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*Ask the bigger questions*

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## No fear

### ***1 John: Confidence and faith - Session 7***

'Phobia' and fear are related<sup>1</sup>.

**Q1. Do you share any of these phobias? (or have other phobias you would be willing to admit to?)**

#### **The Phobia List**

Ablutophobia - Fear of washing or bathing  
Amaxophobia - Fear of riding in a car  
Acousticophobia - Fear of noise  
Ambulophobia - Fear of walking  
Acrophobia - Fear of heights  
Anablephobia - Fear of looking up  
Agateophobia - Fear of insanity  
Ancraophobia - Fear of wind  
Ailurophobia - Fear of cats  
Androphobia- Fear of men  
Albuminurophobia - Fear of kidney disease  
Anglophobia - Fear of English culture, etc  
Alektorophobia - Fear of chickens  
Angrophobia - Fear of becoming angry  
Algophobia - Fear of pain  
Anthrophobia - Fear of flowers  
Alliumphobia - Fear of garlic  
Anuptaphobia- Fear of staying single  
Allodoxaphobia - Fear of opinions  
Arachibutyrophobia - Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth  
Amathophobia - Fear of dust.

#### **1 John 4:14-18**

*14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.*

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<sup>1</sup> The phobia list, <http://www.phobialist.com>, excerpt from phobias beginning with the letter 'A'.

18 *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

**Q2. What 'fear' do you think John is talking about here?**

Medieval art had quite graphic images of hell<sup>2</sup>.



**Q3. Times have changed...why do you think that in our society today the 'day of judgment' is no longer seen as dangerous?**

Interestingly, the person who most often speaks of hell and judgement in the Bible is Jesus.

**Luke 12:4-5, 13:28 - The words of Jesus**

Jesus, when talking to his followers (the disciples), says:

*4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."*

And later Jesus says these words about the Jewish people who refuse to believe him:

*"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out."* ("Weeping" and "gnashing of teeth" is an image of intense suffering and torment.)

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<sup>2</sup> Medieval illustration of Hell in the Hortus deliciarum manuscript of Herrad of Landsberg (about 1180).

**Q4. How can we be sure that there really will be a day of judgement, and know something of what it will be like?**

**Q5. According to John, how does someone not need to be afraid of judgement day?**

**Q6. What if someone who says they are a follower of Jesus stills fears punishment on judgement day?**

Getting back to John's letter ...

**1 John 5:13**

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Note: By "know" John means that his readers might have greater confidence and assurance in what they believe.

**Q7. How does this section from 1 John on love and fear help the readers with their confidence and assurance?**

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