

“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.”
Proverbs 14:27

There is much fear associated with raising kids. Sometimes it prevents us from allowing them to grow, experience life, and just be a kid. It's important to know God's perspective on fear. It can make all the difference in being a brave mom or a paralyzed with fear mom.

I love to listen to my girls' laughter. Recently, they received an unusual doll from the Caribbean Islands that is dressed in a beautiful, flowing, tropical dress. If you pull the skirt up over the head of the doll, you find underneath is another woman dressed in a rich, dark-blue and purple gown. It's two dolls in one. The hilarity begins when I hold the doll right side up and say, “I am the most beautiful woman on the islands!” Of course, the doll underneath immediately raises the skirt and argues back, “No! I am the most beautiful. Look at my dress. I am beautiful, beautiful.” She, of course, has righted herself and hidden the other doll beneath her skirt. The argument and two-sided doll pageant has been performed countless times since her arrival in our home.

The doll is a reminder that sometimes an issue does have two sides. Fear is also a two sided species. One side is beneficial, life-giving, and even useful; the other side is dark, consuming, and leads to death.

Fear overcomes us when we take ourselves out of the God-ordained order of authority. We're given the good sense to know we've done wrong. Terror and dread may be associated with fear, however, God created fear in love to move us toward Him. The enemy has done a spectacular job deceiving us but he doesn't create anything that has not been before—only God does that.

Next time fear grips you, will you commit to seeking God's perspective in order to discover if it's God speaking to you or Satan attempting to deceive you?

Lord, I see places in my life where dangerous roots of fear have grabbed hold. I know, as it says in 1 John 4:18, that, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” Will you be revealing to me places in my life and in my mothering where my fear is leading me to sin? Forgive and heal in me that place where I shrink back and hide rather than waking in faith that You will protect me. Forgive me for the times I make hasty decisions without seeking You first. I choose to trust in you today. In Jesus' name, amen.