

**Wednesday, March 31, 2010**

### **Let Love Conquer Fear**

2 Timothy 1:7:

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

We don't often think of fear in discussions of love, but it is a close relation. I used to think the opposite of fear was courage or strength. Now I know it is love—God's love, to be specific. Only He can love us with a perfect and pure love, and it is when we lean on and trust that love, offering our own in return, that fear is eradicated.

The last year has brought a lot of changes to my life. Two weeks after breaking up with my boyfriend at the end of February 2009, I learned I was losing my job. I didn't work for over 5 months, and have only a temporary job right now. In addition, that temp job was recently cut to half-time. My car has had some issues that were not inexpensive, and so has my boiler. I also needed surgery. And those are just the highlights. ☺ It would be easy to give in to fear of worse things happening now and of what my long-term future holds. But God gave me a very specific lesson on fear through a dream.

I was about to open the door to a room in someone's house; I no longer remember whose, but it was full of light and familiar; I was not afraid. As I reached for the doorknob, someone reached out to me from the wall, wrapping their arms tightly around me from behind so I was unable to fight back. These weren't human arms—the enemy fought to take me away, and we were flying through the air. In my dream, I called out to God for help and praised Him. Instantly, Satan's grip relaxed. When I let fear come back in, his strength returned and I was held fast in his grip. With a stronger voice, I called to God and prayed, trusting Him to rescue me. Suddenly, I was free. And awake, with my heart pounding.

I could draw many lessons from this dream, but for the purposes of this devotion, I will focus only on love as the antidote to fear. As believers, we have God's love and power in us and available to us. He does not cause fear; He destroys it. We can succumb to the power of fear or the power of God's love in any area of our lives. It is a choice we must make. Many aspects of my life are uncertain right now, and I repeat 2 Timothy 1:7 to myself several times a day, whenever I start to feel afraid. God's love and power are infinitely bigger than any individual challenge we may face, and they overshadow even our collective obstacles. As you reflect on the Ministry of the Hand at Trinity, remember to use your hands to hold fast to God's love.

**Prayer:** Dear Father, You are our Defender and Protector, always ready to do battle on our behalf. Thank You for giving us the tools to defeat fear and overcome obstacles through Your precious Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

--Marcia Harding