

THE FEAR FACTOR OPTION

2 Timothy 1:7

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017
IBC - Keeseville, NY

"There is a virtuous fear, which is the effect of faith; and there is a vicious fear, which is the product of doubt. The former leads to hope, as relying on God, in whom we believe; the latter inclines to despair, as not relying on God, in whom we do not believe. Persons of the one character fear to lose God; persons of the other character fear to find Him." – **Blaise Pascal** – The Bible has much to say about fear, but each biblical reference to fear must be examined. There is a fear that is God-given, God-sustained, and God-glorifying which is the "fear of the Lord" – a reverential fear of God. There is another fear that has its origin in sin - a product of the devil and hell that first appears in the Garden of Eden immediately following The Fall. Godly fear leads to liberty while sinful fear leads to bondage of the worst kind. Every member of Adam's fallen race is subject to this enslaving sinful fear – even God's children. Our text this morning, and I trust our Watch Word every day throughout 2018, gives us God's given option to crippling fear – an option that will empower, motivate, and compel us unashamedly and confidently to fulfill His purpose for our lives and fellowship in the midst of a world gripped by fear.

**"for God has not given us the spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a sound
mind."**

2 Timothy 1:7

1. TAKE THE _____ OPTION – Luke 4:4

2. TAKE THE _____ OPTION – Luke 4:8

3. TAKE THE _____ OPTION – Luke 4:12