

No Fear



Fear - I'm sure all of us could confess to a little fear over something at one point or another, whether it's a fear of spiders, snakes, heights, childbirth, a child or spouse dying, or leaving us. You name it, there are a million and one reasons in this fallen world that we could be afraid. We fear everything from small things to the large, and Satan is good at holding us in bondage by that fear.

For some, fear may not be something you experience often, if at all. I always thought I was pretty fearless. "God was with me, who could be against me" kind of mentality. And then the Lord called me to do something I hadn't planned on doing, something that would stretch me, something that He could use to shape and mold, and to be perfectly honest, I was pretty content to stay as I was. But, He wasn't content to leave the work He had started in me unfinished. Warning: He's not content to leave you unfinished either. And so, He may call you to do something you thought you wouldn't, or He may shape and mold you in the everyday circumstances you live in, but we can know without any doubt, God isn't finished with us yet.

As God began to put the wheels in motion for Grace to Joy, I found myself behaving much like Moses. "Lord, I'm not eloquent enough. How am I qualified? What do I have to say that is relevant? I prefer to be part of a team, and not start this alone. There are so many other women's ministry sites out there, who would need one more?" Every excuse I could think of, I gave. Then He revealed that every question I had was rooted in fear. Fear of the responsibility, fear of the time involved, and yes, fear of rejection.

Fear is one of Satan's greatest tools to distract, and if we allow, to derail us from the track God has laid before us. My hearts desire has been, and will be, to follow hard after the Lord. To run the race set before me, and to run to win. Fear wasn't going to allow that to be the case, so I asked the Lord to show me how not to be fearful. Here is the writing in my journal that day:

"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....For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'" (Isaiah 41:10, 13 nasb)

And then I read, ***"And the Lord is the one who goes before you; He will be with you. He will not fail nor forsake you. Do not fear nor be dismayed."*** (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Then I penned these words:

*"Fear has no place in the heart of the one
who holds the hand of God Almighty.
Trust replaces fear, Faith removes fear,
and His perfect love casts out fear."*

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Think on that for a minute. Fear has no place in the heart of the one who holds His hand, why? Because He is the Almighty. There is no one greater than He. If we are holding on to Him He will protect, sustain, and deliver us from whatever situation comes our way. He alone is able to meet our every fear.

I encourage you to take time and search His word, find verses that speak to your fears of the day and keep them close before you. I can testify that He is faithful to relieve those fears as we trust Him, but only as we move forward, trusting Him.

Father, how precious and magnificent Your promises are to Your children. How sweet to know that we need not fear anything. I pray for those who might read this and think fearlessness is not a possibility in their situation. With You all things are possible. Praise You Sovereign and Omnipotent God. Lord, give them the assurance that You are with them, the reminder that Your Holy Spirit belongs to them if they belong to You. The fact that You have put within them the very power source needed to deal with any fear. Your grace is definitely sufficient for every need and Your perfect love casts out fear. Thank You Father for making that possible in Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.