

When Fear Takes Over

On August 14, 1989, *Time* magazine reported the sad story of a man from East Detroit who died of fear. He had taken a number of fur-trapping expeditions over the years and had been bitten by his share of ticks. Then he heard about Lyme disease, which is carried by deer ticks, in particular. He became obsessed with the fear that he had been bitten in the past by a tick with the disease and that he had passed the disease to his wife.

Doctors tested him and assured him he did not have Lyme disease and that, even if he did, the disease was virtually impossible to transmit to his wife. But the man didn't believe the doctors. Paranoid, because of the disease, the man killed his wife and then himself.

Police found the man's mailbox jammed with material describing Lyme disease and a slip confirming a doctor's appointment for yet another Lyme disease test.

Fear distorts a person's sense of reality. It consumes a person's energy and thoughts. Fear controls.

Studies show that the great majority of things that we fear and worry about never come to pass. It is important for all of us to remember that God is in charge of this world, and that even death itself is not to be feared if we have a right relationship with Him through His Son. In that way, we can live confident, victorious lives.

--Beecher Hunter