

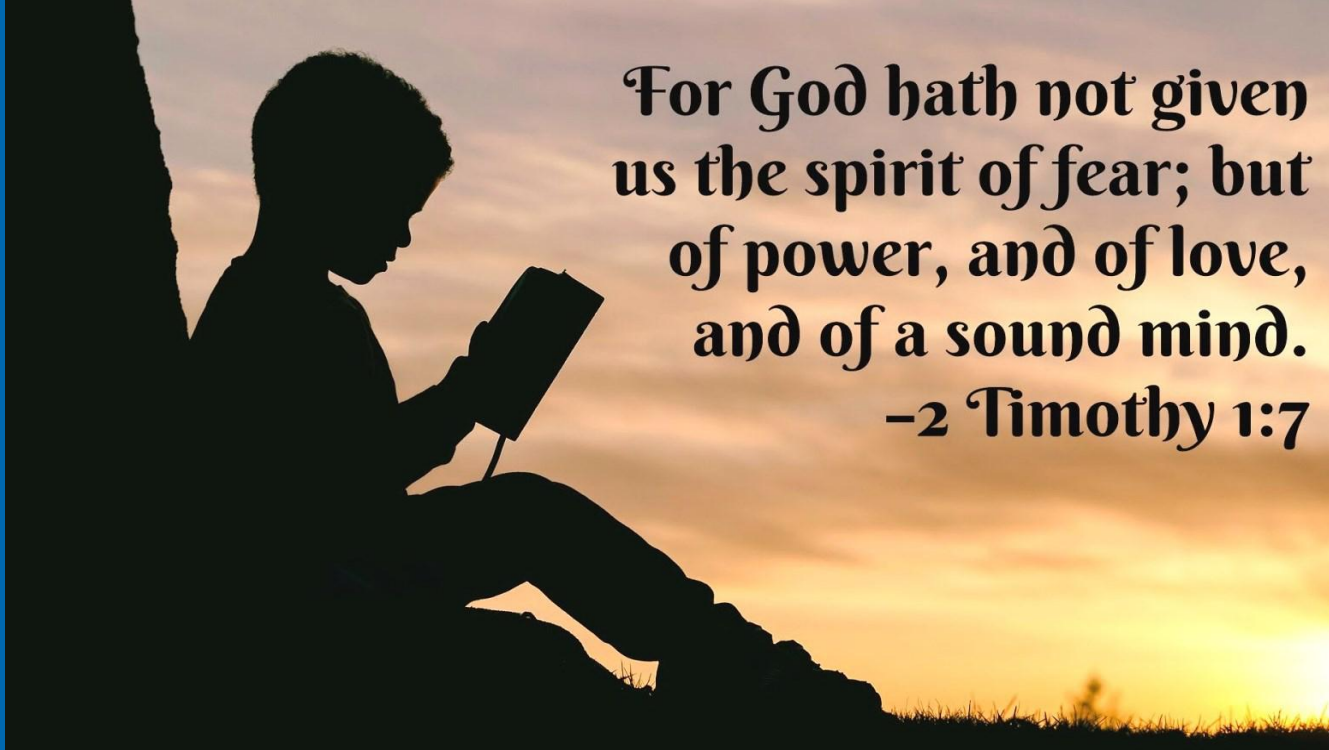


- The “we” petitions...Give US food, forgive US, lead US
- Vss. 11, 12, 13 tell us that we are part of a community
- Matt. 6:13 *“Lead us not into temptation....”*
- “Hard testing” more on the mark than “temptation”
- *Peirasmos* = a trial, testing
- Deut. 8:2 *“....testing you to know what was in your heart....”*



TESTING CAN BRING FAILURE

- *Berachah* 60 b
- James 1:13 “...God Himself tempts no one”
- *Peirazo* = whether a thing ought to be done = temptation
- God’s will has, at the least, allowed the Covid-19 virus to happen
- What should be the Believer’s response?



For God hath not given
us the spirit of fear; but
of power, and of love,
and of a sound mind.
-2 Timothy 1:7

- Fear is the gateway to panic; panic reveals a lack of trust and faithfulness in the Lord
- Psalm 56:4, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 46:1
- We should NOT seek a hard testing
- It is NOT inevitable that we stumble in testing
- How do Believers know what to do in times of testing?
We must know God's laws and commands

IT'S TIME FOR BELIEVERS TO SHINE !



- If we focus on God, we get relief and comfort
- If we help our neighbors, our fears subside
- Thomas Paine “*These are the times that try men’s souls.....*”
- There is no greater tyranny than fear and panic
- By drawing near to God and learning His Word we can know what to do when the time of testing arrives

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:13



- *Poneros* = hardship, annoyances
- “Evil One” is a Church term meaning Satan
- The plea is for God to deliver us from hard testing
- Vs. 13 is a doxology and is standard in Jewish prayer
- Vs. 14 a quid pro quo..... God will respond to us according to how we behave

FORGIVEN?



- Forgiveness of sins does NOT relieve us of earthly consequences for our behavior
- Forgiveness regards our eternal status
- The key principle is RECONCILIATION
- Reconciliation with God is what is achieved with Salvation

FASTING

- What matters to God is our inner humility, and not our outward display
- Yeshua is pronouncing an old commandment
- Isaiah 58:1 – 9
- We should fast in private
- *Taanit* 27b allows private fasting on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th days of the week
- Biblical fasting is all about personal repentance
- Fasting is NOT about trying to get more of what you want from God



TO WHOM DO WE PRAY?



- Jesus speaks of The Father twice in quick succession
- The Father sees and knows all
- The Father ordains, judges, and takes action
- The Father reigns supreme
- No getting around that Christ tells His listeners to pray to “Our Father”
- John 14:10 – 16
- Does that mean we have choices A and B to pray to?

WHAT CHRIST SAYS CAN BEFUDDLE US

- John 16:19 – 28
- Here Yeshua speaks of praying to the Father in His Name
- The issue is that we're dealing with the substance of God
- In one sense, Yeshua is God's agent
- In another sense, The Father and Son are so perfectly united in will that Christ acts on prayers without prior specific approval from The Father



IS IT OK TO PRAY TO JESUS?

- Is there a difference between “asking” and “praying to”?
- Christ seems to say there is a difference
- The issue is motive and intent
- If praying to Jesus is to avoid praying to The Father (due to false doctrines), it is wrong
- He and The Father are unified in some immutable way
- Yet Yeshua remains The Father’s agent





**You cannot
serve both
God and
money.**
Matthew 6:24

- After reading vss. 19 -24 it exposes the Prosperity Doctrine as all the more bizarre
- Matt. 6:19 and into chapter 7 deals with “social issues”
- Is it “wealth” or “treasures” ?
- *Thesaurus* = precious things that are collected
- How do we lay up treasure in Heaven?
- Matt. 23:23 Justice, mercy and trust are the treasure, but are only valuable in Heaven within properly motivated good deeds done on earth