WHEN FEAR SPEAKS, ANSWER WITH THE WORD

A 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL

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Introduction

Beloved, you have a Father. That is where these readings begin. Before you consider what might happen tomorrow, give attention to what God has revealed about your life in Christ. You belong to Him. His Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are His child, and you can approach Him with confidence (Romans 8:15–16).

Fear may press a question upon your thoughts: What will happen to me? Let the Word govern your answer. The Father Himself loves you (John 16:27). You can bring a concern before Him, examine what you have been thinking and take the step His Word makes clear. Your response proceeds from your place in His family.

Give attention to the Word

Take one reading each day, with your Bible open. Read the key Scripture and the further-study passages in their setting. Notice what God has said, whom the passage addresses and the response it calls for. The teaching will help you bring that truth into the particular matter before you.

Speak the confession with understanding. Answer the reflection honestly, pray to the Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and act on the practical direction. You may find it useful to keep a short written record of the concern, the Scripture you have considered and the action you will take. Two brief notes near the end explain expressions used in the first two readings.

Walk forward with confidence

These seven days move from the assurance of the Father's love to the thoughts you entertain, the peace of God, the renewing of your mind and the action of faith. They also give attention to encouragement within the body of Christ. Receive the help of trusted people as you apply the Word.

When you finish the seventh reading, continue with the Scriptures that have spoken clearly to the situation you face. Return to them in prayer and in the decisions of your day. The Father is faithful. Let His Word have the final place in your response.

DAY ONE

You Have a Father

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Romans 8:15 (KJV)

Fear asks, "What will happen to me?" The Word first answers, "Remember whose you are." You have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear. You have received the Spirit of adoption, and by Him you call God Father. Your standing with Him is not established by how calm you feel today. You belong to Him because you are in Christ.

The Lord Jesus has given us confidence concerning the Father. The Father Himself loves you. When an unwelcome thought comes, do not allow it to introduce your Father to you. Let the Word tell you who He is. Bring the matter before Him, and make your next decision from the assurance that you are His child.

CONFESSION

I am a child of God. My Father loves me, and His Spirit bears witness with my spirit that I belong to Him.

REFLECTION

What thought has been speaking more loudly to me than the Father's love?

PRAYER

Father, thank You that I belong to You and can come to You with confidence. In the Name of the Lord Jesus, amen.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read Romans 8:15–16 aloud. Write one sentence about your Father from the passage and return to it today.

FURTHER STUDY

Romans 8:15–16; John 16:27