

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM

Problems are heart problems. One of the reasons for this constant failure is that we are merely trying to change the external aspects of the situation. Behavior problems are heart problems (Matthew 15:19).

The Heart of the Problem

1. A guilty conscience

Pro 28:1 “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

2. The Wrong Value System

Overwhelmed with the fear of man and what others think of you, you are more concerned about your life here on earth than your heavenly destination. The fear of man reveals your value.

Phi 1:15 “Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will...
Phi 1:18-20 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Why wasn't Paul afraid? He had the right value system. (Read 2 Ti. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; Phi.1:28-30).

We fear man because we value comfort and life on this earth more than we value heaven.

3. Unbelief

Pro 29:25 “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.”

When you truly know God you will lose your fear of men, but if you're ignorant about Who God is, you are more likely to be frightened by man. Seeing God for who He is will put everything in perspective.

Psa 73:16 -17 “But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.”

3.1. Distorted view of God

So if you're lying, compromising, feeling empty and fearing man, you ought to begin to make a change by taking a look at your heart.

Isaiah 29:13-16

Isaiah 30:15-16

4. Idolatry

Pro 29:25 “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.”
Psalm 33:16-21

When you are **fearing** man, you’re not **trusting** God. And if you don’t trust God, you are trusting someone else. That’s called idolatry. Living in a **fantasyland; lost perspective; frightened** about how other people might **hurt us**.

John 12:42-43 “Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”

Psalm 62:11 “power belongs to God”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

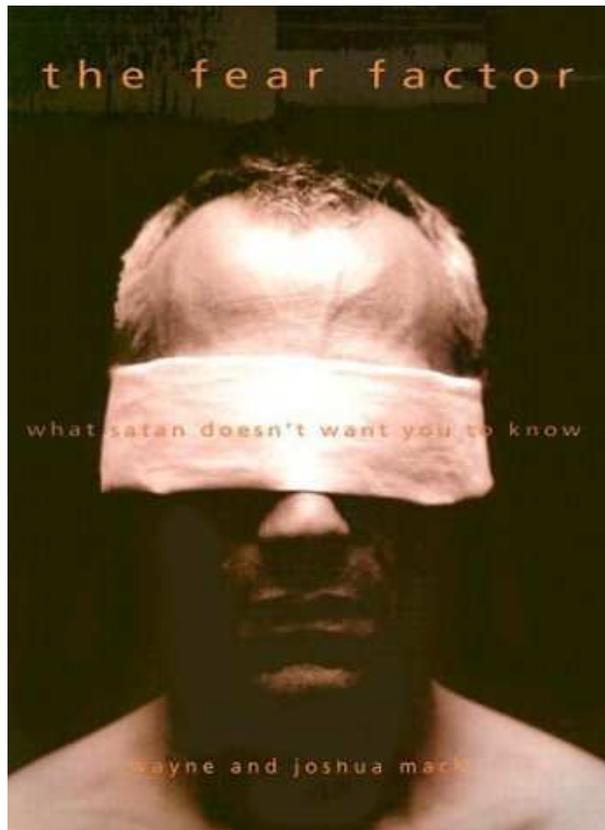
5. HOPE

1. Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

5.1 Discipline for Godliness

The Fear Factor



<http://www.mackministries.org>

Summarized from "The Fear Factor, what Satan doesn't want you to know" by Wayne and Joshua Mack; chapter five by Gokhan Kaya.