



GAYANE HAKOBYAN

# FEAR

*who is fear?*

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Gayne Hakobyan

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## PREFACE

When I decided to write about fear, I considered necessary to find out how today's medicine describes this phenomenon. Having spoken to a number of medical doctors and psychologists as well as read studies on the subject of fear, I concluded that medical science and psychology, though undoubtedly necessary, useful to the humanity, and respected by many of us, could not give a final definition of fear, explain its origin or conditions of development.

I started to study the Bible on this subject, convinced that I would find the answers to my questions. A famous minister once said that in the same way a road rules book directs drivers, there is another book that teaches people to live without getting into troubles or to come out of them if it already happened. That book is the Bible.

A research called “The Verbal Inspiration of the Scriptures, Scientifically Proven” by M. Pozoglian is one of the proofs that the One Who created the universe and the humanity is the same One Who wrote the Bible - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (You can read the Armenian version of this Book in my blog, [GayaneHakobyan.org](http://GayaneHakobyan.org), posted on November 18, 2015).

It is natural that God, the Creator of man, can clearly define fear and the conditions of its origin and development, because His sphere of interests includes any phenomenon that can make people either happy or anxious.

Studying the Bible, not only I expected to find the answers to the mentioned questions so many people have to deal with, but to discover the way of freedom from fear.

Thus, in this book, I will describe the phenomenon of fear, its origin, the reasons of its development and the ways of freedom from it, according to the Bible.

## PSYCHOLOGY, FEAR, PHOBIA

*The Gospel does not bring revolution,  
restoration or luxury.  
The Gospel brings freedom.*

*R. Bonnke*

**E**xplanatory dictionaries describe fear as a real or imaginary feeling that creates a sense of insecurity and rejection.

According to psychologists and psychiatrists, fear is a defense reaction to the real or imaginary danger. It creates a behavior that aims to neutralize the danger. Predisposition to fear depends on the sex, age, personal characteristics and social orientation of a person.

According to the origins, the following types of fear are known:

- fear that originates from the inside of a person;
- fear of the danger that comes from the outside;

- fear of conscience or moral fear, when fear comes because of revaluation or collapse of a person's aspirations and values.

Both psychologists and psychiatrists study the phenomenon of fear, depending on the level of its development. There are fears and phobias. Fear is a general term, and phobia is a fear of a certain situation or thing. A fear of being locked in is called claustrophobia. A fear of sharp objects is called aichmophobia. There is a fear of high places, called hypsophobia. The contemporary medicine lists more than 500 phobias.

Many world-famous people, who are remembered in history as powerful, brave and sovereign, were tormented by phobias and fears. Napoleon Bonaparte had a phobia of white horses, even though some artists portrayed him sitting on one. Peter I, the Emperor of Russia, had a phobia of open spaces. He preferred little rooms with low ceilings. Joseph Stalin had toxicophobia – fear of being poisoned. Besides, even though he had the rank of a Generalissimo, he had



never been on a battlefield and never had flown, again because of phobias.

People want to know to whom they can apply when tormented by fears and phobias. Can they go to witch doctors or clairvoyants? What about psychologists or psychiatrists? Even though certain people enthusiastically relate how a witch doctor helped their children, be sure that no witch doctor or clairvoyant can release a person from the grip of fear. I do not deny that such instances take place. However, it is not the result of a witch doctor's thoughtless actions, but of the fervent faith of the person that was freed from fear. There is an Armenian folk saying, "With faith, one can even go to a lifeless stone, and it will flourish".

According to the Bible, faith can divide seas.

"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry

ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left” (Exodus 14:21-22).

“And as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan” (Jos. 3:15-17).

True faith can destroy city walls.

“So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat...” (Jos. 6:20).

Faith is a powerful weapon.

Some might ask, “What about the psychiatrists? Can we apply to them?” My answer to this question is definitely yes! God does not reject medical science. It is God Who gave knowledge to people to create such a powerful means to save people’s lives and release them from sufferings. However, the medical science with its vast achievements is currently powerless in case of some diseases, while God is powerful to heal any disease.

In the Bible, there are instances of people applying to doctors and using herbal medicine. For example, prophet Isaiah, by the leading of the Spirit of God, shows king Hezekiah a cure: “Then Isaiah said, ‘Take a lump of figs.’ So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered” (2 Kgs. 20:7).

Another example is king Asa. Why did King Asa die and why the physicians were unable to save his life? In the early period of his reign, king Asa was zealous to do the will of God in full: “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God, for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the

high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images. He commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment. He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.” (2 Ch. 14:2-5).

As long as Asa walked in the Lord’s ways and had the fear of the Lord, he overcame all the enemies of Israel. “And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the Lord and His army. And they carried away very much spoil. Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the Lord came upon them; and they plundered all the cities...” (2 Ch. 14:13-14).

However, later Asa decided to rely on his own experience and understanding. In the late period of his reign, Asa’s heart was so far from God that even in the time of his illness, he never sought Him, but completely relied on the physicians. “And in the

thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians. So Asa... died in the forty-first year of his reign.” (2 Ch. 16:12-13). No matter how advanced medical science is, God is still mightier of all.

A person can become so dull because of fear that they will not even understand the Word of God. It is possible, with prayers and a good psychiatrist, to bring them back to a conscious state of mind, in which they will understand the Word of God and will open their mind for what the Bible says concerning a specific situation in their life. A sensible psychiatrist offers a thorough treatment, which cannot be neglected.

People also ask, “Can we go to psychologists?” Psychology is a science that studies people – their soul, consciousness, behavior and activities. I appreciate and make use of the achievements of psychology to the extent they do not contradict the Bible. There are psychologists that claim, “If someone has offended you and caused deep pain, and for some

reasons, you cannot retaliate, you can take an item, attack it with a bat and beat it until your anger is quieted.” The anger might cease then, but not the offence and the pain. Sometimes people say, “Time will heal”. Time makes the wound even deeper. Hatred does not kill the offender, but the offended. Offence and pain need proper treatment, and that treatment is the Word of God. Psychology has wise recommendations that were written in the Word of God much earlier, before psychology as a science was not even established.

## WHAT OR WHO IS FEAR?

**A**s I already noted in the Preface, when writing on the subject of fear and freedom from it, I used the Bible as the most trusted source, because God, Who created human beings, is the only One Who can give sufficient explanation of this destructive phenomenon.

People always ask a wrong question. They ask, “What is fear?” instead of “Who is fear?” The question is wrong as they cannot see that fear is a spirit. It can hear, see, speak, laugh, disregard, instigate, etc. Fear is a spirit; the Bible speaks about it, and our daily life proves it. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7).

Fear is a spirit – a personality that does not have a body. It can always follow a person, while

remaining invisible. Fear speaks to a person without making a sound; it gives thoughts that paralyze, drag down, isolate and cut from any progress. It does all this invisibly, but the effects of its actions are quite tangible. Each person can search their life to see to what extent fear managed to harm them.



## ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEAR

**F**ear originates anywhere where there is no faith or trust in God. It is growing and developing anywhere where there is no continual relationship with God. It is written in the Word of God:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Ps. 23).

According to this Scripture, if a person chooses God, the Creator of the universe, as the Shepherd of their life (the One Who feeds them, provides with everything, keeps from danger and even saves from death, prepares a table in the presence of their enemies and doesn't let them fall in the hands of their enemies), they will need nothing and will always enjoy a peaceful and calm life.

The world where the humanity lives is ruled by the devil. Jesus said: "...the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (Jn. 14:30). The devil became the ruler of this world because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve who ate the fruit that God forbade to eat. However, the Lord made a treaty of reconciliation with the humanity by sending His only begotten Son to the Earth.

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Is. 53:4-5).

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

These Scriptures state that our Heavenly Father bought the humanity back from the ruler of this world, the devil, through the Cross of Calvary and the blood of Jesus Christ. However, only those who accept the Son of God as the only Savior and Shepherd of their lives are free from the rule of the devil. This does not mean that the devil will no longer pursue such a person by raising enemies against them, sending deadly diseases, poverty and need. The devil spares no effort to destroy the person created in God’s image and according to His likeness. However, the devil can do nothing if such a person understands that the one who endangers their life, brings anxiety, pain and suffering to them is already defeated by the Cross of Calvary and the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

The devil cannot oppose godly Christians as the ruler of this world. Instead, each godly Christian deals with the defeated and disgraced enemy.

“...having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:14-15).

Each Christian must remember that it is not enough to receive Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Savior; they need to be in constant fellowship with the Lord. As fish is created to swim in the sea and eagle to hover in the sky, so man is created to live in fellowship with God. Without relationship with God, their life is void and empty. No wealth, endowment or fame can replace it.

There were many world famous people, - actors, scientists or psychologists, - who tried to make people happy; however, their attempts were only temporal. The most terrible thing is, that on the height of their wealth, fame and realized aspirations, they ended their own lives by committing suicide. Remember Elvis Priestley, Marylyn Monroe... An author of a book on saving marriages and harmony in family from the USA shot her wife and posted the photo of

the corpse on Facebook. Dale Carnegie, the author of the bestseller “How to Win Friends and Influence People” died in complete solitude. The children of Benjamin Spoke, the author of “Baby & Child Care”, were going to send him to an elderly home. Maria Montessori, a famous pedagogue, gave her son to a foster family thinking that her calling in life was to devote herself to other people’s children.

