



Don't Be
Afraid Of
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Fear is a lethal weapon the devil uses to steal, kill and destroy the Christian!

The trouble with fear is that it's like smallpox or the measles. Normally, you don't have just one little spot. They come in bunches. So does fear. You get one fear, then another, and another, and another, and another!

Almost all of us have been gripped by fear at some point in our lives. Fear may grip us, but we don't have to let it stay!

Charles and I were in a big DC-10 airplane on our way to Canada, and we had just taken off from the Houston airport when the plane apparently got caught in the tail end of a tornado. The plane tilted at such an angle I wondered if we were going to crash right into the ground on the left wing of the plane. For a moment there was real **fear** in my heart.

You should have seen the rest of the plane! There was panic! Suitcases came flying through the air. My purse went up, hit the ceiling of the plane and bounced back on my head. Everything

that wasn't tied down was sailing around the interior of the plane!

Fear gripped both Charles and me. . .for a moment.

What did we do? We immediately began to pray in the Spirit!

What happened? The fear **instantly** left. Why? Because we trusted God. The moment we began praying, fear disappeared! Fear and trust cannot exist at the same time. Praying in tongues was instantaneous for both of us, because we didn't think about how to pray, so our spirits prayed in an unknown tongue and God heard and answered!

Webster's dictionary says that fear is "a feeling of anxiety and agitation caused by the presence or nearness of danger, evil, pain, etc.; timidity; dread; terror; fright, apprehension. A feeling of uneasiness; disquiet; anxiety, concern."

We certainly did have a feeling of anxiety because of the "nearness of danger," but as soon as we realized where our trust was, fear couldn't stay.

Maybe in your life you are experiencing some of the most "common" fears such as death, getting old, sickness, failure, poverty, losing a mate, rejection. The list could be endless! If you have

any of these fears, get ready to get rid of them right now!

“Fear involves torment” (I John 4:18). This tool of the devil causes physical suffering, mental anguish and distress; it also brings terror, panic and horror. We discover we cannot think clearly or rationally when fear grips us. In fact, we may not be able to think at all!

Is there an answer to such devastating fear? What is **it**? Is there an antidote? There certainly is! When faith looks at a situation, fear disappears! “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!” (Romans 10:17).

God’s word has the answer to this kind of fear and also talks about a kind of fear that is good — the fear, or reverence, of God. The fear which brings torment does not belong in the Christian’s life because God has given us the answer!

We need to know and understand who we are in Christ in order to have peace in our lives. This knowledge, firmly embedded in our hearts, can dispel all the fear the devil tries to throw our way!

One of my favorite portions of scripture which reminds us of who we are in Christ, is I John 4:4-8. The Amplified Bible brings joy to your heart when

you meditate on these verses and realize what they say to YOU:

“Little children, you are of God — you belong to Him — and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world.”

That verse alone should dispel all the fear you could ever acquire! Now let’s examine some of the things it says and apply them to our own lives:

We are of God — we belong to Him! If we belong to God, we are His possession, and if we are His possession, He is going to take good care of us. We take good care of our possessions, don’t we? God is the same way! He cares about a sparrow that falls and even counts the number of hairs on our heads, so naturally He’s going to take good care of us. If He’s taking care of us, why should we worry about the devil and have fear? We belong to God! We don’t belong to the devil!

Jesus lives in us and is greater than anything outside of us! One of the things that will strengthen your life more than anything else concerning fear is to be constantly aware of the fact that Jesus is living in you! “Christ in you, the

hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Let that spirit in you rise up and say to the world, “Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!” Say it over and over and over until it begins to stick to your ribs and becomes embedded in your heart.

Say it to God!

Say it to yourself!

Say it to your family!

Say it to the walls!

Say it on the telephone every time it rings!

Say it in your bathtub!

Say it to your bed!

Say it! Say it! Say it! Say it until you’ve heard it often enough that you are thoroughly convinced that inside you lives that One who is greater and mightier than he that is in the world! Hallelujah!

