



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Jubilee – Year of Deliverance and Freedom
Topic	Freedom from the fear of man
Speaker	Ps Darren Kuek
Date	18 th & 19 th April 2015

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Overcoming the fear of man, trusting in the Lord

At some point in time or another, we have allowed our lives to be controlled by our fear of what people can do to us or think of us. In this message, Pastor Darren expounds on Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted” - how to overcome the fear of man, and how trust in the Lord liberates.

The fear of man – what it is not, what it is? Why does it matter?

To begin with, Ps Darren established what the fear of man is not. This is important because in order to specifically address what Proverbs 29:25 describes as the fear of man, we must clarify common misunderstandings or misinterpretations.

- 1) The fear of man is **not** a fear of people.
- 2) The fear of man is **not** an “I do what I want” attitude – i.e. not seeing the need to consult others.

What then, is the fear of man?

The fear of man is when we allow others to control us in one of two ways, or perhaps even both.

- 1) The fear of man is when we fear what people can do to us.
- 2) The fear of man is when we fear what people think of us.

What is the severity associated with the fear of man?

The Bible is perfectly clear in terms of the only fear that we should have in our lives – the fear of the Lord. Deuteronomy 6:13 states, “You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.” Therefore fearing man is sin as it runs counter to what the Word instructs.

Fearing man vs Trusting God – the consequences

While the list below is not exhaustive, Ps Darren identified 4 negative consequences of living with the fear of man in our lives. Hence the need for us to comprehend the damage that happens when we live with such fear.

1) Living in fear of man costs the people around us.

In the story of Abram, because Abram was afraid of what Pharaoh and the Egyptians might do to him if they found out that Sarai was his wife, he lied to Pharaoh and spoke of Sarai as his sister and not his wife. When Sarai was taken to be with Pharaoh in his house, God struck Pharaoh and his



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house with great plagues (Genesis 12:17). Indeed, the impact of Abram's actions moved far beyond him, Sarai, and even Pharaoh. The innocent Egyptians of Pharaoh's household were afflicted by the great plague. When we choose wrong over right, do we know what we are really allowing to happen or what damage we could be perpetuating?

2) Living in the fear of man will keep you from Rest.

When Saul heard the women of Israel singing of how Saul had slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands (1 Samuel 18:7), he became very angry and looked upon David with suspicion and jealousy from that day on. Fear of losing out to David gave grounds for an evil spirit to come mightily upon Saul (1 Samuel 18:10) so much so that he raved in the midst of the house. We must be aware that being disturbed by gossip, fear through comparison with others, etc gives ground for spirits of restlessness to come upon us.

3) Living in the fear of man will rob you of your legacy.

In 1 Samuel 13, we read of how a massive Philistine host was amassed before Saul. Saul had commandments from the Lord, but in the face of the Philistine host and his own men wavering, he crumbled under the pressure and took matters into his own hands, burning the offerings of his own volition. Because he "did not keep the commandment of the Lord God, which He commanded you... now your kingdom shall not endure" (1 Samuel 13:14). In the face of great adversity and great opposition... will we stand firm? Saul's example here is a lesson in how our actions have the potential to affect eternity. What then will drive our decisions – fear or faith?

4) Living in the fear of man will keep you from the place of blessing.

In scouting the Promised Land, the 12 heads of the tribes of Israel were selected. Yet only 2 were found to have the necessary faith to claim the land as the Lord had promised it. Even after the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness... the fear of the man of the land overpowered their faith in the Lord. The Lord's anger at the lack of trust His people had resulted in the Israelites being kept out of the Promised Land (Numbers 14:28-29). We must be aware that we lock ourselves out of places of blessing when we choose to let the fear of man rule our lives instead of trust in the Lord.

Knowing all these consequences of living in the fear of man, what is the answer? Ps Darren points us back to Proverbs 29:25 – "But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted."

Ps Darren shared his personal testimony of how trust in the Lord during his tumultuous army years saw God working mightily and exalting Ps Darren even amidst very improbable situations. From enjoying favour with his superiors, to not being put through unfair and physically impossible training, to ultimately finding resolution surrounding his physical condition, Ps Darren recalls how he cried out to the Lord, crying out knowing and trusting the Lord to be more than man.

When it comes down to the very essence of the fear of man, we are faced with this choice. We know what the consequences of choosing to live in the fear of man are, and they are not harmful, painful, and sinful. In trusting the Lord, we may not see the consequences quite so clearly or concretely. That is why it's called trust; that is why we have faith. The assurance of Proverbs 29:25 is clear though – trusting in the Lord will see us exalted. What form or manner that takes is for the Lord to know and reveal to us. The choice to fear man or trust in the Lord is ours to make – pray we choose correctly, knowing all that has been discussed.



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Questions

1. What are the two ways that the fear of man has manifested in your life?

2. There were 4 consequences listed should we live with the fear of man in our lives. Is any one particular consequence showing up frequently in your life? Share on the situation.

3. Share on a particular issue that you are struggling to trust the Lord with. Is the fear of man an obstacle? What is the difficulty in trusting the Lord?