Each person, born to this world, in a short time learns to speak and walk. After being born again, each Christian must learn to fellowship with the Lord. God created man with physical senses, - sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch, - to perceive and enjoy the physical world. However, the Lord also gave spiritual senses so that man can fellowship with Him, live the life granted to him in a right way and avoid the snares of the devil. (As an additional material you can read my book called “Who Can Hear God’s Voice?”, posted on February 15, 2016, in my blog on [GayaneHakobyan.org](http://GayaneHakobyan.org) website, and “How to Be Led By the Holy Spirit” by Kenneth Hagin.)

The person who is in constant fellowship with the Lord and is led by the Holy Spirit can confidently

repeat the words of the Psalmist: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord” (Ps. 27:1-6).

Each true Christian who lives in God’s house that is participates in the activities of the Church, serves the Lord in different ways, fellowships with the Most High, worships and bows down before Him, will

always live in His presence. The Word of God says: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7).

The devil is the one who sends the spirit of fear against each individual. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). This verse proves that fear is not born with man. The Lord gave each person a spirit of power, love and a sound mind. The devil simply deceives people ensnaring them with fear and stealing their joy, peace, creativity and individuality. The devil is a thief, and the Word of God says, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (Jn. 10:10).

Fear is one of the main weapons of the devil. Even the Bible characters, who had witnessed numerous miracles, were sometimes unable to resist the voice of fear and fell in its trap. As I already mentioned, fear is a spirit, a personality without a body. It speaks with a person commanding, forcing and manipulating them. When people listen to fear, they lose their sound mind.

First Kings 18 describes Elijah crying out to God and bringing down fire from heaven that burned up the sacrifice wet with water. By this, he demonstrated that the God of Israel, magnificent and all-powerful, is the Creator of the universe and the only living God. However, we can read in chapter 19 an account of Elijah fleeing for his life from Jezebel, who tried to kill him. Elijah saw the magnificence and power of God, but for a moment, he gave in to fear and fled from those who were after his life.

“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, ‘It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life...’ Then... he lay and slept...” (1 Kings 19:4-5).

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Elijah, gave him food, and strengthened him. Elijah continued his journey forty more days and hid himself in a cave.

“...and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ So he said, ‘...I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.’ Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand



on the mountain...’ And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ And he said, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.’ Then the Lord said to him: ‘Go, return on your way...’” (1 Kings 19:9-15).

The Lord gave some assignments to Elijah, and then added, “‘Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.’ So he departed from there...” (1 Kings 19:18-19).

Elijah became so absorbed with the fabrications of fear, he started to think that he was the only one who truly worshipped God, and the rest had been either killed or turned to worshippers of Baal. So God had to show Elijah that He is not in the wind, earthquake or fire, but in stillness and peace, and that He reserved for Himself seven thousand true worshippers.

When did Elijah learn the truth? It happened when he came out of the cave. A person must come out of the cave built by fear; each person must remember for good that whatever is shouting, demolishing and destroying is not of God. Fear shouts, demolishes and destroys forcing to hide in a cave. The Lord abides in stillness and peace. One can come out of the shackles and caves built by fear, when they follow God's peace.

In Joshua 7:6-9, it is written: "Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, 'Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this

people over the Jordan at all – to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”

Joshua saw God’s power and might many times. He was with Moses in the desert. Joshua saw that the clothes and shoes of the people had not been wearing out. He saw the manna coming down from heaven, and the snakes and scorpions of the desert that could not harm them. He saw the water gushing out of the rock in the desert. He was there at the parting of the Red Sea and the Jordan River. He witnessed the people safely crossing heavy waters. He was there when the walls of Jericho fell... He witnessed so many miracles, but suddenly, when he saw the enemy destroying Israel, instead of humbling himself and asking the Lord the reason of their defeat, he submitted to the spirit of fear and for a moment

forgot all the miracles of God. He even lamented for the Lord, that in case of Israel's defeat, He would not be able to show His greatness.

The All-powerful God always comes and shows the way of victory. He also revealed to Joshua the reason of their defeat and gave them a strategy that allowed them to experience the joy of the complete victory.

In the Bible, we see many examples of destructive works of fear. Is there anyone in whose life fear finds no place? Yes, the person who completely trusts in the Lord, God Jehovah. David was such a person. He was sure that each word that had come from God's mouth would be fulfilled. That is why in every situation he did not give in to the noise and deadly works of fear, but cried out to the Lord of lords and firmly clung to Him.

Let us remember how David went against Goliath. With both his appearance and defiance, Goliath was dreadful.

“And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose

height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders... Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, 'Why have you come out to line up for battle? ...Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.' ...When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid... And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening" (1 Samuel 17:4-16).

"So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went... Then as he talked with them (his brothers), there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David

heard them. And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid... Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, 'What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?'” (1 Samuel 17:20-26).

David's brothers reproached him and even accused of speaking from an evil and proud heart. David paid no attention to their offence; he knew God and was a man of purpose.

“But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God’... And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the Lord be with you!’” (1 Samuel 17:32-37).

“Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.’ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled” (1 Samuel 17:45-52).

All his life David remembered that his Master was the Powerful, Almighty and Faithful Jehovah God, the Creator of the universe. That is why when the battle for the throne emerged and Saul was pursuing him, he always trusted the Lord and let Him see his justice. He did not retaliate or try to establish his reign, make himself a king or prove his anointing. The reason of his brave conduct in all situations was that he did not rely on his own strength, experience or intelligence. Rather, he relied on the fact that the All-powerful God of Israel is always faithful and victorious. Even in the darkest moments of his life, David never forgot the victories God had given him. In his victories, he saw the proof of God’s faithfulness, power, almightiness, justice and love. Those victories reminded him that in any situation of his life, he only had to rely on God.



## HOW ONE CAN BE FREE FROM FEAR?

“**F**or God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). Let us examine each of these qualities, one by one.

**The Lord has given us a spirit of love.** Love can speak, restrain, lead... Here is what the Bible says: “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:4-7). When a person is led by love, they build up others and bring development, healing, peace and happiness.

And what does fear do? Fear steals joy, destroys what is built, whether a family, a business, a calling

or a ministry... Who does all this? Of course the devil, who is the thief: “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (Jn. 10:10). Fear is one of the main weapons of the devil.

God is love, and because man is created in God’s image and according to His likeness (Gen. 1:26), He has put love in man, too. Man simply needs ability and desire to manifest it. Each person, who loves those who hate, envy, curse, slander and show enmity toward them, will overcome. “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good... For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Mt. 5:44-48).

Centuries of human history proved that the one who loves ultimately overcomes, and their opponent

is punished. Unfortunately, people are hard to understand this truth. There are times when people submit to their fleshy desires and are filled with vengeance toward others who are hostile toward them. As a result, they poison their own lives and can even get different diseases and die. Others who see this wonder: “Why have they died? They fought against evil, did not they? Is it fair? Those who envied them prosper and enjoy life, but what about them?” These people do not understand that a person who does not keep the commandment of God, – does not bridle their tongue, criticizes, and lives in anger and hatred, – ultimately paves a way to their death. “But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ... For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (James 3:8-10, 16).

Sometimes people are not just angry and hateful toward those who slander and are hostile toward

them; they show fawning, flattering and servile attitude to such people because of giving in to and being led by the spirit of fear. The Lord searches a person's heart and knows all the motives. That is why He says: "Do not fear!" By the blood of Christ, all people are purchased from such slavery; now they are to trust God in everything in order to avoid all the snares of fear. If God's word commands us to love, then it is the only true way.

Sometimes people think that to love means to stay with the offender and try to show love to them all the time. However, the result can be just the opposite. Staying with a hating person all the time can provoke one and fill them with such anger that they can even commit murder. It is not necessary at all for a person to constantly show love toward those who hate or envy them. In such cases, it is better not to relate to that person at all or possibly minimize contact with them to avoid unnecessary problems.

The 'victim' can show their love only when their offender is in need or in danger. Let us remember the story of David who was a man after God's own

heart. By God's will, David was anointed as the king of Israel by Prophet Samuel: "...And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him... and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward..." (1 Samuel 16:12-13).

Realizing that the Lord had torn the kingdom garment from him because of his own disobedience and had chosen David to be the king of Israel, Saul pursued David to kill him. He was obsessed with fear, hatred and envy.

David had many opportunities to kill Saul, but in all cases he remembered that he had no right to lift his hand on the anointed of God: "So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!' But David said to Abishai,

‘Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord’s anointed, and be guiltless?’ David said furthermore, ‘As the Lord lives, the Lord shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord’s anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go.’ So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul’s head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them” (1 Samuel 26:7-12).

Not only David remembered that he should have not lifted his hand on the Lord’s anointed, but also continued to love Saul and show kindness to him at each opportune time: “David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, ‘My lord the king!’ And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. And David said to Saul: ‘Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Indeed David seeks your harm’? Look, this day your eyes have

seen that the Lord delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea? Therefore let the Lord be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand.'" (1 Samuel 24:9-16).

David even killed the man who testified with his own mouth how he had killed Saul and brought Saul's crown and his arm's bracelet to him: "Then

the young man who told him said, ‘...So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord.’ Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. Then David said to the young man who told him, ‘Where are you from?’ And he answered, ‘I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite.’ So David said to him, ‘How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord’s anointed?’ Then David called one of the young men and said, ‘Go near, and execute him!’ And he struck him so that he died. So David said to him, ‘Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, ‘I have killed the Lord’s anointed.’” (2 Samuel 1:6-16). David mourned the death of Saul and his sons.



David's genuine love for and trust in God prepared a way for him to become not only the king of Israel, but also the forefather of the King of kings. "He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus" (Acts 13:22-23).

