Haunted…by Fear
2 Timothy 1:7-8
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how being haunted by fear can hinder the Christian.

Intro: 1. Ever been afraid to do something?
2. Ever been afraid of failure
3. In highschool, I never looked forward to our class on "public speaking".

I. Fear prevents the Christian from growth & service.
A. Fear of a role in a worship service
1. Too many fear a public role in worship (of course some just have no interest in it)
a. Moses made excuses out of fear, eventually his true feelings came out (**Ex 4:13)**
2. When serving in the public assembly, one should strive to replace fear, with honor.
a. Proper preparation & repeation will remove fear.
b. Some fear because they want to serve but want to do a good job.
c. Still, some fear of being almost required to serve (preference of a large congregation over a smaller one).
B. Fear of teaching publicly or privately
1. Some have fear of teaching, sometimes this is a confidence issue. Many knowledgeable people sit idle because of fear.
2. Some however, sit idle because of the ignorance of the scriptures.
a. Both of these can be changed.
1. Encourage those who are to be leaders (**Deut 3:27-28**)
2. Encourage all to grow in knowledge (**2 Peter 3:18)**

II. Fear can disqualify the Christian
A. from being a leader
1. If one cannot over come his fear to teach, he can not serve as an elder (**1 Tim 3:2b,Titus 1:10-14**)
2. How sad it would be for a godly man, to be disqualified because of fear.
B. from being called faithful.
1. The fear of ridicule from others is enough to cause some to become unfaithful.
a. Often times a quick "change of view" or a sudden "disinterest" is a result of the fear of ridicule from others. (**John 12:42-43**)
b. **This type of fear, is more than just "fear" its weakness of the person and sometimes could be looked at as a flaw in their character.** Who wants to be friends with someone who believes one thing until someone mocks them for it then they change their mind or beliefs. We should be strong enough to think for ourselves and stand our ground. (**Pro 25:26**)

III. Fear has a proper place
A. The fear of hell should drive the Christian (**2 Cor 5:10-11a**)
1. The fear of hell should drive us to talk to others.
2. The fear of hell should drive us to defend our beliefs.

3. The fear of hell should drive you to ignore those who would mock.
    a. **Pro 12:26**

Application & Conclusion:

1. Why allow fear to hinder you?
2. Fear God, not the world **(Mt 10:28**)
3. Don't fear serving God, fear NOT serving Him
3. Full Invitation

<u>God's plan for the alien sinner</u>
Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17
Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16
Repent –Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Luke 13:3
Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9
Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4
Live faithfully – Rev 2:10,

<u>Christians must:</u>
Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3
Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9