We have already defeated and overcome the devil. How can we be afraid?

If we really love Jesus, our trust in Him will always exceed our fear of the devil.

When we confess that we have fear, we are saying the word of God is inaccurate and not true. We need to know what God’s word says so we can firmly plant our two feet on it. The Bible says we have already defeated and overcome the devil!

How can we be concerned and full of worry if we believe what God's word tells us, that we have already overcome? Let's act on victorious trust in God's protection, not on the devil-instilled fear that God cannot perform what He says!

This fabulous bit of scripture goes on to say, "We are [children] of God. Whoever is learning to know God progressively to perceive, recognize and understand God [by observation and experience] and to get an ever clearer knowledge of Him — listens to us; and he who is not of God does not listen or pay attention to us. By this we know (recognize) the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error."

We are children of God and can actually believe that we are when we get to know Him better. There is another wonderful key to finding freedom from fear. **Know** that you are a child of God. Know it, know it, know it! How do you know it? By getting to know **Him** better.

How do we get to know Him better and better? By reading His word over and over and over!

Everything you read in His word points to His love and care for you, but you can never KNOW

this until you read it and get it firmly fixed in your heart and mind!

I think of all the years I lived in this world, attended church and had a “precious” Bible. I wanted to take such good care of it that I never used it for fear I’d wear it out. No wonder I didn’t know what God had for me! I never bothered to find out. I was starving to death spiritually even though His whole basket of goodies was right there waiting for me to eat!

“Beloved, let us love one another; for love [springs] from God, and he who loves [his fellow men] is begotten (born) of God and is coming (progressively) to know and understand God — to perceive and recognize and get a better and clearer knowledge of Him” (I John 4:7 Amp).

Notice the words “know,” “get acquainted with,” “understand” and “knowledge of Him” mentioned in these two verses. These are the secrets to dispelling fear — getting as close to God as possible by spending time with Him in His word and in prayer. I think back to the times when I first became a Christian and read the Bible until two or three o’clock in the morning. Many nights I sat beside my printing press, watching it run, but

concentrating on the word of God and feeling the love that was pouring into me while I was getting acquainted with Him! These are still some of the most beautiful times in my life, and they will be in yours, too, when you are so immersed in the word of God that you are totally possessed by His wonderful love!

There is no short cut to knowing God and experiencing and feeling God's love. We must be with Him and let Him be in us, letting His love flow into us and through us. By doing this, we will overcome this fear that involves torment!

A woman called me on the telephone the other day and asked me to pray for her physical condition. I asked her what her problem was and she said, "Many!" She began to name a whole string of illnesses: colitis, ulcers, rash all over her body, sleeplessness, diarrhea, and biting her fingernails.

I said to her, "What are you afraid of? Why are you so fearful?" I knew it wouldn't do any good to minister healing to her body until we discovered the cause and removed it! Every single affliction she asked me to pray for was caused by

nervousness, anxiety, worry, being uptight — all of which were caused by fear!

After talking to her for a short while, she realized her problem had come from listening to the devil. He always wants to grab your mind and thoughts! She had received the baptism with the Holy Spirit three years previously in a glorious experience. Then the devil came around and told her it wasn't real!

This may be difficult for you to believe, but as a result of the devil telling her this lie, she had lived in fear of speaking in tongues or associating with anyone who did. She thought it was of the devil. She was afraid to open her mouth and praise God in her prayer language because the devil had told her for three years that she **couldn't** pray in tongues. She became completely convinced that it was an impossibility for her. She was unbelievably depressed and had apparently been this way for three long years of defeat, all because she failed to depend and stand on the word of God!

With a short, simple command, we cast out the spirit of fear. Immediately she started praying in tongues as the joy of the Lord came over her!