God's love was so great toward man that He gave His only begotten Son: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (Jn. 3:16). Jesus Christ loved people so much that He overcame the fear of drinking the cup of the sin of the whole world. "Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death...' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will'" (Mt. 26:38-39).

He overcame the fear of being mocked and tortured by Roman soldiers. "And they stripped

Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified." (Mt. 27:28-31).

He overcame fear and was crucified to redeem people from the slavery of the devil. "He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Is. 53:3-5). "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He

became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

In any situation, each person has to choose between fear and love. If love is strong, it can overcome any fear. This can be applied to passing college exams, climbing heights, and reaching other people with the good news of the Christ crucified. There are instances when a person’s fear toward a thing or another person is greater than their love. Then they need to honestly consider what they lose when they surrender to the spirit of fear. While considering the situation, in the first place, each person must take into account that the Bible says: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). The Bible also commands, “Fear not!” (Is. 43:1).

With the Bible commandments as their priority, they need to continue their thought line: is it worth to violate the commandment of God, to spend the

eternity in hell, in fire and sulfur, and to be deprived of numerous opportunities of wonderful life and enjoyment, all because of giving in to the spirit of fear?

If a person is still unable to overcome the clutches of fear even after discussing it with their inner man, friends and others, (while they understand how much they are going to lose if they give in to the spirit of fear), they still must not give up. The Word of God says: “There is no fear in love” (1 Jn. 4:18), which means that each person must develop love inside them and allow it to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. “...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:17-20). “Love suffers long and is kind;

love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up..." (1 Cor. 13; I recommend you to read the whole chapter and to confess it with faith).

Love overcomes fear in all situations. One preacher told about a man who had a terrible phobia of bridges. He could not stand on any structure that had water flowing underneath, and even worse, he could not even cross a bridge by car. Once he saw his own son barely clinging to the rails of a bridge, almost falling into the water. Father's love toward the son in danger was so strong that he ignored his fear, rushed to the bridge and saved his son.

They say the brave are not those who are not afraid but those who are able to act regardless of their fears.

**The Lord has given us a spirit of power.** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of power. What does the Spirit of power do? He performs miracles, heals people, even those who have no hope, raises the dead...

And what does fear do? Fear paralyses and makes bedfast. It steals hope, captivates a sound

mind and would not allow a person to think of the best for their lives. Ultimately, the aim of fear is to get a person to the grave.

The Spirit of Power and the spirit of fear are opposite to one another. The same Spirit Who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in each born again Christian. This Spirit of power is greater than the devil, the ruler of this world. “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 Jn. 4:4). No matter how fiercely the devil opposes people with trials, how intensely he uses the spirit of fear to keep them away from the good, acceptable and perfect will of the Lord (Rom. 12:2), still, each person can overcome the spirit of fear by the Spirit of Power that he received from God. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7).

I will use an example from my own life to testify about my victory over the spirit of fear by using the authority of the name of Jesus and releasing the almighty Spirit Who lives in me.

I was in Brussels in January 2015. In everything I do, I always inquire the Lord. Even when I plan my vacation, I always ask the Lord where to go and for what period. This time again, I received God's leading to have my vacation in Belgium and to return on January 17, so I purchased the return ticket in advance.

On January 12, the Moscow airport, in which I had to make a transfer on my way to Yerevan, was in complete disorder. Because of heavy snowfall and snowstorm, most of the flights were cancelled. Russian TV channels and the Euronews continually asked the passengers who were going to fly by any Russian airline to return the tickets or to postpone the flights in order to avoid unmanageable situations. They kept warning that the abundant snowfall and snowstorms would not stop in the coming week. They always showed the panic of lots of passengers in the Moscow airports, the snowstorm outside and the damage it kept causing.

When my friends learned that my return ticket was from a Russian airline, and that it was for

January 17, they suggested me to return it promptly and to wait a little or rather to get a new ticket from the “Austrian Airlines”.

I went to my room and started to think it over. I remembered that my stay in Belgium and purchase of the return tickets were according to God’s will; consequently, the snowstorm and panic in the Moscow airports were not in God’s will. With my visa and the money I had, I could stay in Belgium for ten more days, but before flying to Belgium, the Lord told me to return on January 17. So I commanded the ruler of this world, the devil, to stop all the panic and storms. I told him: “Satan, even though you are the ruler of this world, I command you in the name of my Lord, Jesus Christ, to stop the snowstorms in Moscow and the panic in the airports even today!”

I remembered the story in the Gospel of Mark, chapter four, very well; the disciples in the boat were in panic because of an unexpected storm. Seeing that they were already drowning, they woke Jesus, Who was peacefully sleeping in the stern of the boat. The Lord was surprised to see the disciples in such condition, and He ordered the storm to calm down.



“On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, ‘Let us cross over to the other side.’ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?’ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’” (Mk. 4:35-41).

I was convinced that the devil had to obey the words that came out of my mouth, the command I gave him in the power of the name of Jesus Christ. Then I prayed for the staff members of the Moscow airports to regain control over the flights.

The next day I completely forgot about the snowstorm. While having a Skype talk with my

sister who lives in Moscow, I noticed that she was dressed lightly and asked about the weather. She enthusiastically told me that in one night, the destructive storm and the snowfall that seemed to have no end were over, and enormous masses of snow were melting on the streets. Right then I remembered my fervent prayer in the name of Jesus Christ a day before. I told my sister about it; she replied that according to the news, the cease of the uncontrollable snowstorm and snowfall was much unexpected, but they were expecting another snowstorm and heavy snowfall any minute then. I reassured her saying that it was impossible as our Lord is faithful and is always victorious in everything He starts.

On January 17, I returned to Yerevan, safe and sound. It was already daybreak, when I came home. I put my suitcases in the corridor and prayed: "Lord, I was sure that You overcame the devil and gave the victory You gained by the power of Your cross to me; I am so grateful for it!" As for the expected snowstorm, let God decide it; I do not know, there

might be another person who cried out to Him for the snowstorm to stop completely.

The Spirit of God that is the Holy Spirit dwells inside each born again person with His full power: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7), “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 Jn. 4:4). Only each born again person is to honor and appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit, which is in them, and allow Him to be completely involved in all the areas of their life.

The Holy Spirit is active with His full power in the lives of those who always fellowship with Him. When a person regularly attends a gym and is trained by a right coach, they get in shape, their body grows in strength, and their muscles become firm and tight. In the same way, prayer in the Holy Spirit and faith build the inner man of the born again believer: “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20), “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church” (1 Cor. 14:4). When

the devil schemes against a person, their calling and life in general, their inner man built up by the power of the Holy Spirit counteracts at once, bypassing all fear and all the snares of the devil. Prayer in the Holy Spirit, the fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit fill a believer's life with miracles, and in their inner man, they become bold, trusting God and spreading God's glory.

**The Lord has given us a spirit of a sound mind.**

What does it mean to have a sound mind? First of all, to have a healthy mentality. Only a sound mind can control one's circumstances and act wisely. Some say: "A person must have fear to some extent to be cautious. A person who fears nothing can fall into different situations and even die prematurely". It is the same as saying: "A little poison will not harm a person". Fear is equal to poison. Poison kills the physical body, and fear destroys a person's advancement, paralyzes their mind, deprives of the ability to dream and to fulfill their dreams. To put it simple, fear kills slowly. A man is protected from danger not by fear, but by a sober and sound mind.

In addition, fear is a kind of a faith. For example, a person might try to start a new life, to initiate things, but fear always reminds of the past defeats: “Don’t even dare to try! Don’t you remember what happened when you tried last?” Fear can even scare away using examples of other people.

Each person must pay attention to the words and expressions coming out of their mouth, and to their thoughts as well. Are they constructive and progressive or they reflect a grey, monotonous lifestyle? We must be very cautious about what or whom we listen to, which programs and movies we watch and what kind of people we have fellowship with.

Negligence in this regard robs people of their sense of confidence. Diffident people are naturally afraid of others’ opinions, of people who have authority over them and of social life in general. A feeling of inferiority in a person can have different reasons; for example, one’s appearance, life conditions, place of residence, education, the social standing of their parents, etc. All these factors create limitations and complexes in the lives of people.

However, it is wrong to run from the reality. It is very important that each person is always honest with themselves and boldly confesses the reason of their diffidence. For example, someone can be diffident because they are born in a family of villagers. “I live in a rented apartment in the capital city, and all my friends, who are born here, have luxuriously furnished apartments”, they might think.

Everything in life is relative. A person born in the capital city of a developing country, who lives in a luxuriously furnished apartment, can have similar feelings if they, for example, study in London or Geneva, and make friends with students from the developed countries of Europe or the United States of America. If they lack self-confidence, they will have complexes as well.

For another person, the reason of diffidence can be the fact that their mother is a factory worker and father is an alcoholic. At work, in school or in another environment, they think that everyone knows it and because of their complexes, they either make up a beautiful story about educated parents

of high social standing or isolate themselves from others.

The issue is not in being rich or poor, beautiful or ugly, an urbanite or a villager, a citizen of a developing or of a developed country; the issue is the lack of self-confidence. The spirit of a sound mind teaches that for self-confidence, a person must not be focused on the things they do not have, but just the opposite – to appreciate the good things they have and to be grateful to God for them. And what if there are things lacking in their life? It is not a tragedy; a person must be sober and have a right value system. It is possible to correct the flaws and to obtain what is lacking when one works to develop themselves and to build up their character.

