

*"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the Second Death." Revelation 21:8 KJV*



Why would God punish the fearful? I think we can find an answer in The Parable of the Talents. (Matthew 25:14) Each servant was entrusted with a sum before their master went away. The wise servants used what they were given to get yet more, but one hid it in the ground. *"Then he which had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.'*" He wasn't afraid enough. He wrongly assumed the master's reaction. He chose to rely on his own judgment and even knowing that the master was a hard man, did nothing. *"His lord answered and said unto him, 'Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him...and cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. The heavens declare the Glory of God...day unto day.'*" Creation preaches of Omnipotence, so no man has an excuse not to use the gift of faith freely given. Many rely on their own judgment and bury their gift out of fear of man's rejection and do not fear the One who can cast their soul into outer darkness. God's Word clearly says, *"The fear of man layeth a snare."* If you fear men more than God, you are headed for the Lake of Fire! *"It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the Judgment."* The grave is the point of no return! There are no lost souls wandering around appearing to people. Demons, fallen angels, delight in manipulating foolish men into believing that there are ghosts etc. Those who see visions and hear voices are simply conversing with *"familiar spirits."* Think for a minute what stunts of clairvoyance you could pull off if you were immortal, invisible, and had the ability to give thoughts to men. The Word of God says that in the Latter Days there will be *"lying wonders."* If Satan can transform himself into an "angel of light," don't you think he could also trick foolish unbelieving men? Of course, he can! And he does! The interjected thoughts of evil are referred to as *"fiery darts"* in Ephesians which also indicates that the *"shield of faith"* will quench them all. Our faith is the victory *"that overcomes the world."* It takes courage to utilize faith. You MUST take God at His Word. Do we have an innate tendency to be fearful? I think so. Jesus admonished His disciples, *"Be not afraid"* many times. We believe media, which is manipulated by evil men, but reject God's Truth. I feel like asking with Joshua, *"Who is on the Lord's side?"* Saturate your mind with God's Word, strengthen your shield of faith, and be less likely to fall prey to *"fiery darts [and] fear of man."*

The timid heart needs know no fear,  
The Truth of God is ever near,  
If we would only choose to hear,  
Our faith would then make all things clear. -CGP

*"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. Great Peace have they which love Thy Law."* Fear God and know *"Peace that passeth all understanding."*

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." Psalms 111:10 KJV*