BE FEARLESS

OVERCOMING FEAR THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

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Introduction

Fear can influence a person's life until he begins to accept its limitations as normal. He avoids responsibilities he could fulfil, remains silent when he should speak and continually expects something to go wrong. After a while, he may begin to describe himself according to the fear he has lived with.

Now, child of God, you must understand that the life you have received in Christ gives you a different understanding of yourself. You belong to God. His Word reveals who you are and shows you how to respond to the things around you.

The Bible says:

> **"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."**
>
> 2 Timothy 1:7, KJV

Paul wrote these words while reminding Timothy to stir up the gift of God in him. Timothy had a responsibility to fulfil, and he

was to carry it out from what God had already given him. Even in the presence of opposition, he could continue serving the Lord.

That understanding is important for you too. What God has given you must become part of how you assess your life and approach your responsibilities. You can learn to respond with confidence in Him.

Fear has sometimes been illustrated by the expression “False Evidence Appearing Real”. Those words describe how an imagined outcome can become so convincing that a person begins responding as though it has already happened. Something he has heard or pictured in his mind begins to govern his expectations.

There are also real difficulties to face. People encounter opposition, receive troubling reports and carry responsibilities whose outcome they cannot see in advance. The Word gives us understanding through which we can face these things with faith and act wisely.

Jesus said:

> **“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”**
>
> John 16:33, KJV

Jesus spoke plainly about tribulation, and He gave His disciples reason for confidence in Him. His victory was to govern their understanding as they faced the world.

This is how you must learn to approach life. Understand what is before you while remaining conscious of what Christ has done and what you have received in Him.

What you continually hear and consider affects your expectations. You can become so occupied with reports of trouble that you begin to anticipate defeat in every part of your life. Through the renewing of your mind, you can learn to examine those thoughts and bring your understanding into agreement with God’s Word.

I have written this book to help you recognise the influence of fear and become established in the truth through which you can live boldly in Christ. As you read, give attention to what the Scriptures reveal. Allow their meaning to reach the way you think about yourself, the Father and the circumstances you face.

We will begin by examining the worldly patterns that influence people's thinking and learning how the Word renews our understanding. We will consider men whose confidence in God became evident in their actions, and see what their examples teach us about trust and obedience.

We will also look at how fear gains influence and how to address it through the Word, the knowledge of the Father's love and prayer in the Spirit. From there, we will become settled in the foundation of boldness: our place before the Father through Jesus Christ. That understanding is to find expression in the way we live.

You may recognise areas in which fear has influenced you. Bring those areas honestly before the Lord. Receive His instruction and

act upon what you learn. Finding yourself afraid does not change who you are in Christ; it identifies something to address from the knowledge of the life He has given you.

The Scripture says:

> **“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.”**
>
> Proverbs 28:1, KJV

You are righteous in Christ. God is your Father, and His Spirit lives in you. Give these truths their proper place in your understanding.

As you read, be ready to believe the Word and put it into practice. Let your confidence in the Father become evident in the responsibilities you fulfil and the way you respond to life.

You belong to God. Learn to live with that knowledge.

CHAPTER ONE

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLDLY SYSTEM