

Many things in life can cause us to experience fear - losing our jobs, deadly viruses or diseases, terrorist attacks and so on. When these things confront us, we tend to give in to worry and fear, and start talking about our worries and fears.

Job was no different. He constantly feared that God would punish him and his family because he kept thinking that his sons had sinned against God. He would get up early in the morning to offer burnt sacrifices, saying, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Moreover, the Bible tells us that he did this "regularly". (Job 1:5) So Job kept confessing the sins of his sons, fearing that something terrible would happen to him and his family. In fact, his sin-consciousness didn't just produce fear, the Bible tells us that he "greatly feared". (Job 3:25) It is important that we understand that it was Job's sin-consciousness that opened the door to Satan. His preoccupation with sins that his family may have committed gave Satan the opportunity to bring death and destruction into his life. God had a hedge of protection around Job, but when he started being sin-conscious and having a fearful expectation of judgment, the hedge was removed and Satan could attack him. (Job 1:9-12)

So, if you have sinned, don't say, "I have failed again. I deserve to be punished by God." Know that you already have forgiveness of sins because Jesus was punished and condemned in your place. (Ephesians 1:7) So say, "I am the righteousness of God in Christ. Jesus, You are my holiness and perfection." (1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:21) However, always remember that God's forgiveness is *not* a permission to sin!

We must be mindful of what we believe and say regularly because "death and life *are* in the power of the tongue." So when you hear of a deadly virus taking many lives, don't say, "I'm probably next because I have not been a good Christian!" Instead, say, "Jesus, You are my righteousness and protection. Surely You shall deliver me from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence." (Psalm 91:3) Such believing and confessing not only pleases God, but also shuts the door on Satan so that he cannot make any inroad into your life!

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."