

THE NARROW ROAD

Contending for the Holiness of God

As we travel the narrow road, it can be easy to become fearful, to fall into doubt and succumb to unbelief. Sometimes, our 'Goliath's' seem too great to defeat, despite the Lord's reassurances that He is fighting for us.

FEAR NOT THE BATTLE

JUDGES 7:3, JOSHUA 1:9

Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Gideon's Army

In Judges chapters 6 and 7, after a season where the Israelites had not obeyed the Lord's voice, God raised up Gideon and three-hundred men to bring them deliverance. For they were greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, who were worshippers of Baal and Ashteroth. During that time, the Lord gave Gideon divine counsel, requiring his absolute obedience, if he was to be successful in the battle. It was a battle not for the faint-hearted, but for the fearless and selfless ones.

After Gideon had destroyed the Midianites altars to Baal and Ashteroth, we see that the battle intensified. The Midianites demanded that Gideon's father bring him to them, so they could kill him. We see, that despite the Lord clothing Gideon with Himself assuring him of victory, he fell into doubt. So Gideon put a fleece before the Lord, asking Him to confirm his next steps, which the Lord gave to him.

But Gideon still had a problem. The Lord revealed that there were too many men with him for them to be successful in battle. Gideon started with 32,000 to fight the Midianites and ended up with just 300 men. Fear eliminated 22,000 immediately. A further 9,700 were eliminated

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because they bowed down on their knees to drink the water versus lapping it in their hands. We can understand why the 22,000 were eliminated, as fear paralyzes a person.

But the 9,700, who were eliminated for drinking on their knees, is less obvious. What was the Lord revealing by this test? That those who were on their knees had their eyes downward, fixed only on the water—their needs, and not concerned with the needs of those around them. But those who lapped the water in their hand, while tending to their needs, were still able to see what was in front of them—they kept watch, and could not be taken by surprise by the enemy. And they were able to see the needs of their brethren and respond to them with help, if needed.

When in battle, the last thing anyone needs or wants are those with you who are afraid. Or, those who take their eyes off the battle field, and do not watch out for the welfare of those they are fighting with in battle. For both fear and self-absorption will cause the mission to fail, every time. When in battle, it is vital that we are fearless, while demonstrating selfless love.

JUDGES 7:3

Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

As we travel the narrow road, it can be easy to become fearful, to fall into doubt and succumb to unbelief, leading us into self-absorption. Sometimes, our 'Goliath's' seem too great to defeat, despite the Lord's reassurances that He is fighting for us. Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear causes doubt. Doubt causes unbelief. And our unbelief will stop God working on our behalf, every time. Without faith, it is impossible for the Lord to complete His purposes in our lives.

HEBREWS 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

And not to make it any easier, as we contend for God's eternal plans for our lives, faith almost always precedes our understanding of our circumstances. It is often only after we have walked out our situations,

in obedience to Him, that He gives an understanding of what we just went through and why it was necessary. Too often, believers want to see the end result of their faith, before walking it out. But that is not the ways of the Lord. He asks us to walk by faith—by what we cannot see, so that He can do the impossible and manifest His eternal purposes in our lives way better than we could ever imagine. We see that with Zacharias and with Mary.

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

When the angel Gabriel told Zacharias that Elizabeth will bear a son in their old-age, he doubted. He questioned the Lord's ability to bring about His plans for their lives—the impossible, with his worthless human reasoning. Zacharias wanted a sign from the Lord. And he got one: because he spoke doubt, he would not speak. Zacharias paid a consequence for his doubt and therefore was not able to speak until after John was born [Luke 1:13-19].

On the other hand, when the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would birth the Messiah, she did not ask for the Lord to prove it to her. Instead, she asked, how can this be, as she was not yet married to Joseph. Mary was not in doubt, but asking for clarity [Luke 1:26-34].

Fear, Doubt and Unbelief

In both instances, when Zacharias and Mary saw the angel Gabriel, the first thing that Gabriel said to them was, *"Do not be afraid."* Why? Because the Lord did not want them to fall into doubt and succumb to unbelief that would stop Him from doing what He was going to do through them. We see, *do not be afraid, fear not* and *do not fear* are mentioned a lot in the Bible. Some say over 300 times. It is the most repeated command in the Bible.