If a person gives no room to the spirit of a sound mind, they can always perfect themselves thinking that it is not the time to start something new yet. The hidden, concealed fear always keeps them from entering into something new. And the inevitable happens; someone far less educated, who is simply bold and self-confident, comes up and starts

the work for which another person is constantly preparing. Such a person does not understand that the concealed fear made them a 'philosopher' or a 'know-it-all', whereas if they were led by the spirit of a sound mind, they would have taken new steps long ago. In this case, both the person and the society would benefit; the society would get a smart, educated and sound person. Instead, the less educated person, who is very confident, creates a mediocrity and convinces people that it is a masterpiece or something unique. So the part of the society that believes in this 'masterpiece' becomes affected by it. Seeing the success of their less educated opponent, the first person either gets offended and leaves the scene forever, or finally comes to their senses and with a spirit of sound mind, enters into their calling.

I wish people could realize what achievements and pleasures they miss because of fear...

The faith inspired by the devil that is fear and the real faith that is trust in God are incompatible with one another. Each person must decide with



whom they want to live. Will it be fear that fills the expectations for tomorrow with terror, keeps people from initiating things and making positive changes, and forces them to hide in a corner and live a monotonous, boring life? On the other hand, will it be fearlessness and courage that always challenge a person, teaching to rely on God every moment and motivate to walk on the water just because of the word “Come!” that Jesus said?

The Holy Spirit has the power to set people free. One must simply make a decision, “I am not afraid of anything because my Lord, the Creator of the universe, Who holds the eternity in His hands, tells me: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Is. 43:1-3).

A person created in God’s image and according to His likeness, who received Jesus Christ as the Lord

and Savior of their life, is to trust God. This person must take some time in God's presence before each step that will advance their life, in order to speak to God and to receive a word from the Holy Spirit. Only then, they can go and boldly carry out their idea. If a person has received no word from the Lord, they need to stop and seek the face of the Lord to know what God wants them to do. In this case, the person does not stop because of fear but the desire to know the will of God. If the Lord has already given a word for a specific step, one shall confidently start and believe that they will see God's faithfulness in difficult times.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO A PERSON WHO IS UNABLE TO OVERCOME FEAR?

Sometimes people think: “Is it so necessary to be an overcomer in this area? There are so many imperfections and flaws in my life and around me! So let fear be one of them”. Everyone must choose themselves. No one has right to force their opinion on another person. However, there is a problem here: fear is a kind of faith that can grow so powerful that will eventually manifest itself in the material world.

In Matthew 8:13, Jesus said: “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” When Jesus did miracles in the lives of people, He usually said, “Your faith has saved you” or “According to your faith be it to you”. Job lamented, “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded

has happened to me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes” (Job 3:25-26). People must not be afraid of any dreadful thing, but always rely on the Word of God: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6). They need to pray and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, they will enter God’s peace gradually, one step at a time, and finally have the victory.

The most important condition is the desire, strong desire. Of course, a person’s desire might not be strong enough to motivate them to become free of fear. However, the Bible has a way: “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). It is the Lord Who gives the desire; one simply needs to cry out to God, to receive such a strong desire from Him. Everything is in the Lord’s hands. A person must simply take a step toward the Lord. When someone takes a step, the Lord meets them halfway: “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:8-10).

## HOW TO BE FREE FROM DIFFERENT FEARS?

I already mentioned that with each kind of fear, a person must do the following, according to God's Word:

- Remember that when God created man, He did not give them fear. Fear is a spirit that will accompany a person until God becomes the foundation of their life.
- Never forget that God gave people the spirit of love, power and a sound mind. Each person just needs to make a right decision in their situations, whether to act in love, power or a sound mind.
- Remember that God is love and He is almighty. If He is by your side in a certain

situation, who can be against you? “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

No one must focus on their self or be afraid of appearing in a ridiculous situation. “Swimming is best to learn in water”, they say. While constantly striving for perfection, people lose the opportunity to progress step by step. For example, they study a language but they would not use what they already know fearing that their vocabulary is not sound enough and the pronunciation is not clear enough. They simply need to keep in mind that many people are not fluent in the foreign languages they know, but still they use what they know as they have no complexes.

There is another type of fear: one might be afraid of another person, - a teacher, someone in authority or a prominent person. In such case, it is better to find out the reason of that fear.

Fear of teachers might be caused by inability to demonstrate one’s knowledge. There are students of high schools and colleges, who prepare their lessons

quite well at home, but the presence of a prominent person or a teacher creates a hindrance in their mind and they forget everything in a moment. In this case, it is better not to strain oneself and to relax, as physical tension affects the brain as well. The more the brain and the senses are agitated, the more the inner tension is evident. A person is confused and worried when they pay attention to the negative thoughts in their mind that shout, “You can’t to this!” or “You will fail!”

Such a person needs to relax and pay no attention to the negative thoughts ‘shouting’ inside. They need to remember how excellently they master their topics, and to consider their knowledge, not those who are there in the classroom or auditorium. In their mind, they must focus on the thought that they know the lesson very well and they have a great opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge.

Fear of someone in authority or a prominent person can stem from the desire to show the person ‘excessive’ respect or to consider them a superhuman. This can be caused by managers who are so much

focused on themselves that they want to be feared by their personnel.

Fear can be caused by ignorance of the truth. There is a well-known Armenian fable about a foolish cuckoo and a cunning fox:

*“Once upon a time,  
There was a hill,  
On the hill a tree,  
In the tree a hollow,  
In the hollow a nest,  
In the nest three nestlings,  
And Mother Cuckoo...”*

*(“The End of the Evil”,  
Hovhannes Tumanyan).*

So one day, the Fox comes and starts bullying the Cuckoo. He says that the tree belongs to him, indignant at how the Cuckoo dared to build a nest in it. The Fox demands the Cuckoo’s nestlings one after another or threatens to bring his ax and cut the tree off. The Cuckoo believes it and throws her nestlings one after another to feed the greedy fox. The fabulist calls the Cuckoo foolish.



A person, who without inquiring the facts gives in to threats of others and in panic, fulfills their orders however inhuman they might be, is in the same foolish situation. I do not deny that in some instances, the one who threatens does have strength and power, but we must never forget that our Righteous King, Who created the universe and loves the humanity, is the most powerful One.

Goliath threatened like that. Saul was a ruler like that. However, what ultimately happened to them? When a person lives according to God's heart, the Lord is the tower of their salvation and He executes justice on the arrogant that come against them. In each situation, it is necessary to pray and ask the Lord to give a way out. The Lord has an extraordinary solution for each situation, so one does not need to lose their peace and give in to fear.

Fear of authorities or other prominent people can also stem from lack of love, as "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 Jn. 4.18). It is impossible to be afraid of someone whom you love dearly. However, sometimes even a dear person

can let down or mistreat the loving one knowingly or unknowingly, and the latter is confused. For the loving one, this is the right moment to test themselves, whether they still love or their heart and mind are filled with offense, anger and hatred.

Fear can also stem from lack of professional knowledge or inferiority complex. In any case, it is important to analyze the origin of fear. Each person, after having honestly checked with their inner man and having learnt the reason of their fears, can take appropriate steps to become free from them.

As I already said, there are many fears; actually, there are more than five hundred different phobias. The devil constantly torments people by arousing fears of the opinions of others, present and future, political reforms and economic crises, natural disasters and wars, incurable diseases and death, losing the loved ones, etc...

In order to be free from any kind of fear, one must look to Jesus Christ and His Word. When Peter saw Jesus walking on water, he wanted to follow Him. Having heard Jesus' call, he boldly came out

of the boat and walked on water. He succeeded, because he looked to Jesus. The sea was still raging, and for a moment, Peter took his eyes off from Jesus and looked at the storm. “And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’” (Mt. 14:29-31).

If Peter had not given his hand to Jesus, he would have been drowned. The same happens to everyone. As long as a person’s eyes are on the Word of God, they boldly walk in every difficult situation and overcome; however, when they open their ears and eyes and start listening to the things all listen to and seeing the things all see, their minds are shaken by the stormy waves of fear ready to consume them.

Paul was in prison. He already knew his verdict – execution. Each moment they could open the door of his prison cell and take him to be executed. Timothy

was in freedom, attacked by persecutions and tribulations, and the storming fear was about to drown him. He wrote to Paul who was in prison asking for advice. Paul who was waiting for his execution wrote: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7).

Paul was not afraid of those who killed the body but could not kill the soul. “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (Mt. 10:28-33).

The fear of God and His Word helped Paul to live in peace and in glorious presence of the Lord. “According to my earnest expectation and hope that

in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith” (Philippians 1:20-25). When these verses are in a person’s spirit as a revelation, death has no sting and fear has nothing to do anymore in their life.

## WHAT DOES THE FEAR OF GOD MEAN?

People ask, “Shall we fear God?”, or “Does God punish people?”

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Pr. 1:7). The person who fears God is wise. This fear or reverence has nothing to do with the spirit of fear. The fear of the Lord is the opposite to the spirit of fear. As life shows, the spirit of fear destroys, intimidates or keeps from new opportunities. The fear of God does just the opposite. According to the Bible, the person who has God’s fear is wise.

God is holy and perfect. He hates sin. The person, who is in the Lord’s presence, sees His holiness in the spiritual world. That is why prophet Isaiah writes: “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His

robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!' And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts'" (Is. 6:1-5).

