

## “DO NOT FEAR”

When you are in authority over someone, can you demand obedience from that person(s)? Is it right to make that demand? What is your motive in making this demand?  
(feedback)

We are all under God’s authority. Does He demand obedience? Does He have a right to make that demand? What is His motive?  
(feedback)

So, with this in mind, please listen to one of God’s “demands” or more appropriately defined, “commands.”

**Is. 41:10** NASB

*Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

The command “DO NOT FEAR” is found several hundreds of times in the Bible. Something very important is being addressed, right? When you hear that because you are a Christian you will face persecution, how does your mind react? How does your soul react? When you hear about “conflict”, “testing”, “temptation”, “trials”, “tribulation”, “end times,” “death,” what is your reaction? Do you immediately arm yourself for battle or do you freeze?

I would guess that we have some common responses to these words and their implications for our personal wellbeing. As much as we may hate to admit it, our natural response may be fear or even panic. Did you notice I used the word “natural” response? The natural man is fear-filled! He sees loss of power, position or wealth as disastrous. The natural man sees the end of life as the true end! The natural man does not recognize the great power of the promises of God to see beyond the circumstance and situation into our eternal security!

Remember being taught that humans respond to fear with either “fight” or “flight”? When we face a spiritual battle, our human side wants to flee. When we give in to this, how do we escape? Here are several ways: **Denial** - We don’t acknowledge the battle, that is, we bury our heads in the sand and refuse to engage, content to react to circumstances and situations rather than be proactive. **Avoidance** - We think we can circumvent God’s sovereign will by avoiding situations that will engage us in battle. **Desertion** - we try to let ourselves off the hook by seeking others to do battle for us.

But, even though our natural tendency is flight, God most often commands us to fight! As many of you noticed, the spiritual armor we have been given lacks protection of our backside! We are to be in a frontal attack!

We are at risk of defeat every single day! The battle for full confidence in Christ’s truth is raging. We are in a battle with an enemy determined to destroy our trust in God. WE ALL ARE AT RISK- no one who is a child of the King of Kings living in this fallen world escapes!

That is why the command not to fear is found so often in the Word of God! He knows us! He knows what we are up against! He knows the enemy. Jesus Christ faced off with the enemy on the cross! In the flesh, He experienced agony, rejection, betrayal, pain, taunting, separation and death!

This is the real deal! We have a real enemy!

So, dear sisters, do we fight or do we flee? How can we follow the command, “Do not fear?”

This scriptural command is direct and can also be worded as “Be courageous and do not fear,” “Do not be dismayed”, “Fear not”, “Do not be anxious.”

There is no concession. God doesn’t say, “Try your best to be strong and courageous” or “attempt to curb your fear” or even “run!” but rather, **“DO NOT FEAR.”**

There is one facet of fear I want to be sure to address. It is subtle and insidious. Webster’s dictionary defines “fear” this way: “to be afraid of; worried”. Worry is fear-based, is it not? Have we fooled ourselves to think that worry is not an expression of fear?

(Read the poem, **“Whatifs”** by Shel Silverstein. We can insert any of our own “Whatifs” into the poem.)

The solution? Listen as I read the first eleven verses of Psalm 37:

- 1 Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;*
- 2 For like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.*
- 3 Trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.*
- 4 Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this:*
- 6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the  
dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.*
- 7 Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.*
- 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret—it leads only to evil.*
- 9 For those who are evil will be destroyed,  
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the  
land.*
- 10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look for them, they will not be  
found.*
- 11 But the meek will inherit the land  
and enjoy peace and prosperity.*

(Exercise: underline all commands and circle all promises.)

Webster’s has another definition for “fear”, that is “to have a reverential awe of <fear God>”? This is the fear we should have! This right, reverential awe of God, this righteous fear manifests itself in a very different way from being worried, afraid or filled with trepidation!

Let’s take time to consider what reverential fear looks like: Abraham preparing to sacrifice Isaac, Noah building an ark while living among the godless, Moses speaking before Pharaoh, Caleb & Joshua opposing the people at the gateway to the promised land, David before Goliath, Esther appearing before the king uninvited, Isaiah before Jezebel and the prophets of Baal, Daniel in the lion’s den, Hezekiah standing up to the Assyrians, Mary, unmarried but willingly carrying the redeemer in her womb, John the Baptist standing up to the Pharisees and to King Herod, Stephen speaking truth to the Jewish leaders, Paul before Agrippa, and so on.