Why so often? I believe it is because the Lord knows our frames, that we are dust. We are made up of the weakest substance that exists. Yet, He does not want us to fear anything. For if we do, we will fall into doubt and unbelief. And that will stop His purposes for our lives from being fulfilled. And no one cares more about our destinies being fulfilled, than Him.

When Yeshua's disciples were rowing in the storm, the Lord appeared to them, by walking on the water.

They were terrified. They thought He was a ghost. But the Lord quickly dispelled their fear by saying, *“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”* After their fear had dissipated, they realised they had not understood the miracle of the loaves, and what He had wanted to teach them, for fear had made their hearts hard. He wanted them to know that as long as they had faith, provision would come. And that provision would come in a supernatural way.

When Peter answered, *“Lord, if that is really You, command me to walk on the water.”* And when He did, in faith, Peter took a step and walked on the water. But as soon as he took his eyes off the Lord and looked at the storm around him, he sank faster than dead weight. The Lord asked, *“Why did you doubt?”* We see, it was fear that caused Peter to doubt, which led him into unbelief. And his unbelief stopped the Lord from displaying His power through him. The same power of the One Who holds up the water up, not the other way around [Mark 6:45-52, Matthew 14:22-31]!

How could we define fear? An unpleasant emotion or thought that you have when you are frightened or worried by something dangerous, painful, or bad that is happening or might happen.¹

How could we define doubt? To be uncertain about; consider questionable or unlikely; hesitate to believe.²

How could we define unbelief? The state or quality of not believing; incredulity or skepticism, especially in matters of doctrine or religious faith.³

When we walk in fear, doubt and unbelief, we walk in opposition to Him. We will not fight the good fight of faith with Him, for the eternal purposes He has for us to manifest. Our fear, doubt and unbelief will stop Him, every time. For there is nothing that stops those purposes, for us to grow and mature into Sonship—a mature Bride, faster than when we walk in fear. For we will become like Zacharias, and fall into doubt. And if not corrected, succumb to unbelief.

When we walk in fear, we are leaning upon our own abilities and doubting His abilities to do the impossible. We will end up limiting Him by our circumstances, which is not pleasing to Him. We are called to live the life of the impossible, not the

possible by our human abilities. And when we lean on Him, nothing is impossible! We will be of good cheer, in the midst of our storms.

LUKE 1:37 AMP.

For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.

God of the Impossible

Mary became ‘pregnant’ with God’s plans for her life. And because she believed, and did not doubt, she birthed those plans, at the appointed time, with the power of God to do so. No word from God is without power to perform it. So, too, is it for us. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is still the God of the impossible to those who believe.

LUKE 1:45

Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Beloved, if you are in a season of waiting, hold on to God’s promises—do not let go! Maybe, it has been a long, dry season, where you feel as if you are in the never-ending terrain of a dry, barren wilderness, living on the outer edges of Babylon. The Lord, says this day, *“Hold on!”* He is able to watch over His word to perform it, for those who believe. He is not limited by our circumstances, nor intimidated by our humanity, thank God!

The Lord is coming for a warrior Bride, who is not only without spot, wrinkle or any such thing, but one who will be fearless and selfless in battle. So we must believe, in our seasons of waiting and pruning, He is able to prevent us from stumbling, to present us blameless before the presence of His glory, in triumphant joy. We must believe—have faith, that the Lord is able to bring us to the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls. For that is His goal.

1 PETER 1:9

Receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

We Must Believe

We must believe, He is faithful to keep His promises, and that He is a rewarder to those who believe and diligently seek Him. We must believe, like Noah, He is able to divinely warn us of things not seen, so that we

can build His way, in these last days. We must believe, like Abraham, that God is not only able to conceive His plans, but like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Elizabeth and Mary, give birth to them, at their appointed time, when they will bear fruit.

We must believe, again, like Abraham, when tested and it feels as if everything has died, He is able to resurrect those plans from the dead. We must believe, like Moses, and forsake all ties to Egypt—the spirit of the world, that wants to enslave us to a Babylonian system. We must believe, He is able to part our ‘red seas’ and especially when it feels as if the enemy is prevailing.

We must believe, every whitewashed wall that the enemy tries to stop us with, will come crumbling down. We must believe, like Rahab, that when we stand on the right side of truth, He will save us! We must believe, like Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel, that through the power of His name, the power of His blood and the power of His Cross, we are able to subdue Satan’s kingdoms that want to destroy us and our families. We must believe that we are able to stop the mouth of lions who want to devour God’s plans for us, while being valiant in battle.