You might feel that this was a very insignificant thing to be afraid of, but the fear that is **the worst in the whole world is the fear that attaches itself to you.** It might seem to be nothing to someone else, but when fear has hooked its claws into you, regardless of what it is, it will become a huge, overwhelming, overpowering force in your life until you learn what God has to say about fear!

I had no sooner hung up the telephone when another call came in with almost the same hysteria. A woman, approximately *forty-five* years of age, thought her mind was going to snap. The devil had been hounding her with such thoughts as: “You *like* to talk about Hoover Dam and Boulder Dam because you *like* to curse. You just like the word “dam.” Then the devil continued, “Say it, say it, say it!”

Another day he would say, “You like to talk about your skin being damp, because if you don’t pronounce the last letter, you can swear and no one will know it!” Then he would start again saying, “Say it, say it, say it!”

I told her to pray a simple prayer with me, rebuking the works of the devil, and letting the

greater One who was in her rise up above the devil.

I reminded her that David said in Psalm 23, “I will fear no evil.” Why and how could he say that with such confidence? “For You are with me,” he proclaimed in that same Psalm! He stood on the promises of God and said he would fear absolutely NO evil.

You may say, “But David was never surrounded with the bad situation I’m in.” You may argue that his problems never compared with yours. Are you sure of that? He says in Psalm 3:6, “I will not be afraid of **ten thousands of people** who have set themselves against me all around.” The Living Bible says, “Although ten thousand enemies surround me on every side, I **am not afraid!**”

Why wasn’t he afraid? He gives the answer in other verses in Psalm 3: “But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for **the Lord sustained me.**” David really loved God and showed it by trusting Him.

Have you ever had ten thousand enemies surround you on every side? Then your problem couldn't be as bad as David's problem because he was loaded with enemies all over the place. The thing I love so much about his answer is that he simply gave the problem to God and went to sleep! Glory!

Most of us would have stayed awake all night worrying about the problem, but David knew when he cried out to God that He heard him, so he just went to bed and relaxed! That's the greatest way to get rid of fear that I know of — just give it to God and then let Him handle the problem.

A scripture that recently came alive to me concerning fear is in the fourteenth chapter of Exodus. I especially like it in the Living Bible. Moses had led the Israelites out of Egypt and the Egyptian army was chasing them. As I visualized all these chariots and charioteers, horses and people coming pell mell after the Israelites, I can understand why they complained and murmured to Moses. They were just plain scared! I probably would have been scared, too, if I had been looking at the circumstances with them instead of looking at the answer!

Moses said an interesting thing to his people: “Don’t be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch, and you will see the wonderful way the Lord will rescue you today. The Egyptians you are looking at — you will never see them again. The Lord will fight for you, and you won’t need to lift a finger!” (vs. 13). What he was really saying to them was to **put their trust in God and not look at the problem!** They didn’t realize that not only was God on the scene already, but a host of angels was there to defeat the foe.

I love what God said then, “Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward, march!” (vs. 15). God’s answer was a plan that involved action! He told them not to just sit there and wait for disaster to overtake them, but to get moving! Hallelujah! This is what we need to do in our own lives; let God answer us and then get moving out of the realm of fear into the realm of faith, because God will never let you down when you are doing what He tells you to do! “You will see the wonderful way the Lord will rescue you today.” Too many times we sit and bemoan our problems instead of moving out for God in order to give Him an opportunity to solve our problems!

God is not on the defensive.

God is on the offensive!

God likes action!

The devil tries delay tactics all the time! He wants us to sit down and cry and have a real “pity party” for ourselves. He wants us to talk to all our friends about how afraid we are of the future and what it holds for us instead of standing on the promises of God and knowing who holds the future! The devil makes fearful Christians waste their time by trying to get someone to counsel with them, or at least listen to them, instead of moving out. **Forward, march!**

The devil delays; God moves!

Probably the greatest fear in the world today is the fear of failure. At a recent meeting, we asked everyone to stand who had fear of poverty, old age, cancer or losing a husband or wife. Many people stood. But when we asked the final question, “How many of you have a fear of failure?” approximately ninety-five percent of the audience stood! What a shocking revelation at a meeting of Christians to have that many of them admit they have a fear of failure.

