

Thoughts that occurred to me while listening to Sean's sermon yesterday

One of the things Sean spoke of was demons fear of God - James 2:19, and this got me thinking

So let me ask a question - what is the antidote of fear?

It is not courage but love - 1 John 4:18 "... perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. "

Demons have no love for God (or anyone else) - perfect love can only come from God, and as the demons want nothing to do with Him, they have no love in them and so they have only a shuddering fear

Perhaps this leads to a benefit we can gain when we love our enemies (Matt 5:44) - if we let God fill us with love for our enemies, that love can drive out the fear we have of them.

There is a right fear of God, which in the heart of those who love God produces respect, awe and worship. But those who do not love God and do not have His love poured into them (Rom 5:5), only have the raw fear of God and no love to "mix" with it to change it from the shuddering fear the demons have into the loving respect honour, awe and worship of their Abba Father that those who are His children have. Luke 12:5

Fear of the Lord can lead to wisdom - "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Prov 9:10), but this obviously has not occur with the demons, is it perhaps love of and from God that is the catalyst that turns the fear of God into wisdom?

A final thought on this topic where does courage come from, from my perspective courage seem to usually come from love - love of God, love of country, and in the Anzac tradition love for ones mates

Rob.