**Perfect Love Casts Out Fear**

**1 John 4:18: “perfect love casts out fear”**

**Biblical Examples:**

* Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (**Daniel 3:8-30**)
* John the Baptist (**Mark 6:14-29**)
* James the apostle (**Acts 12:1-3**)
* Thomas (**John 11:4-16**)
* Paul (**Acts 21:10-15**)
* Blind Man (**John 9:13-41**)
* Obedient Wives (**1 Peter 3:1-6**)

Satan uses many things to tempt us to fear. Government loss of freedom, our fear of declining health or getting sick, the threat of our physical lives, and what bad things might happen when we stand for the Lord and confront those who are lost. These are all misplaced fears. If Satan can convince us to give in to our fears rather than be obedient to God, a soul has been lost eternally. These great examples are of those who perfected their love for God to the point that they were able to cast out the fears of this world from their lives. To be faithful to God we must fear Him who has the control of our souls in His hand (**Psalm 1:1-3, Matthew 10:28**).

Let us be like these great examples and properly place our fears. Let us fear, respect, and obey the Lord enough that we are willing to sacrifice for Him while we walk upon the earth He created for us! Let us trust Him when we are faced with the temptation to give into fear. Let us love Him who first loved us. Jesus cast out His fears and temptations to fear by trusting, loving, and obeying His Heavenly Father **(Mark 12:29-31, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Peter 2:18-25, 1 John 4:17-19**). Let us all do the same my dear brethren!

If you are not a Christian, you are faced with the fear of the Judgment Day. Why not cast out that fear and obey God today by repenting of your sins and being baptized to wash away those sins. Then, if you are faithful and obedient to the Lord, there is nothing in this life to fear that can take away your home in Heaven (**Romans 8:38-39, Hebrews 13:5-6**)!

If we can help you now, please come forward as we stand and sing!