Are you any less a cherished child of God than these are? Do you have a lesser God? Are the words of truth that girded these people any less powerful for us? Do we have fewer promises than they did?

Let's look at biblical empowerment to identify with what God says about us and our ability to defeat fear:

Exodus records all the signs the Lord performed in Egypt, to encourage the people to have faith in Him. He took them through the desert to the land He had promised them. Moses sent 12 men to spy the Promised Land and although they all brought back factual information, only Joshua and Caleb returned with faith in God to give it to them. The children of Israel let fear paralyze them; their faith in God faltered. For their great sin they wandered 40 years and perished in the desert.

Now a new generation is being prepared to take the Promised Land. They had not personally experienced the miracles in Egypt, but they had the law and retelling of the story, and they saw the generation die out as God had said they would.

Deuteronomy 7 (NASB)

**7** *"When the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, 2 and when the Lord your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them."*

Let's insert Deut. 7:17 here:

**17** *"If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?' 18 you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: 19 the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid."*

Going back to verse 6, God gives the people an assurance that they **can** go forward without fear.

**For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.**

**7** *"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

Now the time has come for the new generation to experience the miraculous protection and provision as they prepare to step into the land with Joshua leading them.

**Joshua 1: 1-9**

**1** *Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, 2 "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do*

*not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

What do you find in common with these two scriptural examples?  
(feedback)

Do you not have access to the power of God to “*have success wherever you go*” and is God with us wherever we go? **Joshua 1:7&9**? Is not God the “*Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments?*”

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

Davra shared good news with you yesterday! You are precious to God! To defeat fear, you must believe this! TRUTH defeats fear! You have it, sisters! Listen!

**God commands us not to fear because he has equipped us not to fear! God seeks to be glorified and He gives us the privilege of reflecting this glory!**

**This heavenly battle is not about us, but it does involve us. Again, it is not about us but about God’s glory! And here is the wonder of it all, we have the privilege of being involved in it! With this comes the privilege of bearing God’s love, God’s power, God’s might, God’s purity, and on and on. We get to be image bearers of the almighty God! Oh, glory!**

When I read the following scripture, I decided to set it as a standard for defeating fear. The order of God’s instruction to the church has great significance:

**Revelation 2:10** *Do not **fear** what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.*

Here is the order of Jesus’ command:

First, “*do not fear.*” God says this before declaring what will be coming, what we might call “bad news” - imprisonment, testing, tribulation.

Second, “*be faithful until death.*” This is followed with a promise - the crown of life.

Third, “*let him hear.*” A promise of no harm by the second death is made to those who have faith in His words

I must ask myself, is the crown of life of more value to me than the loss of any of the good gifts God has given me for this life on earth? Can I surrender my husband, my children, my intellect, my “whatever” to this Good God who has given me the privilege of calling “Father?” Do I have an eternal perspective?

So, dear sisters, do we trust in the promise that we will never suffer the second death that is eternal separation from God? Do we hold on to the promise that we are adopted into the kingdom of God and are a precious possession that cannot be taken away from God? Can we act on that belief?

If you believe that God is in authority over you, and you believe that God is holy and true, can you believe what God says about you, that you are precious! Can you believe that God has given you everything you need to be a reflection of his glory? God will uphold you in his right hand, the very place where you will be seated with Christ for eternity. See yourself seated on the throne with Jesus, right now, this very minute!

**Job 36:7** *“He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But with kings on the throne He has seated them forever, and they are exalted.*

**Revelation 3: 20** *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

The Hebrew term for “proverb” means a comparison used for sage or moralistic pronouncement (wisdom). The following proverb sums up what traps us in fear and we must do to dispel fear - we must trust in God and understand that our safe place is not in this world, but in heaven.

**Proverbs 29:25**

*The fear of man brings a snare,  
But whomever trusts in the Lord shall be safe. (“safe” - “set on high”)*

Let’s conclude our lesson with an exhortation to claim victory over fear, holding on to the promise of eternal life! It is a gift of love to a precious woman - you!

**Psalm 27**

**13** *I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.*

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**Additional verses:**

**Philippians 4:9**

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Philippians 4:13**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**Matthew 10**

**30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. **32** “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

**John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be **fearful**

**Romans 8:15**

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to **fear** again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

**2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

**1 John 4:18**

There is no **fear** in love; but perfect love casts out **fear**, because **fear** involves punishment, and the one who **fears** is not perfected in love.