. That has never been the belief of Christians or Jews ever!

Sometimes it might seem like it from the way that some Christians talk, giving so much credit to Satan and praying against Satan this and Satan that. Oh man, it gets on my nerves so much if I hear someone "praying against the enemy" as though he were everywhere present and all powerful. He's not. Satan is not a god.

I'm not saying praying against the wiles of the devil is ever wrong, I just like Jesus' instructions when he told us how to pray in what we call "The Lord's Prayer." He only gives the devil one line's attention, "deliver us from the evil one." That's it. He doesn't deserve that much credit or attention because he is a weak pitiful fool AND he answers to God, the God, the one who is all powerful and everywhere present.

There's two places in the Bible and two stories which make this abundantly clear for us, so I want to take us to both of those places.

The first one is the story of Job. I'll just read it straight from the Bible. A section from chapter 1 and chapter 2.

"Now there was a day when the sons of God (that's one of the Bible's names for angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of

his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.” – Job 1:6-12

Satan then sends some of his cronies to kill Job's servants. Then he sends a fire that kills all Job's livestock. Then he sends a wind that flattens the house all Job's sons and daughters were in killing them all.

When Job finds out he tears his robe, falls to ground weeping and says, *“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1:21).”*

Satan is upset that Job hasn't rebelled against God, remember that's his goal, to turn people against God. So Satan goes back to heaven to God because he cannot do anything without God's permission, and here's how that conversation goes.

“Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.’ And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.’” – Job 2:4-6

So then Satan goes out and strikes Job with sores all over his body. It gets so bad that Job's own wife comes to him and says, “Job, why don't you just curse God and die.” Bad wife. Don't marry one of those single guys.

By God's grace, Job doesn't curse God and He doesn't die and in the end God restores to him all of his fortune and blesses him even more than before.

So you see, in this story we get a perfect example of how Satan can do what he does. He functions on a tight leash. He is not a god, no cosmic dualism here.

Here's the second story. It's with the Apostle Paul who wrote two-thirds of the New Testament portion of the Bible. Apparently he had some kind of physical ailment, he calls it “a thorn in his flesh” and here's what he says about it.

“To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”” – 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Okay, look at it. A messenger of Satan was sent. Who sent him? Did Satan? Well, is it Satan's goal to teach that God's grace is sufficient? No that's God's goal. So God sent him. Satan is under God's authority and God uses him for His good purposes.

And the truth is this was the case from the start. Did any of you happen to wonder how the snake got in the garden? Who put the snake in the garden? Who put the tree in the garden? God did. God did.

Nothing that happened was an accident. It was not some unforeseen accident. God knew. Yes. God even planned it.

This is what the Bible teaches. Listen.

*“The Lord has made everything for his own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.”
– Proverbs 16:4 (NASB)*

You see, God even has had and has his purposes for Satan.

Now, I know that's a pretty big pill to swallow which may be difficult for some of you. That's okay, it's difficult for me too.

One of the best things I've come across and read on this specific issue is an article by John Piper, titled "[Is God Less Glorious Because He Ordained That Evil Be.](#)" It's only 10 pages and free online. I encourage you all to read it. It will be an immense help.

Here's what Piper says,

"It is not because he delights in evil as evil. Rather he wills that evil come to pass . . . that good may come of it.' Then he asks, 'What good? And how does the existence of evil serve this good end?' And to answer that question he quotes the Puritan Jonathan Edwards...

It is a proper and excellent thing for infinite glory to shine forth; and for the same reason, it is proper that the shining forth of God's glory should be complete; that is, that all parts of his glory should shine...It is not proper that one glory should be exceedingly manifested, and another not at all.

Thus it is necessary, that God's awful majesty, his authority and dreadful greatness, justice, and holiness, should be manifested. (For) the glory of his goodness, love, and holiness would be faint without them; nay, they could scarcely shine forth at all.

If it were not right that God should decree and permit and punish sin, there could be no manifestation of God's holiness in hatred of sin...There would be no manifestation of God's grace or true goodness, if there was no sin to be pardoned, no misery to be saved from.

Happiness would...(be small and) his goodness would not be so prized and admired....So evil is necessary, in order for the highest happiness of the creature, and the completeness of God, (in the purposes) for which he made the world."

I think that helps. Not fully but it helps. Think of it this way. Our Psalm says that we will not fear because He is with us and is our comfort. If we never faced any evil or never felt the cast of the shadow of death then we would never have an opportunity to come to know the great comfort God provides in those dark times. We would never know how loving and full of comfort our God who is with us is.

So I think that helps. But not fully. What fully helps is seeing how all of this is fulfilled and completed in the person and work of Jesus. So let's transition into our last point to conclude by looking at "He Who Defeats All Fear."