The greatest over comer of fear is the word of God. We need to sharpen that two-edged sword, because “...the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). When we keep that sword sharp, we can chop fear into tiny little pieces they really didn’t know, but we praise God that and scatter it to the four winds. Fear has no right to be in the heart of a believer!

Those who are fearful often blame a lack of time for not reading the word of God and learning the promises they can stand on, but they will take all the time in the world to discuss their fears with anyone who will listen to them.

God’s word says, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29). We certainly don’t do much edifying, do we, when all we talk about is fear? And did you ever think how corrupt our communication is when we talk about how fearful we are? How much

better for the hearers when we let them know that we know who we are in Christ!

Fear comes into our lives when we don't know what we have in Christ, or when we don't know our actual inheritance from God. The minute you discover who you are, you will begin to have victory over the fear of failure.

I recently wrote a letter to a number of people who had written us pages and pages of their troubles and problems. Almost all of them related to fear. I wrote and told them to take all their fears, doubts and unbelief and write them down on a sheet of paper. Then at the bottom I instructed them to write the following: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Try it yourself. Get a piece of paper right now and write on it the fears you have in your life.

Make the list as long as you need to. Write down every one of your fears, big and small! At the bottom of the page, write in big, bold letters, **"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us!"** (Romans 8:37).

When you've finished that, you might even want to burn the list, just to let the devil know those fears don't exist any more!

God's word doesn't allow room for failure. Over and over He gives us the prescription for total deliverance from fear and worry. Another of my favorite scriptures as an antidote to fear of failure is Proverbs 16:3 in the Amplified Bible: "Roll your works upon the Lord — commit and trust them wholly to Him; [He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed."

Did you ever go bowling or watch someone else bowl? You use a ball which has three holes for your fingers. You stand at one end of a long wooden freeway, and try to knock down the "pins" at the other end of the lane. Everyone gets all excited when you knock them all down!

The secret in bowling is to let the ball go right down the center path (with a slight curve) and it's done! You can't knock the pins down with the ball still in your hand!

The same secret holds true in "rolling your works upon the Lord" — this means to **let go** of

the load you've been carrying and throw it on the Lord. **Turn it loose!**

The next step is so important — “commit and trust them wholly to Him.” Isn't that difficult sometimes? After we've let go we begin to wonder if we can trust God for the answers! Did you ever feel like you wanted to run down the alley after the bowling ball? That's what a lot of us do with problems — we give them to God and then run after them as fast as we can to take them back! The Bible is so simple and specific in telling us to commit and trust our problems “wholly” to Him, not just half way, but **all the way!**

Watch what happens when you do! “He will cause your thoughts (God works in your mind) to become agreeable to His will.” Do you see what happens when you give your mind and your fears to God? He causes your mind to become agreeable to His will instead of arguing with Him. Then, look at the wonderful promise; “and so shall your plans be established and succeed.”

There's your secret for success! If you believe the word of God to be true and obey what it says, there is no way you can be a failure because God's

word promises that your plans shall be established and succeed!

Failure and success don't go together, and fear and faith aren't dating either!

God said in Genesis 26:24 (Amplified), "Fear not for I am with you, and will favor you with blessings." The Living Bible adds, "...because of my promise." He can be trusted! He will be with us! He is true to His wonderful word! Hallelujah!

One of the most beautiful antidotes for the fear of failure is found in the first chapter of Psalms at the very end of the third verse. It says, "and whatever he does shall prosper." How can we ever anticipate failure when God's word promises us that everything we do is going to prosper? We need to confess that over and over until we have prosperity rolling in our doors in such great measure that we don't have room to contain it! That's God's way! That's what God wants!