The holy God hates sin and loves the man created in His image and according to His likeness so much that He sent His only begotten Son to be our Savior. He came in human form, lived among people and showed the will of our heavenly Father and His limitless love to the humanity. Then He suffered, was mocked and crucified to save them from the curse and slavery of the devil. Jesus brought the Word of God to the humanity and prayed the Father to send the Holy Spirit Who would help people to walk in truth. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the

Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (Jn. 14:26-27).

The holy God gave every possible opportunity so that people do not suffer and perish. Unfortunately, not everybody understands, appreciates and makes use of it. In these last days, people are more evil and selfish. “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Tim. 3:1-4).

They want to live their way. Because of their insolent and arrogant character, they think that THE MOST POWERFUL AND HOLY GOD is like Santa Claus - they can order and receive from Him



whatever they want and whenever they want it. What some people think is even more miserable: “I do not want much from God. Let Him give me health, and I will do the rest”. I want to shout, “You, miserable man, just look around! So many healthy people are suffering, unable to save their children from slavery to drugs; so many healthy people are lost in the labyrinth of material and spiritual lack; so many healthy people are suffering from the complex of being misunderstood, and the list goes on and on... And do you think that if you are just healthy, you will not need God?”

People are always miserable when they do not understand that they must not only pray to God for the things they need, but also ask, “King of kings, I want to know YOUR WILL. What do You want me to do for You?”

People are miserable, when getting into trouble, they start praying, light a candle in a church or before icons in their own homes and think that the HOLY GOD will promptly pay attention to their problem and give a quick solution so that they are

not offended of and disappointed with Him and don't say, 'Where is God?'

The HOLY and POWERFUL GOD does not depend on man's miserable and self-centered opinion. "With the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd" (Ps. 18:26). If people had the fear of God, they would have realized the following: "Here I am, standing before the holy and just God in my sins, and yet I dare to accuse Him of not saving me from my difficulties!" God JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY. No, He does not punish; it is His Word that judges people. The Bible says: "Then Jesus cried out and said, 'He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him

in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak” (Jn. 12:44-50).

A man is judged for failure to do the Word of God. A person must have reverence for God in order to do the Word that came out of His mouth and is written in the Bible. This will secure his life from evil. What awaits a person who criticizes others all the time? The Word says: “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Lk. 6:37). When a person judges others, they do not just reap what they have sown, but also repeat the mistakes of all those whom they judge. When a person slanders and defames another one with the intent to get rid of them, they themselves fall into their own trap and eventually people get rid of them. Let us remember how Haman was defaming Mordechai, who saved the king’s life, and how the Lord set the course

of events, so that eventually “...they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai” (Esther 7:10). The Lord watches the actions of each person and looks to it that His Word is fulfilled. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Mt. 24:35).

When a person refuses to do the Word of God or disobeys His commandments, they are left outside the shadow of the Lord that is His protection; such a person naturally falls into a trouble, which can even end with death. And worst of all, death is not the end, but the beginning of the eternal life in hell. This life is temporary; the eternal life starts after death.

God is not going to surprise people; He already spoke in His Word, teaching the way of life that would keep people from living in captivity to the ruler of this world during this temporary life, and would grant eternal life with the Lord of lords, the Almighty, All-Merciful and Righteous King.

God created man triune – spirit, soul and body, and each of these triune parts needs fellowship, nourishment and development.

The body is nourished by food. Proper food, clean air, sports, a right trainer and advice on healthcare contribute to having a healthy body.

Proper cultural values, art, education and untrodden nature nourish and develop the soul. And what things are proper? Those that build up, impart goodness and happiness, and lift on a new and higher level.

The spirit can receive nourishment and be developed only by God. Unfortunately, many do not realize this, so they try to satisfy their spiritual hunger by things that are only able to nourish and develop the soul.

Christianity is not a religion, a series of rites and festivities. Christianity is a knowledge of the One Who created everything in and beyond the universe. Christianity is a worship of the One Who holds the eternal life in His hands. Christianity is the way of deliverance from the captivity of the devil and living in the “good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2). That is why it is necessary to nourish our spirits through fellowship with God.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PERSON WHO FEARS GOD AND SAYS 'NO' TO THE SPIRIT OF FEAR?

**T**he Bible introduces us to a mighty army of individuals who lived their lives granted by God in the fear of God and always rejected the spirit of fear. The Scriptures show the course of life of each of them and speak about the rewards, which they enjoyed from the Most Faithful One for their faithfulness. The Scriptures also speak about quite a few individuals who were chosen by God for great, glorious deeds, but gave in to the spirit of fear and had a horrible downhill of life.

Life is going on, and today the Most Faithful One, our Living God calls each individual, telling them, "Do not fear, only believe." You and I are among these individuals. I want to tell you how my

life changed when I said ‘no’ to the spirit of fear and ‘yes’ to the call of the Lord.

Before telling my testimony, I will tell about my ancestors and will mention how their lives affected their generations. My father’s family comes from Ashtarak, and my mother’s family from Sassoun.

I do not want to go into detail about my huge family tree; I will mention just a few individuals. One of them is my paternal great-grandfather Hakob. As far back as in the 19th century, he joined American and Russian Protestant missionaries to spread the Gospel in some Muslim nations. In the beginning of the 20th century, under the USSR, during the formation of Azerbaijan as a country with the capital city of Baku, he dared to live in this Muslim nation for about 20 years and preach Christ the Living Savior. He did this even though during the same period, preachers of the Gospel were arrested in Christian Armenia and Russia.

My maternal great-grandfather Nerseh, who was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, first settled in Oojan, and then in Etchmiadzin, and started to work in the Mother See of the Holy

Etchmiadzin Cathedral as an accountant. There are stories about his piety, honesty and boldness that are like legends, even though everything in those stories is true. Even Mushegh Galshtoyan, an Armenian writer who composed series of writings about the survivor immigrants from the Western Armenia, dedicated a story to my great-grandfather, and named it “Nerseh”. Later it became a scenario for a movie. Karen Djanibekyan, an Armenian actor, masterfully rendered my great-grandfather.

I also want to mention the courageous conduct of my father Suren. He was among the first Christians in Armenia during the new wave of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in 1960s. A state figure in the Soviet Armenia, my father never denied Jesus the Savior, even when the Russian KGB agents took him out of his office and threatened to dismiss him and to banish him into exile to Siberia. He was afraid neither of losing his position, nor of leaving his eight children fatherless. It is natural that the courage of my ancestors, - manifested in saying ‘no’ to the spirit of fear, receiving Jesus Christ as the Savior of their



lives and taking the Gospel to the nations, - had a powerful impact on their generations.

Even though my forefathers were true believers, none of them inherited their faith from their previous generations. Each of them accepted God that is Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives in a conscious age.

Though my father's parents were believers, he never thought of attending church services, praying and reading the Bible. He did not even ponder about God's existence. My father was so absorbed with education and later with work that he had no time to think about the eternal life.

My maternal grandparents also were believers. As a courteous, humble Armenian young woman, my mother never thought about dedicating herself to God or about the eternal life.

When my mother and father got married, they did not even think of having many children and bringing them up in a way that all of them would serve God in future. Not at all! They just dreamed of having two sons whom they would bring up, educate and make useful people for the society.

My mother was a housewife; she raised me and my brother. My father always held high offices and as all Armenian men, bore full responsibility of managing and providing for his family.

A crucial point in my father's life was an acquaintance of his, who later brought my parents to the Lord and helped them to start serving Him. My second brother and other sisters were born after the conversion of my parents. As for us, the eight children, none of us accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their life automatically. After my mother came to know the true God in 30, she always prayed for her children's protection and devotion to the true God. She brought us up according to the biblical principles.

As I already mentioned, my father was the provider of our family. He also paid close attention to the education of each of his children. He used to tell me, "Watch for your brothers and sisters; all of them are to receive higher education." He was not satisfied with the standard of education in the secondary school, so he hired tutors for additional studies, as he had great plans for each one of his children. Two of my sisters would become architects, my younger

brother and one of my sisters would be medical doctors, etc.

It is noteworthy that even though he received God as his Savior in 35, attended the church and had such a strong faith that even the KGB agents could not force him to deny it, he made none of his children attend the church or commit themselves to God. He thought that each of us needed to decide ourselves whether to believe God, make the Bible the guideline of our lives or no.

Upbringing according to the biblical principles, prayers of forefathers and parents, and the freedom of choice allowed us to 'taste' the world, to have our own successes in study and work, and ultimately to choose the Most Powerful One, - Jesus Christ, - as the Lord and Savior of our lives. Each of the eight children in our family had their own path to knowing God and dedicating themselves to Him. Each of them was successful in the world, and none of them was afraid to sacrifice their success to serve God. Each of them had great fruit because of making a sacrifice, rejecting the spirit of fear and walking in love, power and sound mind. One day they might

write about their own course of life themselves. I want to share my own testimony in order to show what happens to a person who rejects the spirit of fear, says 'yes' to the Lord of lords and becomes a part of the Church, the Bride of Christ.

As I already mentioned, my parents were god-fearing people. My father served in a Pentecostal church. Until his retirement, he always worked in state agencies and held high offices. Because of his position, he had many 'opportunities' to 'help' people in exchange for some 'favors' from them. Anyway, that was how my schoolteachers always thought.

During my senior school years (in 1980s), I started to notice that the students, whose parents worked in stores, hospitals or any important institutions, had certain advantages. Their parents often visited the school with packages of different sizes and bouquets. To my amazement, even at the lesson of chemistry or physics, teachers allowed themselves to interrupt the lesson and turn to some students with their needs. For example, they would turn to a certain student, whose mother was a shop

assistant in a grocery store, and say that on their son's birthday, they needed some sausages. Or they would turn to another student, whose father was a storekeeper in a building materials store, and anxiously say that they were going to renovate their flat and wanted to meet the student's father.