III. He Who Defeats All Fear

When Jesus comes on the scene one of the first things He does is go out into the desert to be tempted by Satan himself for forty days. Satan doesn't have any new tricks so he does the same old thing he always does, taking God's Word, twisting it and trying to create fear and distrust in God.

But unlike the man in the garden, Jesus does not fall prey. Instead he quotes Scripture right back to Satan and entrusts Himself into God's care and God's plan. Then Jesus goes out after that and starts His public ministry, teaching, preaching, healing people and quite often casting demons out of people.

I can't take time to deal with demon possession today. It can be confusing because sometimes what some people think is demon possession is just a medical or psychological issue. However, the Bible does talk about it being a real thing. The best book I've read on it is one with a bunch of contributors edited by John Warwick Montgomery simply titled, *Demon Possession*. So if you want to read more on this topic, get that book.

My big take aways from it were:

1) *The only sure-fire way to know if someone is really demon possessed is if they exhibit knowledge you know there is no way they could have.* So for example, a five year old speaking clear and perfect Latin who has never been exposed to the language before. Then you know there is another presence there.

2) *I do not believe a true Christian cannot be demon possessed.* Oppressed yes, but not possessed because

1 John 4:4 says “Greater is He who is in you (Jesus) than he who is in the world (Satan). If Jesus is in you He can’t stand Satan and Satan is scared of Jesus, so Satan can’t possess a Christian. It’s a good reason to become a Christian because then Satan can’t getcha!

Alright. Back in Genesis when Satan got the man and the woman to sin and then God handed down the curses, his curse and promise was that one day, one from the seed of the woman would crush the snake’s head.

When Jesus went to the cross, that’s what happened. When Jesus went to the cross, He went to war against Satan and crushed him and all the sin, death and darkness he has wrought upon the human race for hundreds of years.

Jesus went to the cross to die for it all, so that men and women might be forgiven and freed from the darkness their sins and the sins done to them have carried. When Jesus died He defeated Satan and was victorious!

Here’s how Colossians 2:13-15 in the Bible says it,

“You, who were dead in your trespasses..God made alive...having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Satan and his demons are the cosmic rulers and authorities and Jesus put them to open shame, triumphing over them on the cross! Because of that, since that point Satan is just a pitiful defeated little fool. There is no reason to fear him and his doom is sure.

Here is the final scene of Satan. It’s from the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. Here’s what John who wrote it saw in the vision of the future God gave him,

“Satan...[came] out to deceive the nations...to gather them for battle... but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” – Revelation 20:8-10

This is Satan’s and his demons future. Between now and that day we live in a time between the time. The war has already been won on the cross but we are fighting for territory. Ephesians 6:12 in the Bible tells us that we are fighting spiritual forces of evil. But there are places in our hearts and people in many places who have not yet heard the good news that Jesus beat the sin, death and the devil on the cross!

Because Jesus came and because Jesus defeated the devil there is no longer anything to fear. As 1 John 4:8 in the Bible states, God’s “perfect love casts out fear.” God’s perfect love was giving to us in Jesus, who died for us and defeated Satan. When have that love abiding in us, there simply is no place for Satan and his fears...because if God did that for us, there is nothing he won’t do for us. He will continue to love us and care for us.

Jesus won and Jesus wins!

That is such an important part of the gospel that somehow gets neglected: the victory of Jesus! He is the the *Christus Victor!*

I’ll end this point with three simple tips in how we fight Satan and the fears he seeks to place in us.

1. Know and believe God’s Word. Read it, memorize it, love it. Do this so you can recognize twisted lies and know what God really said.
2. Don’t give Satan much attention. He’s a small little defeated fool.
3. Remember Satan’s future and your future. If you’re a Christian you’re headed for heaven. Satan and his

lies are headed for an eternal lake of fire.

Martin Luther, the Reformer, put this together really well in the hymn he wrote, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Here's a few lines of it...

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

Though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him

Jesus won and Jesus wins! Amen and Amen!

Conclusion

Alright, let's prepare to respond as the band begins to play. We respond each week here at The Resolved by coming to Jesus' table where we take a piece of bread as Jesus perfect life and we dip it in the wine or juice as His perfect blood and then we eat it.

The physical act of how we respond is always the same each week. But where our hearts are at and how God's Word has pressed us is different each week.

This week our three points have been about fear and it's source, the lies of the Satan. We talked about the power of God over Satan and how Jesus defeated Satan on the cross and has his ultimate end in the lake of fire.

Today, as you respond ask yourself what your biggest fears are and then bring them to God and tell Him what they are. Then hear God's words of promise to you..."You have nothing to fear my child. I love you, I am in control and I sent my Son to take care of everything and He did. Everything will be okay. Fear no evil."

Let's pray.