If success is what you need, take God's prescription listed in Deuteronomy 1:21: "Look, the Lord your God **has set the land before you**; go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you; **do not fear or be discouraged.**"

That's an order from God! He's ordering you to go out and possess the things He has for you! He's saying to you, "Go get your inheritance. Go possess what I've given to you. Go get what is rightfully yours!" God gives simple instructions because He tells us that we are not to fear and neither are we to be discouraged. Being discouraged is the same as telling God we don't believe what He says, and that we are going to be disobedient.

We need to begin confessing God's word! When the day comes that we learn to confess the word of God instead of the lies of Satan, it will be a great day of victory for us and a great day of rejoicing for the Lord. His word says, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). It doesn't make any difference who is against us because we're children of the King!

Memorize Romans 10:9-10, ". . .that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation."

Confession is made unto success or failure, whichever you choose.

Confessing fear will bring fear.

Confessing God's word will make the Bible a reality. I guarantee that if you line up your life with the word of God, the word of God will line up with your life!

“Say to them that are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; He will come and save you” (Isaiah 35:4). That's a personal word from the Lord just for you!

Where does fear start? Many times we instill fear in our children as it was instilled in us, and then it continues throughout their lifetime. How many times have we said to our children, “Watch out or the ‘boogey’ man will get you!” Or have we said, “If you don't behave, I'll put you in the closet where it's dark!” Darkness then becomes a thing to fear.

Telling ghost stories was the “in” thing when I was growing up. Everyone tried to come up with the most gory, gruesome story possible to “scare” everybody else. We actually put a value and excitement on fear.

I often look at our granddaughter, Charity, and think of the way her parents have raised her. On Halloween when she was two years old, many of the children in the neighborhood came by dressed in costumes grotesque enough to scare even the most calm individual. When Charity became frightened and ran behind her mother, Joan said, “Honey, you don’t have to be afraid because the angels have charge over you!”

Psalm 91:11 says, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” Charity now has no fear because she knows what the Bible says, and she often states, “The angels have charge over me!” What a confession for a two-year-old child to make! That’s the confession we **all** need to make. When the devil tries to put fear in us, we need to accept and then confess the protection of the angels over us.

Don’t confess the devil’s power — confess God’s word!

Someone recently gave us some Bible markers which had twenty-two different colored ribbons. We laid these down on our desk. When Charity visited us, she immediately spotted them, put one in each hand and started running through the house

with the ribbons flying in the air as she said, “He’s alive! He’s alive! He’s alive!”

How we praise God that as young as she was, her thoughts were on Jesus! She’ll never think of Jesus as dead. To her, “He’s alive!”

How we wish that all Christians would excitedly proclaim the same message with banners flying. We asked her parents where she learned this. They said somewhere in her mind had been imprinted the fact that **He’s alive!**

Fear exists when we don’t sincerely and honestly believe that Jesus is alive and capable of handling all of our affairs better than we could.

Doubt and the devil go hand in hand. When doubt comes in, we don’t think God is big enough to take care of us, so fear has us where the devil wants us. Fear is only the absence of trust in God. If you really love Jesus, you will not live in fear.

When we have been raised in and have lived in an atmosphere of fear, how do we get over it — especially when we’re past our childhood days? There’s only one way I know and that’s to start confessing and possessing the word of God.

Fear of not knowing our standing with God can be so easily taken care of by a simple prayer. Say

right now, “Father, I have things in my life that make me afraid of my eternal destiny. Please forgive my sins and cleanse me. I promise to quit doing anything displeasing to You as soon as I know it is wrong. I know You will let me know in my heart instantly when I am not pleasing You. Thank You for forgiving me and thank You for the peace You promise when I obey You.”

Where do we go from here? The answer is simple! We need to possess the promises of God, so, like God told the children of Israel, we can go in and possess the land!

“I believe You want me to possess my rights as Your child, Father, so right now, by faith, I possess peace from all fear, especially the fear of death. I have the power and desire to obey Your every wish, and therefore I have full rights as Your child to enjoy total peace and freedom from all fear! I really love You!”