Even though I was very bold in nature, I was also very shy. I used to blush when teachers acted that way. Teachers had always been some kind of heavenly creatures to me; I always spoke to them with a sense of respect.

I have never been an 'A'-student in school, although I could easily get 'A'-grades for all the subjects, except algebra and Russian language. I was a diligent and mostly quiet person. I spoke very little in school. At the Last Bell Ceremony, the chemistry teacher even wrote on my shirt, "My dear quiet Gayane". Nevertheless, studies in the final years of the secondary school were a suffering for me. So often, I got unfair treatment from the teachers. I received lower grades firstly because I was from a family of believers (at that time it was shameful). Another reason of such treatment was the

fact that even though my father held a 'high post' (it was not a little thing to be the Head of Housing and Maintenance Department, a person who could secure accommodations for people), he never thought of helping them with accommodations or doing any other 'favors' for them.

My father did not even think of exploiting his office for my school, to do 'favors' to the director and the teachers, so that they treated me fairly. As a true believer, my father would never allow any fraud or forgery, no matter who demanded it.

When I finished school and received the School Certificate, I could not get over the shock for a long time. In the School Certificate, I had 'C' grades for six subjects, even though 'B' grade was the lowest I received for them. I could complain to no one. Some of my teachers looked maliciously at my reaction.

I have made a decision in my life: when they try to trample you down or to destroy you, do not answer them! Step aside, so as not to be downtrodden by them, give the justice into God's hands and continue to grow your strength in the shade. Let God always be your source. Then a day

will come when you are going to see God's work both in your and in your oppressors' lives.

I made this decision much later, after getting some experience. At that time, however, I was just 17. I was defenseless and I did not know God, so I decided to get even with them. In those years, many of my peers found inspiration in "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas, and I was not an exception. Inspired by the ideas of the book and desiring to see the victory of righteousness through revenge, I decided to enter the Yerevan State University, to become a journalist and then to return to my school as a journalist and 'a judge', in order to expose the directorate and the six teachers in my school. Without taking any additional lessons, but exclusively by God's favor I not only entered the faculty of philology of the Yerevan State University, but also had an opportunity to be the correspondent of several TV programs of the State Committee of Television and Radio Broadcasting, with broad audience.

First, I headed to my school to fulfill my dream. The directorate of the school knew very well about my successes; they were astonished at them, as

they would never imagine that a 'quiet girl' like me from a large family of believers would ever be able to enter into the Yerevan State University without taking additional lessons and with the grades 'granted' by them. With the Head of the studies of the school accompanying me and with the recording equipment, I entered the Director's office.

It is needless to describe the nervousness, insincere smiles and pretended, bourgeois attitude to me. Their behavior almost made me believe that for years I had been their favorite student, the honor of the school. It was disgusting. I am not sure whether it was because of the expression of my face, but suddenly they started stammering and shivering like autumn leaves. It lasted for several minutes, during which I realized that I also had an opportunity to forgive them. My Christian upbringing did not allow me to look down victoriously and with malice on the Head of the studies and the Director of my school. In a moment, I forgave all of them and changed my decision. I quickly took all the recording equipment and told them that I want to make a program about my school and one of its best teachers. I do not want



to describe neither their skepticism, nor confusion, nor pleasure and eagerness to help. I asked them to record a program with a teacher, who had never taught me, but I knew very well how fair she was and how her students loved her. Several days later, the program that described my school from the best point of view was on air.

Only God knows how much I suffered because of the unfair treatment of my teachers and the six 'C' grades in the School Certificate. The very year I had finished the school, I applied for admission to the Yerevan State University. A member of the Admission Committee took my School Certificate and told me with scorn that the applicants with that many 'C' grades need to apply for the Vocational School. This institution was not respectable in the society, and only the students with poor grades studied there. It was pointless to even try to explain to the Admission Committee member that these 'C' grades were there in my School Certificate to teach a lesson to my father and me, and did not represent my actual grades.

Unable to participate in the admission exams, I entered a Vocational School. There was a Vocational School in Vardashen district, Yerevan, where girls of my age were learning dressmaking. I had no intent to become a tailor; I just knew that the Admission Committee of the University would consider an honors degree of any Vocational School, and with that, the grades in the School Certificate would become secondary. I was a straight 'A' student in the Vocational School in both theoretical knowledge and practical training. Unlike all my classmates, I not only learned to design women's wear, but also men's. They even organized an exhibition of the models made and designed by me for a committee of the Ministry of Education.

It was the last month of the school year, when the leader of our group called me to her cabinet and said that the School could give honors degrees only to three students. And those three students were the ones whose fathers offered a certain sum to the directorate of the School, that is bribed the school officials. Then she started to praise my abilities, my gifted hands, and my talent... I believed that she was

honest. She really liked and appreciated me, and if she could, she would give the desired honors degree to me first. To tell the truth, everything I learned during those months I learned from her. Seeing my aspiration, she always assigned extra time to me, so that I could develop my skills.

Unfortunately, I could not show the commitment and honesty of our group leader, my skills and the 'A' grades I received throughout the year to the Admission Committee of the State University to participate in the admission exams. My group leader said that she had to put a 'B' grade along with all the 'A' grades in my diploma, so that I do not receive an honors degree. She added that my complaints would be in vain, as money speaks louder than words. She even wondered why my father, a high-ranking governmental official, had not phoned or come to the directorate of the Vocational School even once.

Because of my School Certificate 'adorned' with six 'C' grades and the ordinary diploma of the Vocational School, the Admission Committee of the State University did not even accept my documents. They told me that with such school grades, I had to

present an honors degree of a Vocational School or at least 6 months of employment history.

Along with studies in the Vocational School, I studied night and day to pass the admission exams of the University with high grades, whereas when the day of the admission came, my documents were not even accepted. It would be a hard blow for each eighteen-year-old girl; nevertheless, even that could not make me give up my aspiration to enter the State University. If there had been no false 'C' grades in my School Certificate, if my teachers had not disregarded me and if the Director of the Vocational School had not been itching for bribes, I would have never thought of getting higher education or becoming a journalist.

With the diploma of the Vocational School, I found a job at the "Spring" workshop. I do not remember the full name of the workshop (it was many years ago), but I remember the work with two shifts very well. I either went to work at daybreak, as the work started at 6 a.m., or I had to return home after the midnight. The work was very hard for me, and it was not because of its monotonous nature (we used to make separate parts of women's

wear - sleeves, pockets, collars, etc.), but because of the women I worked with. They were constantly swearing, especially two of them, who were in an endless competition of the most 'chic' swearing. I do not know whether there is even one man who could beat them. As I was quiet and taciturn in nature, I told no one about the things that were going on at my work. My goal was to get one-year employment history so that I was able to participate in the admission exams of the State University.

In order not to overwhelm you with the stories about this difficult period of my life, I will go on to tell you a story of the manifestation of the mercy and love of my Lord of lords.

During my school years, when I was unfairly treated by my teachers, I cried out to God. I prayed much; I used to turn to God for a solution to each problem. However, my prayers, as a rule, were not answered. For me, the last straw was that when I applied to the University the third time, this time with employment history as well, I was not accepted again. The reason was, I was not able to get 'A'

grades for four subjects. This crushed me completely. I had only one option left: to be employed in an institution where I could get professional employment history in order to enter the faculty of philology of the Yerevan State University hors concours. However, that was beyond my abilities. No one wanted to help me anymore, as now they were sure that I accused my teachers unjustly. On the other hand, they were even glad that I could not enter the University, as I used my time to make clothes for them free of charge.

The bitter experiences and unanswered prayers that followed one another in my life convinced me that God does not exist. I even replied with contempt to the exhortations of my mother, saying, "I am not stupid; all the situations and unanswered prayers in my life prove that God doesn't exist." I decided to master my life myself and build my future without entering the University. To tell the truth, I no longer felt the urge to prove anything to people. My inner life was so rich and colorful, I had so many interests and dreams that I decided to concentrate on making my life beautiful and meaningful, not on proving things to people.

When I completely negated God's existence, I had to face some questions. For example, if there is no God, where the feeling of being led in prayer came from? Or how could I speak by the Holy Spirit, that is in unknown tongues? To silence those questions, I concluded that little by little I was getting a mental disorder, and until I was not completely out of my mind, until no one was aware of the danger I was facing I would continue to enjoy my life and will devote myself to my interests.

I was already twenty years old; I was not praying or reading the Bible; I was sure that God does not exist and even thought, "It's even good He doesn't exist. It's easier this way, as when I have difficulties, I do not run to him in prayer and am not disappointed afterwards, when my prayers are not answered."

When I had difficulties, I solved them my way (I already mentioned that I was very bold and had strong willpower). Even though I would not pray and furiously denied God's existence, the Lord still led me in all the ways of my life. I was successful. I had dreams that were truly prophetic; however, at that time, I did not see God's hand in all that.

One day a neighbor told me that there is a vacancy of a typist in the Armenian Factory of Electrical Engineering. She knew one of the vice-directors and advised a friend of mine and me to visit him. She promised to phone that vice-director in advance to inform about our visit. My neighbor also added, "Dear Gayane, please do not be offended if you are not accepted; you know, you are not so good-looking, and you friend Ann is such a pretty girl. Surely they will accept Ann".

