

FEBRUARY 2005

DEMONIC FEAR

“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.” 1 Samuel 16:14, 15

1Sa 16:14: ורוח יהוה סרה מעם שאול ובעתתו רוח־רעה מאת יהוה:

1Sa 16:15: ויאמרו עבדי־שאול אליו הנה־נא רוח־אלהים רעה מבעתך:

BDB Definition: bā`ath

1) to terrify, startle, fall upon, dismay, be overtaken by sudden terror

1a) (Niphal) to be terrified

1b) (Piel)

1b1) to fall upon, overwhelm

1b2) to terrify

v.14- piel pret of *ba'ath*, v.15- piel part of *ba'ath*

Ba'ath means to be afraid, to be overcome by fear; to have, as we would say, anxiety attacks, but in the piel stem, which greatly intensifies the action involved, it means to be terrified, to be totally taken over by fear. It's an intense fear.

When it comes down to v.15 we see that the participial form is used telling us that this dynamic has now become a way of life for Saul. A demon has attached himself to Saul and is now terrorizing him with fear. He's now having to deal with debilitating fear coming and going in his life all the time.

We often talk about demon possession in the NT, “he has a demon”, but with the participial form being used, it would be more along the line of an individual being “*demonized*”. This would tend to more indicate that an individual could be terrorized by a demon without having to have the demon literally indwell them.

Yahweh had removed his spirit from King Saul because of his disobedience, (**something that will not be done in the Church Age; the Holy spirit is God's permanent gift to us**), and sent an evil spirit was sent to Saul from God. It was an evil spirit, *ra'ah*, because of the destructiveness of its influence. *Ra'ah* dealt with the idea of the destruction of the **well being** of the individual's soul and life. And this is what demons, evil spirits, do to God's people when they have access to our lives. They are definitely to be avoided, and God has given us a spiritual provision to protect us from them.

This goes back to when *Yahweh* had commanded Saul to attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all of them and everything they had: men, women, children and infants; their cattle, sheep, camels and donkeys. 1 Samuel 15: 3. But instead, they spared king Agag and the best of the sheep, cattle, fat calves and lambs; the weak and despised they destroyed. This disobedience cost him his throne and his sanity.

The narrative of chapters 15 and 16 tells us what went on, but we can look at some of the points that stand out. First, he broke the command structure of authority by not carrying out the Lord's express orders in the matter. Second, he cared more about what the people would think of him, instead of what the Lord would think. Third, he twisted things around in his own mind to the place that he **had** obeyed the Lord, when he didn't. He said in 1 Samuel 15:20, "*But I did obey the Lord*"; this was the **reasoning of human viewpoint**. Instead of following what the Word says, we add our two cents to it to twist it around to say what we want it to say. A very common concept in Christianity today. Fourth, then it is very interesting that he said that they could be sacrificed to *Yahweh your God*, not **our** God, but **your** God. Fifth, **he brought in the idea of the works of religion in trying to establish a form of worship of God, that he had not authorized, by saying that these good animals could be sacrificed to Yahweh**. This is where Samuel set him straight by saying that **obedience is better than sacrifice**, v.22. Sixth, we see the **rebellion** of Saul in the matter in v.23. Human good and human viewpoint is all rebellion against God, under the sugar coating of human good, sincerity and religiosity. But rebellion before the eyes of a Holy God is the same sin as divination. Seventh, we see that Saul was **arrogant**. He may have had a nice personality and charisma; he may have tried to come across as being sincere and "loving the Lord", but he was arrogant. **And arrogance is as evil as idolatry before God**.

Then, eighth, there was his **phony confession** to Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:24, 25, "*And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.*" Phony because we see in v. 27 as Samuel turned to leave, **Saul assaulted Samuel by grabbing hold of his robe and tearing it**. This assault, the ninth point, showed that Saul had no respect whatsoever for, not only the Word of God, but also the communicators of God's Word! One does not treat God's communicators with contempt. We represent him, and it's as if you were personally treating him that way. In v. 30 he's still going on with his phony confession, but in the tenth point, we see once again he's more interested in keeping a public appearance than he is in pleasing the Lord

Saul's attendants recognized what was going on, that he was being tormented by an evil spirit and they wanted to help, but the help they recommended for him really didn't solve the problem. It alleviated the symptoms, but didn't deal with the real issue. **It was more of a "new age" approach to the matter rather than a doctrinal one.**

Feelings operate on certain frequencies; anger, guilt, hate, fear all have a frequency they operate on. Their solution was to play a harp, and the resonant frequencies of the harp would operate on certain frequencies that would soothe the soul.. As all of us know there is some music that is soothing to us, and then there is music that is really grating on the

nerve. The same thing was going on with Saul's soul. The gentle strumming of a harp would bring him some relief, it would be comforting and soothing, but did nothing to solve the problem! For the problem came from an evil spirit. The doctrinal approach would be to deal with the demonic issue, while the human viewpoint approach would be to apply a paregoric concept.