The Bible distinguishes between two kinds of fear. One is the negative fear we’ve been talking about, but the other is a necessary “fear” — godly fear. This “fear” is a reverence toward God, an attitude of awe and wonder at God’s greatness and His marvelous ways. It means to honor, obey,

respect, reverence and worship God. God seeks only good for His children and certainly nothing evil. The Holy Spirit reveals God as our loving Father, and a holy fear (or respect) of God is the result of our walking “in truth.” This type of fear is not the frightening kind of fear but is connected only with respect or awe.

When we have this fear (or awe) of God, we possess peace, joy, contentment and serenity.

To be afraid of God means we don't really know and understand Him, or that we are rebelling against Him and have reason to be afraid. This negative fear destroys the peace we could possess.

When sin in our lives creates fear in us, the thing to do is confess that sin to God and ask forgiveness for it right then and there! “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). To continue living in rebellion puts us in constant fear of what would happen to us if we died. Psychologists say that fear of death is one of the most common fears. It is not actually the fear of death itself, but fear of what will happen to us after we die!

The word “possess” means to have, to hold, to occupy, to enjoy, to own, to command, to inherit, to acquire, to retain, to belong to, to pertain to, to be in one’s possession. We need to have God’s promises in our hearts, hold onto them with our spirits and let them occupy our thoughts, so we can enjoy life. When we possess the promises of God, we can speak them boldly, in commanding tones, because we have inherited, through salvation, all of God’s promises. We have acquired and will retain them because they belong to us and pertain to us and are in our possession as long as we act upon them.

One of the best confessions against fear (which I would recommend you memorize) is found in the first six verses of the twenty-seventh Psalm: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; Though war should rise against me, In this I will be confident.

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.”

When you feast on the promises in these verses, fear has to disappear. If you have a fear in your life right now, say over and over again, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?”

The enemies that come around you to eat up your flesh are all sent by the devil. Watch what happens to them when you rely on and live by the word of God. The second verse says that when they came upon you to eat up your flesh, they fell right down! Why? Because God cares for you and is protecting you!

Even if an entire army encamps against you, you don't have to fear! Even if war should rise against you, you can be confident that the Lord is

your light and your salvation and you have **nothing, nothing, nothing** to fear!

Fear can come when we are afraid of being hurt emotionally. The Bible says, “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). Say that over and over and over until it is as much a part of you as your eyes so you will know that nothing shall by any means hurt you. The Bible promises that *nothing* shall hurt you! Fear can’t reach you as long as you are believing and living by the word of God!

It’s amazing how our mouths can lead us right into the pit of hell through fear. Matthew 12:37 says, “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” If you speak fear, you will be full and overflowing with horrible, condemning fear. Those same lips can form the right words and you will be justified. Hallelujah! We need to be careful of the things we say because we call into being those things which are not as though they were. This applies to both the good and bad. I prefer to call into being the things of God, how about you?

Freedom from fear comes so easily if we will listen to the words of Jesus, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31,32). Nothing but the truth can set you free, and to find that freedom we need to stay in His word at all times.

I love the words of an old favorite hymn, **Standing On the Promises**. It says, “Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt **and** fear assail.” Christians often have doubt and say, “Will God really do this? Will God really do that?” Remember, you can stand on the promises of God! Don’t look at the circumstances, look at Jesus because God’s word has never failed.

“And the word grew and prevailed.” When you hide the word of God in your heart, that word is going to grow and grow and grow until the word prevails over the circumstances. You can look at situations that don’t look good, but if you stand on His promises, I’ll guarantee those promises will come true.

Anything that is not of faith is sin. (See Romans 14:23). Is fear of faith? No, fear and faith are at

opposite ends of the pole, so when fear remains in your life, it is sin! No one wants to sin so let's agree with God all the way that His perfect love casts out ALL fear.