By then, I had already been offended so many times that I did not even pay attention to my neighbor's words. She explained where the factory was and how we could get there. I went there with my friend; the factory was so far it seemed we went to the world's end. We had never been to that part of Yerevan before.

When we finally reached the factory, I was amazed. A couple of days before, I had a dream, in which I saw the same yellow 32 bus that went very far and brought me to the factory. When I woke up, I had paid no attention to my dream, as I would have never thought that it could be so significant and prophetic for my life.



We met the vice-director. After a short conversation, he said that I could start working in his own office from the next day, and then apologized to my good-looking friend and sent her home with a smile.

For one full year, I worked in a beautiful team. They were very educated and nice people. I loved my work, the head of my department and the whole team.

It was May, and June was drawing near; my life was wonderful! In this one year, I managed to fulfill some of my dreams, to carry out some of my creative ideas, to travel... Then suddenly I had a strong desire to take all the textbooks and to revise the material required for the entrance exams. I did not even think of applying to the university again, especially because I thought that my one-year working experience in the factory would not be considered as professional employment history. However, I was unable to resist that inner prompting. I took the textbooks and started to review the subjects that I was studying so thoroughly for several years. When I was at home, I read them secretly so that no one could see. My neighbors and relatives asked me with unhidden derision, "Well, what about trying again?"

Have you given up with education?” I replied to all that I was not going to apply again, and to tell the truth, I believed it myself.

Then June came, the time to submit the application documents. I thought I had no chance to be accepted for the entrance exams, but a powerful force within me drove me to prepare and submit all the required documents. I obeyed it unwillingly.

My documents were kindly received. I told only my sisters and my colleagues at work that I was applying again, and asked them to tell no one else. Even my parents did not know. I passed the four exams in the University, but I did it unwillingly. When the day of another exam came, I knew that I had an exam, but I had no desire to go to the university. I just felt an unseen power that was leading me there. I was amazed; however, I could not explain the power that I felt. By then, I was no longer thinking that I had any symptoms of insanity. In my workplace, they often gave me tasks that required much responsibility. I thought if they trusted me, I could just enjoy life without thinking of any issues of insanity. Nonetheless, what power was that?

Going upstairs for another exam, stepping on the very stairs that seemed an unreachable dream for me, I heard how the other applicants around me were praying aloud and asking for God's help. I stopped and said aloud, "Oh the Power that rules the universe, I know that You exist. I believe in You and I call you God. Please help me!" While praying, I acknowledged that I spoke to a POWERFUL ONE Who wonderfully ruled the universe.

Of course, I did not get 'A' grades that would secure my admission. There was a very large entry for the faculty – nine applicants per each seat. The applicants who received relatively high grades were trying to convince others to take their documents back and submit them to the universities where there were not so many applicants. They said it would be better both for us, because we would be sure we would make it, and for them, because the entry would not be that large.

During the whole period of the entrance examinations, that is for around one and half month, I met those applicants in the yard of the State University and was constantly hearing their exhortations that were full of fear. They

used different arguments to convince me to take my documents back. My neighbors, who were unaware that I applied to the University again, were comforting me: “Who can enter the State University, especially the faculty of philology, where there is such a large entry, without any mediation?” I said nothing; I was silent and waiting.

Finally, the long-expected day came. My name was in the list of the applicants admitted to the faculty of philology. Only months later I found out that my employment history from the Armenian Factory of Electrical Engineering was considered professional. Those who have such employment history are admitted despite their grades. It was the Lord Who gave me that work. I am sure of it, since even before going there, I saw the whole route in a dream. And my neighbor was comforting me: “Dear Gayane, please do not be offended if you are not accepted; you know, you are not so good-looking...” The Bible says: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

The hand of the Lord has always been upon my life, whether I acknowledged His existence or

denied it. He has patiently been by my side in all the ways of my life. Still, even those events, such as my prophetic dream, finding a work, acquiring professional employment history and entering the faculty I dreamed of after simply paging the textbooks for a month, did not prove to me the existence of the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. When I became a student, my life was full of success. Only in three years, I understood that the reason of my success was that I always listened to and followed the voice of the Holy Spirit. As a 10-year-old, I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and His leading had always been with me, despite the fact that for three years after school, I thought there was no God.

How did success come to me or how did I fall in its embrace? I was listening to God and obeying Him. At that time, I thought I had very strong intuition, but later I understood that no intuition could bring me that much success as the Holy Spirit did.

I wrote about the difficulties during my school years, obstacles in entering the university and my choice between vengeance and forgiveness to make

the following point: who is man to decide the course of life of the man of God? The Lord says, “Do not fear, only believe.” He hears all our prayers and cries, but He Himself decides when and how to answer them and where to manifest Himself in all His glory. These words of the Bible are true: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9).

I am going to tell you another testimony from my life. It shows what happens to a person who says ‘NO’ to the spirit of fear and says ‘YES’ to the calling of the Lord. As a sophomore in the faculty of philology of the Yerevan State University, through another mercy and miracle of the Lord, I started to work in the Matenadaran, a Researching Institute of Ancient Manuscripts. When I was a child, my mother told me that my grandfather worked in the Matenadaran. For me, the Matenadaran was a wild dream. Sometimes I stood in front of that building and wondered what was inside, besides the Hall of Manuscripts that was open for visitors.

Once I had a dream: I saw a very long hall, a long table that occupied the entire hall and chairs with backs around it. People of different ages were sitting on all the chairs, and I was sitting on a chair that was higher than the rest of them and was backless. This chair was separate; it was put a little far from the table and the other chairs.

In several months after my dream, I started to work in the Matenadaran, in the newly opened computer department. In those years, computers were a luxury for Armenia (it was the end of the 1980s; in several months, the Nagorno Karabakh war and collapse of the Soviet Union would start). When I was shown the inner halls of the Matenadaran (the reading halls, the manuscript house, etc.), suddenly I entered the hall that I saw in my dream several months ago. It was the dining hall of the Matenadaran, where the workers had meals at the break.

Still I was not sure whether there is the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; I continued to deny the existence of God as I still had unanswered questions. Nonetheless, how could I explain another prophetic dream of mine? I

could not arrange the work in the Matenadaran myself; moreover, I had no idea that there was such a hall there. And what did it mean that I was sitting on the highest chair that was backless? I looked through the hall carefully, but saw no such chair. I decided to wait; at that time, I was already sure that the Matenadaran would have a vital role in my life.

Indeed, the years of work in the Matenadaran greatly influenced my life. As I mentioned, I was a sophomore when I started to work there. One day I was watching a TV program that made me think, “If God exists, and if the Bible is true, it means, there also are the eternal life, the hell and the heaven... So what is awaiting me?” I had read the Bible and I knew that a life of good works and high moral values would not secure a place in heaven. To spend the eternity in heaven, one must receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It was the most difficult thing for me. I already reached many heights with my willpower and diligence, and after each achievement, I thought, “It’s so good there is no God Whom I have to submit. Without God, and with my willpower and diligence, I get things faster than with prayers and



supplications.” However, that TV program made me pray, “God, if You exist, prove to me Your existence in terms of science”.

God proved His existence to me the same day; and in the following days, He continued to reveal Himself in my life in a supernatural way. He allowed me to discover a book in the manuscript house of the Matenadaran, in which the author proved that the Creator of the universe and the Writer of the Bible is One, that is God. I grabbed that book from the manuscript house and started to copy the text on a computer, as I was not allowed to take the book out of the building. I gave the electronic copy of the book to my sister so that she could present it to Victor Ambartsumian (as she had the opportunity to do it). How great was my amazement, when I learned that the internationally renowned scientist who was loved, accepted and honored by so many, told my sister, “I knew that God exists, but I did not know that Jesus Christ is God too, as the Bible says. This book is completely accurate. You are happy to understand these things at such a young age.” (You can read the electronic version of this book, “The

Verbal Inspiration of the Scriptures, Scientifically Proven”, in my blog, GayaneHakobyan.org, posted on November 18, 2015).

When I was convinced in God’s existence, I not only started to attend a church, but also became a leader of the Mercy Ministry in the church. I served the poor, orphans and disabled people. I had very active social life: I was a student; I was involved in politics (I distributed pamphlets and brochures by Paruyr Hayrikyan whenever I went); I worked in The Matenadaran, in the Writers’ Union of Armenia and in the State Committee of Television and Radio Broadcasting. Soon I would graduate from the university and fully devote my entire life to science.

I finally realized that all the heights and successes I had were given to me by God’s mercy, love and grace, even though at that period I stubbornly denied His existence. All the situations in my life drew up like a solved puzzle, proving that God is LOVE.

As I said, I also led the “Go and See” Mercy Ministry. I thought that when I completely devoted myself to science, I would delegate the Ministry to another person. I continued to attend the church

with utmost devotion; however, I envisioned my future in the Matenadaran.

When I finished the University, I chose the “Interpretation of the Book of Psalms” by Vardan Areveltsi as the subject of my graduation thesis. I thought the subject would be pleasing to God and I would serve Him in the scientific world. However, it is written in the Bible: “‘My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord” (Is. 55:8).

