



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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**H**eadlines remind us we live in disturbing times. Many things happening today would cause us to be fearful, and yet we are often reluctant to talk about our fears because it doesn't seem like the godly thing to do.

Paul's spiritual son, Timothy, who ministered to the people of God, was not exempt from fear. Paul didn't condone his fear or put him down for having it. Instead, he told Timothy this, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

After reading this, Timothy might have thought to himself, *That's easy for you to say!*

Paul knew a life of service to the Lord would be filled with challenges which would test Timothy's faith and cause fear. With wisdom and understanding from his own experiences, he lovingly reminded Timothy this type of fear didn't come from God.

There are good fears, such as the fear of God and a child's healthy fear of touching a hot stove. But there are also fears which create anxiety and distress in our lives. It is particularly important to talk about these.

Anxious fear can place us in bondage. I've talked to people who have not left home since March because of the fear of COVID-19. Others feel anxiety over layoffs because they fear they cannot provide for their families. Many have spent sleepless nights tossing and turning because of fear!

Besides the physical consequences of fear, this emotion will also cripple and impede our spiritual growth. It will cause us to remain silent when we are called upon to speak out. It will cause us to be discouraged in ministry when we should

be encouraged! It may even cause us to quit!

The Greek word used for fear in 2 Timothy 1:7 refers to cowardice that results from a lack of moral strength. Timothy may have been fearful to fulfill his duties because of a timid personality and the intense opposition he faced from false teachers. Things were rough for the young pastor, just as they may be difficult for you.

Contrasted with the word "fear" in Paul's message to Timothy is "power." It refers to the courage to fulfill ministerial duties, namely, the proclamation of the gospel.

During the difficulties of our times, we may feel fear, discouragement, and sometimes even abandonment by God. We must remember our calling in Christ and the power He has given us to still live for Him.

### **The Good News**

In Romans 8:15 we are told, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption. . . ." Brothers and Sisters in Christ, you are adopted, not just by anyone but by God Himself.

You see, the Holy Spirit makes believers children of God. Here's the big deal: We are loved with an undying love by God, who is our Heavenly Father.

It is important to note earthly suffering is not an eternal reality: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18) The present sufferings Paul referenced encompass the full range of human experiences: Sickness, injury, natural disaster, financial loss, poverty, hunger, and death. If Paul were writing today, present . . . . [Full Article](#)

**Q.** I want to be part of the solution in the fight against racial injustice. What can I do to help?

**A.** Recently I had a dinner conversation with Indian friends. The man of the house told me how the caste system is still an entrenched reality in India, as well as in US corporations and churches. He explained visits to Indian churches in the US can only last for a few weeks, because once the people know your family name, they know your caste. Once they know your caste, that determines how you will be treated in that congregation. (Lower-class guests are excluded from fellowship and upper-class visitors are embraced.)

This plays out in business circles as well. If an Indian manager is of a higher caste than his Indian employee, the employee will not be treated as well as others on the team. The employee's opportunities for promotion may even be hindered. He or she may be given twice the work of higher-caste peers with the same title, but limited to the same pay. On the other hand, if a manager and his direct report are of the same caste, that employee will often have more freedom and be treated better.

My heart aches when I hear of such injustices. The story was eye-opening for me because it reminded me prejudice is not an American problem; it's a spiritual heart problem. As long as there are people in the world, there will be some who think themselves better than others on account of any factor where there is a perceived advantage. Pride and prejudice run deep in our nature.

They also run deep in human history. Racial conflicts go all the way back to the days of sandals and tunics with animosity between the Jews and Samaritans.

Jesus understood the racial tensions embedded in His culture, but He didn't accept them as the status quo. In a simple story, He reduced the complicated racial dynamic into the most basic element essential for any relationship: being a good neighbor.

The story goes like this: A Jewish man traveled the dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho, where he was robbed, wounded, and left for dead. As he lay on the ground, his open, bleeding wounds stung from the dirt and gravel.

A passing Jewish priest saw him, but continued on his way. A Jewish temple worker likewise spotted the ill-fated traveler, but also passed by.

When a traveling Samaritan saw the helpless burglary victim, he stopped to help. He bandaged up the man's wounds, brought him to a wayside inn where

he could be nursed back to health, and paid his expenses.

It didn't matter to the Samaritan that his Jewish counterpart considered him an enemy and not an equal. It didn't matter that they had insurmountable differences of opinion about religion and politics. That's because the Samaritan didn't see a Jewish person in need; he saw another human being.

This is what it means to be a good neighbor. It's seeing a need and caring enough about the other person — white or black — to meet that need with our available resources.

If we want to be a part of the solution to address racial injustice, we can start by being good neighbors. Good neighbors talk to each other. They share life together. They spend time together. They care deeply and love unconditionally. They build deep, lasting relationships. . . . [Full Article](#)



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**PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011**  
**847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net**