Recently we were visiting a Canadian church. Nobody knew we were going to be there. The pastor had just extended an invitation to us on Saturday night and we told him we would love to share since we were not speaking until Sunday afternoon. When we walked in, the pastor asked Charles to go someplace with him. I was left alone for a few minutes in the narthex of the church.

I was standing there looking out the door at the deep snow when one of the ushers walked up to me, introduced himself and said, "There is an aura that surrounds you. I saw it when you walked in." He paused a moment, and then continued, "You really know who you are, don't you?"

I said, "I certainly do know who I am in Christ! I have overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of my testimony. I am a joint heir with Jesus. The Lord is my shepherd, and because of this I shall not want for anything! Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the

world! I'm a child of the King! That's who I am!"
Praise God, it shows!

Christians need not be cringing slaves of fear. We need to throw our shoulders back and let the world know we've got something special and know who we are! Not in ourselves but in Christ! When you know exactly who you are in Christ, that knowledge will drive fear right out of your life.

Here are some words that will warm your heart. "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalms 34:1). If the praise of God is continually in your mouth, you can't be shouting the praises of the devil, can you? That's what you're doing when you have fear! You're just shouting the praises of the devil and telling the world that he is greater than God! God is greater!

"My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it, and be glad" (vs. 2). Who are you going to boast about? The devil or God? You can't do both, and if you're busy telling the world what the Lord has done for you, you won't have time to tell them about the fear you think you have in your life.

“O **magnify** the Lord with **me**, and let **us exalt** His name together” (vs. 3). That’s right. Get someone to magnify the Lord with you. If you don’t, Satan will have hundreds of cohorts ready to sympathize with you and agree with you about your fear!

Then look what God promises, “I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (vs. 4). That’s right. You boast in the Lord, you magnify the Lord, and He will hear you and by this praise you will be delivered of all your fears! That’s what you have in Jesus — deliverance from **all** fears.

Here’s something special for you out of the Amplified Bible: “Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear, revere and worship You, goodness which You have wrought for those who trust and take refuge in You before the sons of men! In the secret of Your presence You hide them from the plots of men; You keep them secretly in Your pavilion. . .“ (Psalm 31:19,20). Hallelujah, I am secretly hidden in God; nothing can get to me!

Another great scripture for any person who is troubled with fear is, “For God has not given us

the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7). Say this over and over and over until you possess it! That’s what God’s word has to say about fear. What has God given us to possess? Power, love and a **sound mind!** Glory!

POWER ... authority, might and strength from God (Luke 4:6; II Corinthians 4:7),

... from on high (Luke 24:49),

... to become the sons of God (John 1:12), that works in us to perform exceeding and abundant things (Ephesians 3:20),

... that destroyed Satan who once had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14),

... that keeps us through our faith (I Peter 1:4,5)

... which gives to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through knowing (there’s the need to know) Him. (II Peter 1:3),

... over the nations — that means over everything in our world or life; “And he who overcomes and keeps My works until the end, to him will I give power...” (Revelation 2:26).

Love... the antidote for fear ... casts out fear (I John 4:18).

Mind... We have the sound mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).

God shall keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus, our Lord (Philippians 4:7).

There are others. What are they? Look them up. Write them down, share them with someone.

The words “fear not” are mentioned 355 times in the Bible, one for almost every day of the entire year! Here are a few of them:

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: **‘Fear not**, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you **are mine**’” (Isaiah 43:1).

“Also I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; **do not fear** the gods of the Amorites (heathen, the pagans, the enemy), in whose land you dwell’” (Judges 6:10).

“Then the Lord said to Joshua: **‘Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed;** take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up’” (Joshua 8:1).

“And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; **do not fear, for I am with you.** I will bless you’” (Genesis 26:24).

“**...do not be afraid;** I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” (Revelation 1:17,18).

“**Do not** fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

“**Fear not,** O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the Lord has done marvelous things! **Do not be afraid...**” (Joel 2:21,22).