One day I heard the voice of the Lord very clearly: “Leave everything and completely serve Me!” These words astounded me. With certain difficulty, I could give up everything I was involved in, but not the Matenadaran. However, the Lord’s suggestion was so plain that I understood the meaning of “everything” very well. I obeyed it, and gradually gave up everything I was doing, all the jobs I had at that time and the voluntary activities I enjoyed. The Matenadaran was the only one I could not offer on the Lord’s altar. I prayed, trying to convince God to let me devote my life to science. I reminded Him how I had received professional

employment history with His help and entered the faculty of philology, how I had been accepted to the Matenadaran; I even reminded Him the prophetic dream, in which I was sitting on the backless chair. One day, when I was reminding everything to the Lord again, I remembered that the chair was placed further than all the other ones. As I could not explain it, I continued listing my arguments of why I did not want to give up my wild dream.

Of course, my first reason was the great desire to devote myself to the scientific world, to write books, to teach... but there were other reasons that were secondary to me. The Lord searches the heart and the reins; He knew all the reasons because of which I did not want to lose my work in the Matenadaran. However, I honestly explained to Him the secondary reasons as well.

Our family was in a period when all the children were grown-up and studied in different universities, and my father already retired. Before his retirement, he always wonderfully provided for us. Until now, I cannot understand how he managed our family finances that we never had any debts and always

were able to pay for the utilities and everything that we needed. I do not remember a day when he urged one of us children to use a certain thing or the electricity sparingly. As a rule, our neighbors returned from shops or markets with plastic bags, while our father supplied food for us with a lorry. And it was not because we were insatiable eaters; he always shared with the neighbors, relatives, friends. He always had money.

Once I spotted an expensive fur coat in the department store near our home (which now is renamed to 'Tashir'). I was just 19 then. Without even thinking that it was quite expensive, I asked the shop assistant to lay it aside for me until I was back to buy it in an hour. I rushed home and asked my father for the necessary sum, without even thinking that he might not have that much. He calmly took out the money out of his pocket, counted them, then gave me the amount I asked for and put the rest back into the pocket. Many people, seeing my expensive coat, both admired it and wondered where from I could get so much money. Years later, I understood that not everybody can afford to buy expensive fur

coats, even in mature age, and others save money for years to enjoy such a thing.

Now the time came when we had to work, provide for ourselves and pay for the utilities. My sisters were students; two of them studied in the Polytechnic University, and one in the State Medical University. She chose the faculty of obstetrics and gynecology, where the tuition fees were very high. The other sister and my brother were still at school. We needed money more than ever. I had a high salary in the Matenadaran because of donors from the United States, but I left all the other jobs and subsequently lost the honorariums. How would we live if I gave up that one too?

Besides, a tension arose between our father and us children. My father was from the Pentecostal church, and he could never imagine that all his children would attend another church... I do not want to describe with his words what he thought of our piety. My mother sympathized us in her heart, but she could do nothing to change the situation.

Almost four months passed. One day, I once again wept and begged the Lord to change

His decision and to allow me to work in the Matenadaran. During these months, God had not spoken to me, but that day He said, “I do not force you”. In that one sentence, I heard the pain He felt because of my weeping. It was as if He was saying, “I wish you agreed and laid down everything.”

Nothing could hold me back anymore. I had to choose my love for God on one hand, and face big financial problems, the rage of my father and uncertain future on the other. And the love I had for God destroyed all fear of the future.

I left my work; together with my sisters, we decided to tell no one about it, especially our parents. At that time, the situation in Armenia was very difficult; because of the Karabakh war, the Armenian refugees that escaped from Baku and other regions of Azerbaijan, tried to find a shelter in their motherland. Two Armenian cities and a number of villages were totally destroyed by the earthquake, and the victims also tried to find shelter in the capital city. Around 20.000 people who suffered from the earthquake were in Yerevan. Not only the refugees, the families of the killed in action and the victims of the earthquake

needed help, but also many socially underprivileged families and children begging in the streets.

Armenia was in a blockade; unemployment was rampant; people had electricity only for two hours a day; there were queues for bread around the clock. People cut the trees of the city parks to heat their apartments and to prepare meals. I faced a huge trial. So many dreamed of having a work, getting a salary, and I left a work that promised me bright future and provided a high salary. Besides, the Matenadaran was one of the exclusive places where all the rooms were supplied with electricity 24 hours a day.

Thus, I had to stop regretting my decision of leaving the work that gave me comfort and security. Besides, I had to think about my further actions.

**a) How could I fully devote myself to God and serve in the “Go and See” Mercy Ministry that received no support from any foreign country?**

The Lord gave a vision to my pastor about this ministry based on Mark 6:34-44, according to which each church member needed to go and see what they



had themselves to give to the Mercy Ministry, in order to take care of the victims of the earthquake, the refugees from Azerbaijan and those who begged in the streets.

I need to note that the members of the church were the citizens of the same blockaded Armenia who stood in queues for bread around the clock and did not have regular work. (You can read about the foundation, vision and activity of the “Go and See..” Mercy Ministry in the “Social Ministry” section of the [GayaneHakobyan.org](http://GayaneHakobyan.org) website.)

**b) How could the financial problems of our family be solved?**

To solve our financial problems, my sisters and I decided to cry out to God in unity, asking Him to save us from our situation and to provide us with work. Even though it was almost impossible to find any work because of the blockade and lack of electricity, we cried out to the Mighty God in faith, asking Him not for ordinary, but for high-paid works. We did not look at the fact that 80% of the

country was unemployed. We knew our God. If He suggested me to sacrifice the work that was so dear to me and the high salary that solved the problems of our family so far, it could only mean that He had other ways not just for me, but also for the rest of our family members.

In a short time, my sisters were already working in different institutions with high salaries, along with their studies.

I fully devoted myself to the Lord's work and to managing of the "Go and See..." Mercy Ministry. On the very first day of my work in the Ministry, I bowed my knees before the Lord and prayed for opportunities to receive professional education. I completely relied on the leading of the Holy Spirit, but I knew that it was the will of the Lord to train us according to our calling. When I prayed, I could not even think of the ways the Lord prepared for my education. He created opportunities for me to study social service management in England and France. I even had an opportunity to study the management

organization of the Red Cross and The U.N.O. in Geneva, Switzerland.

When we were waiting for the guide of our group to enter the U.N.O. Building, the first sentence that he said when he came was, “Even the bird with its wings cannot get there”. Even though only high-ranking officials could get to that building, the Lord gave favor to us students. The information and knowledge I received in both the U.N.O. and the Red Cross helped me to organize the management of the Ministry in a proper way. The earnest of success of a ministry is proper organization of its management.

The Lord gives me a vision for each ministry project, the same way He did it during my entire ministry. The Ministry carries out the projects according to the vision, and each time we are required to say “no” to the spirit of fear and to walk on water, looking to the Lord. In the “Social Ministry” section of my website, I share in detail each of the ministry projects, the visions I received for each of them, the way we carried them out and our journey with the Lord’s guidance and miracles.

Today, looking back, I think what would have happened if I gave in to the spirit of fear and refused to sacrifice my wild dream come true that is my work in the Matenadaran? I would probably fumble around in the ocean of failure without even realizing that the reason of my failures was not living out my calling.

When I entered my calling, I had opportunities...

- to partake in restoration of thousands of abused children and women and to give them happy life again;
- to change the lives of homeless people by God's help, even though their destiny seemed irreversible;
- to manage support for bedridden and disabled people;
- to raise thousands of underprivileged and destitute people from the dust of poverty;
- to create opportunities of getting education for unsecured children, etc.

Many times in my life, I faced difficult choices. I do not want to relate here how my parents found out that I left my work in the Matenadaran, or how my father, who fiercely persecuted us, turned to be one

of our supporters, and up to this day, in his 82, he continues to spread the Word of God with us.

The Lord, the Creator of the universe, is more than faithful. He honors those who love Him the way that is higher than the dreams and imagination of 'mere mortals'. I will not get tired of repeating, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9), and "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord" (Is. 54:17).

Having served the Lord in the social sphere for 23 years, one day I prayed, "Lord, have I given my life completely to You to serve in the social sphere alone? I am so grateful that You opened my eyes and gave me opportunity to enter into the calling that You prepared for me from the time my bones were forming in my mother's womb, or even earlier. Please give me opportunities to do more. You know that I have that potential."

Months later, the Lord supernaturally opened the door to my next ministry. He spoke to me about having a personal blog and writing books. To tell the truth, I was so busy in the social work (the “Go and See...” Mercy Ministry developed as a healthy organism and turned into a Centre of Social Ministries), that I had completely forgotten about my first profession. I remembered how by God’s mercy and leading I entered the faculty of philology of the Yerevan State University, how I acquired experience in the State Committee of Television and Radio Broadcasting and in the Matenadaran.

Now I finally understood the meaning of my dream in which I saw myself sitting in the dining hall of the Matenadaran on a high and backless chair... My chair was separated and was higher than other ones, as by the Lord’s leading, I had to move from the sphere of science, - which was my dream, - to a highest sphere – the sphere of the ministry. And the ministry of God means to serve to the helpless, orphans and deprived people. My chair had no back, as Jesus the Savior Himself was my back, my way and my support.

By the leading of the Holy Spirit, after being faithful in my calling in the Mercy Ministry, I entered a new sphere to help people through books, teachings and a blog to change their lives according to God's "good and acceptable and perfect" will (Rom. 12:2). This new calling again had to do with saying 'NO' to the spirit of fear.

Our life is always full of new turns and challenges. We accept these challenges, say 'no' to the spirit of fear by the power of the Holy Spirit, and carry out God's dreams and desires for our lives. Each of us must resolve that along with all that we do, we must not only change our lives, but also allow the Kingdom of God to be established in our lives. The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17). When the Kingdom of God is established in a person's life, they are afraid of nothing!