

UNTO THE END

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"BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE
SAVED" (MTH. 24:13)

Fear Not

By Bro. Brad

There is a message on my heart today that the church needs to embrace and begin to once again claim the place to which God has called us. God has called us as a church to be his representative on earth, but because we have allowed ourselves to be ruled by a spirit that does not come from God, we have not attained or accomplished those things God has asked us to do. The message today is very serious, and if we do not take control of this in our lives, it will eventually end up taking us out of the faith. The topic today is fear, and through fear it is quite possible that the devil has rendered more Christians helpless and ineffectual than any other method. And yet, as you will see, God's word is full of exhortations to not be in fear. It gives many reasons why this is, and when you pull back all of the reasons, we find that the reason we end up in fear is because unbelief is present within us. We are going to journey through the Bible to bring examples of fear and how God's people overcome. Again saints, this topic is serious; if you are serious about following God, you will do well to consider what is written in this exhortation.

We are entering in the final days in which all things written in the Bible will begin to be fulfilled. In those days, it is clear to see from God's word that fear will be a dominate force, for in those days, men's hearts will fail them because of fear (Luke 21:26). Let's start our journey by turning to the book of Exodus.

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold,

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the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. 11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. Exodus 14:10 - 14

We see here that when the armies of Pharaoh encamped round about Israel; the people were afraid. When you sit back and think about it, it is quite reasonable from a human standpoint for them to act in this fashion. I don't think many people on earth today would have expected them to act in a different way than they did, yet God did expect them to act differently. Moses commanded them to not fear. He asked them to stand still and wait for God's salvation. We will see throughout the word of God that this is the pattern from a human standpoint; it is always quite reasonable for the people to be afraid, yet

God sees the fear as proof that there is unbelief in the midst. You will see that God is pleased when his people go through a trial and do not give into fear, but rather put their trust in him. We will next turn to the book of Numbers where the people of Israel have just been commanded to scout out the land that God had promised to Abraham.

21 So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. 22 And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. 24 The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. 25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. 27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. 30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. 1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! 3 And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? 4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. 6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not. 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. Numbers 13:25 - 14:9

It would have been much easier had God removed the inhabitants of the Promised Land himself. He could have done that for them; it was in his power to do so. But the truth is that God has

never operated that way. He has always asked us to be a part of his works. In our previous example, he could have just parted the Red Sea and said, "Enter in and find your salvation", but he did not; he asked Moses to do the thing. In the scripture we just read, it is clear that he wants to show himself strong on behalf of his people and to do the impossible through them so that his name gets glory. If he does the impossible, it is certain that the thing would be worthy of praise, but if he causes mere mortals to do the impossible, it is even more so. The later course is how God has operated through most of his dealings with men throughout the word of God. In this example, he asked one of each tribe to scout out the land obviously for the purpose of attacking that same land later. Notice that the first report suggests that things are good in the land but the people are strong that dwell in the land. As the spirit of fear moves through their midst, the land becomes less desirable and the people become more formidable than before. Fear has a tendency to do this. It turns God's promises into well-intentioned stories and it makes the difficult seem impossible. As you all may remember, the end result is that the people that rebelled against God died in the wilderness and only Joshua and Caleb who were led by a different spirit (14:24) were allowed to enter in. What spirit was that you ask? It was the spirit that God has called all believers to walk in. It is the spirit that says, "I believe God and even though the thing does not seem possible, if God says it, the thing must be". Notice Joshua's response, "These people will be bread for us". I do believe these nations were stronger than the Israelites. I do believe that the other ten scouts had reason to fear by human standards. The thing that they missed is that there was no reason to fear when God has promised something. Because they did not believe, they were banished to the wilderness. Today, churches across the world are in the wilderness because of the same thing: fear. We cannot be led by fear. God will not bless us with his mighty hand or in any other way. He will not allow it in his presence. We are saved by faith, and faith is the opposite of fear. If you are moved by fear, you are not standing in the place of faith and without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

In the Old Testament, enemy armies many times brought on fear. And while we are not immune from enemy armies attacking the places we live, the New Testament offers up several examples that might apply to our lives more directly.

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! (Matt 8:26)

I think that we can once again agree that it would be normal from a human standpoint to be fearful in a storm. Notice that Jesus was sleeping, (God shall keep you in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him Isaiah 26:3) but Jesus rebuked them for not having faith. Saints of God, is there some trial in your life right now that seems like a tempestuous storm? What is your response to the storm? Is it like the disciples? Does it seem harsh to you that Jesus would rebuke them for being fearful in the midst of a huge storm? Why did he act this way? Let's keep reading; the Bible holds all of these answers.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking

on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

What a beautiful passage. Peter was just a man, but through faith in Jesus Christ, he did the impossible. The only issue is, in the midst of the trial, he took his eyes off of the master and put them on the trial, and when he did, he failed. Jesus, in his mercy, was still there to help, but this is a story of which we need to take note. As we go through trials and storms in this life (and we all will) we cannot live in victory if our eyes are on the trial, the only way to find victory is to keep your eyes acutely focused on the only one that can guide us through the trial to safety. Again, Peter was rebuked for his unbelief and you may ask why? Does it not seem natural that mere mortals would be afraid of these things?