As we know Saul went further down into mental illness, regardless of how many tunes David played for him, but he never dealt with the real issue of the evil spirit. But the core issue was not the evil spirit, it was his negative attitude toward the Word of God! This is not to say that every time we have fear that there is a demon behind it. The flesh nature produces its own fear without any input from demons. But demons do produce a horrible type of fear in God's people and there is a spiritual provision to prevent that, or to get out of it if we're caught up in it.

In 2 Samuel 22:5 we see that David had become terrified at the prospect of death when he was surrounded by his enemies, Saul included, and the Lord delivered him from their hand, "*When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me **afraid**; Piel fut.*" This was a fear resulting from David not trusting in the Lord. It wasn't a fear that was influenced into him by a demon. We see it expressed again in Psalm 18:4, "*The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me **afraid**."* Piel fut

What's the difference between Saul and David? They were both struck by debilitating fear, but David's fear was from the source of his flesh nature, while he was out of fellowship as we would say, and the source of Saul's fear was from an evil spirit. David's fear was sinful because he was not trusting the Lord at that situation in his life, while Saul's was evil because he had arrogantly rejected the Word of the Lord. David's fear was the natural outcome due to not trusting the Lord, while Saul's fear was due to the punishment of God in sending a demon to him to torment him.

The other big difference is **how both men handled the problem**. Saul cared not for the things of the Lord, his Word, or obeying the Lord. He didn't care about getting right with the Lord, nor did he care about effecting a doctrinal solution. All he cared about is what other people thought of him. So his words and acts of "contrition" were only for public show. While David, on the other hand, did love the Lord, his Word, and doing his will. And his remedy was to seek the Lord! In Psalm 18:5 he says that he sought the Lord, "*In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.*"

What we have with David is an example of the faith rest life and how we are to utilize it when faced with our many problems and fears in life. The faith rest life actually prevents fear in the lives of God's people! In Psalm 18:21b David said, "*I have not done evil by turning away from the Lord.*" It begins with having a positive mental attitude toward Bible Doctrine and making Bible Doctrine your life every single day. We confess our sins, if necessary; we turn our face to the Lord, his Word and promises; and then we seek his face in prayer for deliverance from, or through the situation. And, as David shows us, the Lord hears, and the Lord delivers.

David lived the faith rest life, not perfectly in every situation, but overwhelmingly he did live by faith. But there were some times that he neglected it and became afraid. One of those times is when the Philistines, the enemies of God, had seized him in Gath. His gaze was averted from the Lord, (as Peter's was on the water), he had his eyes on men, and he became afraid. *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.”* Psalm 56:3,4

This goes back to how David handled things that threatened him in his life. There comes a point when we have to ask ourselves, **is something wrong?** If we're all agitated, afraid and do not have the peace of God, then we have to conclude that something is amiss in our spiritual life. So fear becomes a “wake up” call; it tells us that we are not living in the spiritual dynamic provided by God, and that we need to confess our sins, fear and unbelief included, and get back into concentrating on Bible doctrine and the promises of God.

And that's what David did. He says in God, whose doctrine I praise, in God I trust, I will not be afraid. Can't we see the secret here, if there is a secret? Sometimes I think Christians think that there is a secret to living the Christian life that, somehow, they have never discovered. Others have it, but not them. What they don't see, and something that perhaps has never really been emphasized in the churches they attend, is that it goes back to living life by faith in God and his Word!

The Christian Way of Life is not about formalism, ritualism, programs, entertainment, human good programs in the community; it's not about religiosity and man made works of religion; it's about occupying oneself each day with God through the teaching of Bible doctrine. As we are positive to and concentrate on the teaching of Bible Doctrine, under the filling of the Holy spirit and being in fellowship with God via the confession of our sins to God, we enter into communion with the God of Doctrine through the teaching of Bible Doctrine! This is the Christian Way of Life, and anything other than that is man made religion.

Paul wrote that even though the outer man is perishing, (and some faster than others), the inner man is being renewed day by day. *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”* 2 Corinthians 4:16 He also wrote that the inner man is renewed by means of *epignosis*, which is the Bible Doctrine that we have learned and believed. *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge (epignosis) after the image of him that created him:”* Colossians 3:10 This is the Christian life and this is the source for our power, strength and everything else that we might come up against in this life.

