We naturally think that the opposite of love is hate, and that the opposite of fear is courage. In reality, fear and love are the real opposites.

In the battle of love versus fear, love always wins.

When fear drives you...

- You keep your distance from God for fear of judgment.
- You’re afraid to embrace the real you.
- You keep your distance from people, too.

1 John 4:16-21 NLT

16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other because he loved us first. 20 If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? 21 And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

When fear drives you, you avoid God out of fear of his judgment, but...

1. Love compels us to draw near to God.

Romans 8:1 NLT

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.
When fear drives you, you’re afraid to face your own brokenness, but...

2. Love enables us to embrace our true identity in Christ.

Romans 2:4 NLT
Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

When Lucy wanted to know of Aslan, the Lion and King of Narnia, she asked Mr. Beaver if he was “safe…”

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

It isn't safe to approach God, but it's good. HE is good. And his purpose is always to turn us from our life of sin to life in him!

When fear drives you, you keep walls up with people

3. Love motivates us to get close to others.

And that’s the only way to find your purpose and make a difference in the world - putting yourself out there to love others.

What are you afraid of?
- God’s judgment?
- The pain of facing your brokenness?
- The fear of people?

Love casts out fear! It pins it to the mat and holds it down for the count.

Sometimes the most awesome and loving thing you can do is simply walk across the room, or across the street, and share a little life with people.