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21: 7-8

We will cover why this is in just a bit but I want you to hold onto this as a placeholder. Being fearful and being in unbelief are the same thing. Here they are grouped together and they always will be. It is also clear that those who are fearful will not be making it into God's eternal kingdom. Why is this? Because it is faith that saves us: faith in God, faith in his son, and in his word. As "believers" we must walk in a state of faith at all times; it is a testament to the spirit that is on us. Because God is with us through his spirit, our response to trials should be different than the way an average person would respond. This is the thing that brings Glory to God: the fact that his people are able to do the impossible.

Let us now look at some of the promises that lay the foundation for the things that I am saying.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. 11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. 13 For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. 14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 41:10-13

But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. 2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43: 1 - 2

Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2 Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4 And they shall spring up as among the grass, Isaiah 44:1-4

Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed; neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. 5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. 6 For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. 9 For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. 10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. Isaiah 54: 4 - 8

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matt 6: 25- 34

God has such precious promises for his people. In his word he declares his promises unto us. He tells us that the birds of the sky do not even fall to the ground without his consent. He also tells us that we are more valuable unto him than the birds. He tells us that we should not fear because:

1. He is with us
2. He will strengthen us
3. He will uphold us with his hand
4. He has redeemed us.
5. When we pass through the waters they will not overtake us
6. When we pass through the fires, the flame shall not kindle upon us.

And this is just a sample of all of the promises of God. God's word is clear saints; God tells us that we should not be in fear because he is in control of the situation. If we live in faith, no matter what we go through, we do not fear because we trust him. In the words of Job we say, though he slay me, yet will I trust him. (Job 13:15) God has given us a multitude of promises to confirm that no matter what we go through, whether it be health issues, persecutions, various trials, etc. he will be with us. The question is, do we believe him or not? This is what faith is. God wants his people to believe him and look for him to do the impossible so his name can get glory. If we operate in this fashion, then we are being led of his Holy Spirit, if not, then the spirit of the world is driving us. This spirit clearly does not please God.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (1 Timothy 1:7)

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19

So here is the conclusion of the whole matter. God has not given his people a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7) and perfect love casts out fear (1Jn. 4:18). Part of that love is our understanding of God's perfect love for us. Part of that is also our perfect love for God that is demonstrated by the fact that we trust him so much with our life that no matter what comes our way, we trust him. When we do this it pleases him and he moves on our behalf to do the impossible. When we do not, we get relegated to the wilderness until we learn to trust God. Today the church is ruled by fear. Fear comes in many different ways and it can be picked up in many people's comments. People are afraid for their children's safety, afraid that the country is going to the dogs, afraid that they don't have enough money to meet their needs, and a big one of late is that their doctor told them something that caused fear. Saints, no matter what you are going through and the thing you may be going through may seem like a giant, just remember, God knows all about it, has agreed to allow you to go through it and already has the escape plan designed, waiting for you to believe him to lead you to safety. It is my encouragement to you today to trust God in God for when we do we will begin to see his wonders working in our lives. If after reading this encouragement, you realize that you are fearful of things going on in your life: Here are some prayer points to consider that will help you on your way to victory:

1. Father I thank you for your gracious provision in every area of my life
2. I thank you for the trial that I am currently going through, as I know in the end, you will get the glory.

3. Please forgive me of the sin of unbelief and cover me and my family in the blood of Jesus.
4. I pray that you would bind the spirit of fear in my life, and cast it away from my presence
5. I pray that every spirit assigned to torment me would be bound in the mighty name of Jesus Christ
6. I pray that you would loose unto me a spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind so that I can overcome every attack that the enemy has thrown my way
7. I pray for a spirit of perfect love to be loosed unto me, and that it would rule and reign in my life
8. I pray for mountain moving faith to come and overtake me so that all of the schemes of the enemy will be met with a faith that cannot be moved
9. I pray that in the end of my trial, I will give all the glory to you and will not seek to steal any of that glory and take it for myself, you are my deliverer and without you, I can do nothing.
10. Thank you Lord, for all your blessings to me. In Jesus name I pray, amen.

Saints of the most High God: God has called you to victory in Jesus name. Do not give up, but press on and grab the victory that God won for you 2,000 years ago on the cross of Calvary. You are not fighting for victory but from victory. With this knowledge what do we have to fear?

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? Psalm 27:1

Amen and amen.

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