If you do not attend a local church, or if the church that you do attend does not teach the Word of God, then you need to ask the Father to lead you to a ministry that has a Pastor-Teacher, whose ministry is centered around the exegesis and communication of Bible Doctrine. So you can start living the spiritual dynamic of true Christianity. And the key to this is living the life of faith as David and so many others did.

The solution for fear is faith. **It's to trust that the Lord has a provision for all our problems.** Every child of God on earth has had something they are faced with in life that threatens their security and well being: finances, health, jobs, terrorists, old age, housing, problems with other people, the list goes on. **But God has a perfect provision already planned out in eternity past to solve the problem!**

Faith comes in by believing that and turning to the Lord to deal with the issue. This is what David did when confronted with things that threatened him. *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”* Psalm 56:3 David said that when he was afraid he trusted in the Lord, which is to say that he believed that the Lord had a solution for what he was going through; he went to him for help in the matter and the Lord answered his prayer by delivering him. He said, *“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”* Psalm 34:4

Why did David turn to the Lord when threatened? Because he believed that God could and would deliver him! *“This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”* Psalm 34:6 And here we see the progression of the faith rest life in solving problems. It begins with having an accurate knowledge of Bible Doctrine where we learn the mind of God. From this we find out many things about God, his character, integrity, nature, power and faithfulness. We also find out about his desire to help us and his promises to help us. We also find out that he wants us to go to him for help. So we believe this and what do we do? Well, if we really believe this, we will go to him for help in our prayers. And what do we see? **We see that the Lord answers our prayers and that he is good to us!** *“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”* Psalm 34:8

In Psalm 56:3 where David said that when he was afraid he would trust in God, *“What time I am afraid, I will **trust** in thee.”*, he used the word *batach* for trust. *Batach* had the idea of no longer being concerned about a problem. It had the idea of lying down on the ground, to stretch out on the ground, to lie down and be at rest; **to feel secure, to be unconcerned; to trust in someone (God) so that one has no concerns and is at rest;** to be secure. It denotes that a relationship exists, or a state of trust exists providing a sense of security and unconcern. A nation enters into a peace treaty (covenant) with a neighboring nation, now the people feel secure and at rest. They now live without concern next door to their neighbors. While *batach* in its primary sense of trust means that you are looking to someone, depending on them, to provide your needs, to take care of you, protect you, etc., and because you know that they will, you no longer have any concern over the matter.

In Psalm 34:8 where David says blessed is the man that trusteth in God, *“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that **trusteth** in him.”*, he uses the word *chasah*. Properly, *chasah* means **to flee to take refuge**. It has the idea that one is under some threat of danger, and he flees to something as a shelter or refuge for protection. The young run back to their mother; the badger to his hole; the animal to a cleft in a rock. One can flee to something in nature for protection, a hole in the ground, a cave, a high rock, a cleft in the rock, into the water, out of the water, into the air, etc.. One can flee to people; to one's friends, one's family, to society as a whole, or to a fort that people have built. One

can flee to man made institutions: the government, government programs, community programs, the military, etc..

It has the idea of fleeing from danger to something that you know will give you safety and protection. The faith comes in where the individual believes that thing will protect him, or that person. And trust comes in where you are trusting in, relying upon that thing or person to protect you. So it is a metaphor for faith.

So *chasah* has the following ideas in it: 1) one is in a situation that poses a threat, (real or imagined), to the believer; 2) the believer is afraid; 3) he knows that Yahweh will protect him; 4) he flees from the situation to Yahweh for protection. Yahweh is his refuge. A variety of metaphors are borrowed from nature to express this action; but it means to run, to flee, to go to Yahweh for protection when threatened, or in danger. The threat or danger is not to be limited to physical threat only, but includes all threats. Whether threats to one's soul, one's body, one's finances, one's health, one's church, one's family, one's nation, to one's business or job, or to one's emotions. Any threat, regardless of the category, is sufficient cause to run to God for protection. **So here we have not the idea of hoping or waiting, but motion! Where the believer is motivated to run to God for protection and safety.**

This gives us another perspective on David as he turned to the Lord for help. He didn't merely trust him and call upon him, but he **ran** to him as one would run when facing imminent danger! But how many of us put off going to God thinking or hoping the problem will merely go away? Or if we do he's the last thing on our list? What this tells us that when David had a problem he beat a path to God right away!

Once again we see the difference between David and Saul. Other than the fact that David's fear sprung out of his old sin nature when he wasn't trusting the Lord and Saul's was demonic in origin. We see how these two men handled the problem of their fears. Saul went after the path of conventional treatment to alleviate his problem of fear, while David ran to the only one who could give him true relief. He fled to God in faith and God always answered his prayers and honored his faith and delivered him.

May this motivate us all to living the faith rest life.

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