

THE SNARE  
WE  
OFTEN IGNORE

Proverbs 29:25

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him.

# The Snare We Often Ignore



## Scripture

*The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.*

*Proverbs 29:25*

Read Proverbs 29:25 slowly. Solomon doesn't say that the fear of man might bring a snare or could sometimes create entanglements. He says "the fear of man...lays a snare"

Cross reference these verses:

Luke: 12:4-5 "I tell you my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!"

John 12: 42-43 "Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees, they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God."

Further Reading for a Deeper Study:

Proverbs 29:1-27

John 12:35-50

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## What it Means

This short proverb is a loving but firm warning. When you fear man—when you care more about what people think, say, or do than what God says—you will find yourself trapped. You may not think of it as fear—it often doesn’t feel like fear. It might be “keeping the peace,” “being humble,” or “not causing conflict.” But when you choose your actions to please man, and not to please God, you are setting your priorities, and it is a trap; a snare.

### WORD STUDY

The Hebrew word for “fear” in this passage is **charadah** (khar-a-daw). It doesn’t mean that you’re a little worried. It means, literally, quaking or trembling — the kind of fear that moves you and upsets your plans. It’s the fear that was meant to be reserved for God alone. The word appears in 1 Samuel 14:15, where it describes the trembling of an entire army and in Daniel 10:6-7 where it describes the great quaking that fell upon men as they witnessed a vision of a man with the appearance of lightning and fire.

On the other side of the verse, the Hebrew word used here for “safe” is **sagab** (saw-gab). And, it doesn’t mean comfortable or calm. It means to be excellent, be set on high, or to be strong. It is most often translated as *exulted!* Trust in God and you will be strong and set on high.

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## Discern the Truth

A common lie we see so often: ‘A good Christian keeps the peace’ or ‘who am I to go against what everyone else thinks?’ or even ‘I don’t want to be mean to them.’

It sounds spiritual and kind, but it often means we stay silent when we should be bold.

Ask yourself: Is your decision to act or speak a certain way because you fear the Lord, or because you fear someone else’s reaction. Are you simply taking the path of least resistance instead of listening to what God has called you to do or say?

Real peace and real love don’t come from making everyone happy. They come from obeying God. Every time we seek a person’s approval over God’s, we quietly prioritize man over God; and, by doing so, we elevate man above God — something we think we would NEVER do!

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*It is not possible to fully trust God, but fear man.  
You must make the choice — will you fear man or will you trust God?*

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## Observe & Apply

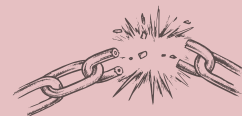
You're a good Christian. You do your best to be obedient to God. You ask forgiveness when you fall short. And, you offer praises when your blessings are more than you deserve. Do you also...remain silent when you see others falling? Do you bite your tongue when your pastor preaches to love your neighbor and all his flaws without mentioning sin and repentance? Do you shy away from a difficult conversation with a close friend?

- Whose disapproval has the most power to change your behavior — not in clear matters of sin, but in matters of simple obedience?
- What does Proverbs 29:25 reveal about the nature of fear of man versus the safety God offers?
- If God's approval were the only approval that truly mattered to you tomorrow, what is one small thing you would do differently? How might that choice help another person step out of a similar snare?



# ENSNARED NO MORE: DAILY MOMENTS OF DISCERNMENT

VOLUME 1 · MOMENT 1



EnsnaredLife.com

I launched EnsnaredLife.com with a desire to curate honest, truth-telling content alongside simple, purposeful things that strengthen a woman’s walk with Christ or just add a little sunshine into the day. I am not a theologian or a professional blogger. I just wanted to learn something new while seeking wisdom and discernment every single day.

I value any time when I can sit alone, or in a small group, and study God’s word, but I really wanted something that I could truly grab onto — something deeper than a quick devotional, more meaningful than what’s usually on the shelf, yet still doable in the middle of real life. Most of all, I wanted it to be honest, without watering down or ignoring hard truths.

After much prayer about where to take this project, these **Daily Moments of Discernment** are the result. I pray that these short, standalone moments point you straight back to Scripture and help you live **Safe in Christ** — free from the snares that easily entangle us (Proverbs 29:25).

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him. And, may I continue to learn and grow as I create each one.

Thank you for supporting this project!

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the 2001 ESV translation.

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