Do you realize that is only eight of the total number that appear in the Bible? That should give you an idea of what God is saying to you — “Fear not, fear not, fear not! Don’t have fear, trust me.”

Exodus 14:13 says in the Living Bible, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch and you will see the wonderful way the Lord will rescue you **today.**” He’s telling you to hang loose and not to get uptight with fear.

When you're afraid of failure, read I Chronicles 28:20 in the Living Bible: "Be strong and courageous and get to work. Don't be frightened by the size of the task, for the Lord my God is with you: He will not forsake you. He will see to it that everything is finished correctly!"

I love Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore **will not we** fear, though the earth be removed (what can be more earth-shattering?) and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.. . God is in the midst.. .The Lord of hosts is with us... Be still and know that I am God. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is **our** refuge."

Praise the Lord, we don't even have to worry if the world blows up with a bomb of one kind or another, and the whole earth falls into the sea. Hallelujah! God says that He will be in our midst and that we have nothing to **fear**.

Did you ever have **everything** go wrong at one time? Well, I did, and maybe this story will deliver

you from the fear that the devil's going to win the battle.

One day it seemed like our world was falling apart! We were having all kinds of personnel problems in our office, we ran into complications in our bank loan for a new building, our road secretary quit, and the devil was having a field day.

We had gone to the bank to sign the final papers for the loan and something had come up that held back the loan. Charles and I sat outside the bank and my heart was crying out to God. I said, "God, have You forgotten all about us? What have we done wrong that You don't answer our prayers any more? Is there something wrong with us? I can hardly pray. God, where are You? Don't You really love us any more?"

Then I said to Charles, "Honey, remember when there was just the two of us and God did miracles? We didn't have all these problems? What happened?"

Never have I ever had such a circumstantial down since I became a Christian, because it really seemed like the devil was going to win the battle. I got in the car to drive across town to get some

papers signed. When I started my car, I heard my own voice reading the Living Psalms. (The tape recorder automatically came on in our car when we started the engine.)

The 77th Psalm came on. Read what it says, “I cry to the Lord; I call and call to him. Oh, that he would listen. I am in deep trouble and I need his help so badly. All night long I pray, lifting my hands to heaven, pleading. There can be no joy for me until he acts. I think of God and moan, overwhelmed with longing for his help. I cannot sleep until you act. I am too distressed even to pray.

“I kept thinking of the good old days of the past, long since ended. Then my nights were filled with joyous songs. I search my soul and meditate upon the difference now. Has the Lord rejected me forever? Will he never again be favorable? Is his loving kindness gone forever? Has his promise failed? Has he forgotten to be kind to one so undeserving? Has he slammed the door in anger on his love?

“And I said: This is my fate, that the blessings of God have changed to hate. I recall the many miracles he did for me so long ago. Those

wonderful deeds are constantly in my thoughts, I cannot stop thinking about them.”

Did you hear the very words I had cried out to God? They were the same ones David cried out, and Jesus cried out as He went to the cross! God knew what I needed!

The cassette came to the end and I flipped it over. Listen to what came on next from the 56th Psalm (vs. 9), “The very day I call for help, the tide of battle turns. My enemies flee! This one thing I know; **God is for me!** I am **trusting** God — oh, praise his promises! I am not afraid of anything mere man can do to me! Yes, praise his promises.”

My heart leaped! God was reassuring me that the tide of the battle had turned. God was reassuring me that there was no reason for me to have fear, because He was for me—He was for us — He was for **Hunter Ministries!** Hallelujah! The tide of the battle turned! God smoothed out the problems and everything started going ahead full speed.

Nothing, nothing, **nothing** can take the place of the word of God when you’re having problems! The fear of everything going wrong immediately

left me when I heard my own voice coming back at me saying, “This one thing I know — **God is for me!**”

And He is for **you!!**

Say it out loud!

“GOD IS FOR ME”

“GOD IS FOR ME!”

“GOD IS FOR ME”

“GOD IS FOR ME”