And, yes, we must believe, that even if we are mocked, scourged, persecuted, thrown in prison, stoned and sawn in two, afflicted or tormented for contending for the holiness of God to permeate our spheres of influence, that He is still a good God, all the time! We must have unwavering faith that we will endure to the end, that we shall be saved.

More is Not Better

So, like Gideon, when the Lord sends us into battle, we must not be fearful so that we can clearly hear His counsel, so that we can obtain the victory. When we hear and obey His voice, we will not fear the ‘giant’s that want to destroy us. And like Gideon, we will not believe the lie that ‘more is better’ or there is ‘strength in numbers,’ when it comes to accomplishing God’s plans on this earth. How many times have we heard that type of reasoning from others, over the years?

That type of reasoning is utter nonsense to the Lord. And the Bible teaches us differently. Many are called, few are chosen. He is a holy God, Who cares more about our obedience, holiness and character matching His in our words, thoughts and deeds, than

anything that we may do on this earth, in His name. In Ezekiel, the Lord asked, if there was even just one man, who will build up the wall and stand in the gap, so that He would not have to destroy the land.

The plans of God cannot be accomplished on this earth when we walk in fear, doubt and unbelief. Or, if we tolerate the woman, Jezebel—a false prophetess, who represents the false prophetic voice that has been defiled with self-absorption, idolatry and sexual immorality—compromise and mixture. Or, if we become lukewarm. The cold, He can convict, and the hot, He can use mightily. But the lukewarm—those who are content with the false and profane, will be vomited out of His mouth. They will be like the five foolish virgins, who did not make it to the Wedding Banquet.

The Battle

Sometimes the battle—the warfare, never seems to end. The enemy roars like a lion, constantly looking for those whom he can devour. We can become weary fighting the good fight of faith for our loved ones, our marriages, our churches or our ministries—for the promises of God to be fulfilled in our lives. Somedays, we can feel as if we are not going to make it.

Months ago, while talking to a precious brother, right before we hung up, he asked, “*Tracy, would you pray for it to rain?*” Saying, “*There is no rain in the forecast for the next ten days.*” He further shared how the branches on his trees were dry. Their limbs were bowed low to the ground. He said, “*If it rained, it would make it easier for me.*” He was talking in the natural.

I almost shrugged off his request, thinking there were more pressing things that I could think of to pray for him, and especially after the intense battle that he had just overcome. As I prayed, “*Lord, let it rain. Bring the rain that he needs to water his trees, if that will make his life easier.*” In that moment, the revelation came, where I realised that he could not be more accurate in his prayer request. His needed a good watering to revive his soul!

We all need the Holy Spirit to come and water our weary souls, after battle. For when He does our ‘branches’ will not drop to the ground, making it hard to keep contending for His purposes to manifest. When He floods our souls with life—it revives us. We will be able to keep enduring and overcoming our battles, for our spiritual roots will have grown deep.

Yet, in order for our roots to do so, we must abide in the Vine. For when we do, the spiritual waterings that we need will take place, causing our 'branches' not to become dry, barren and dead. Instead, we will have branches that are alive and living. Branches that will bear abundant, everlasting, good fruit that will ultimately satisfy His hunger.

As the separating from the profane from the holy continues, may our faith and courage arise to cut off every chain of fear, doubt and unbelief, so His plans can be birthed into our lives, churches and ministries. May we labour with one hand, while yielding our swords with the other hand. And in this late hour, may we contend for the faith and for the holiness of God to be restored in His Bride. So that when He returns, He will find faith and selfless love in those who are keeping watch, in that place of intercessory prayer—where our battles are either won or lost.

He is Fighting for Us!

And while in battle, we must know that the Lord is not a cruel task-master. He does not send us into battle to harm us, but to help us to grow and to mature into Sonship. For when in battle, we will lean on His abilities and develop a deeper trust in Him. And in that place, we realise that the battles really are His, and that He is fighting for us. We will know that His is a good Father. One Who tenderly cares for our fragile hearts. For He will bring the restoration that we need to finish our race, during and after our battles. He will open the flood gates of heaven and bring the rain. Holy Spirit rain that will flood every dry recess of our souls, bringing newness of life!

On the battle field, may we not lose heart, grow weary or faint. Instead, we must hold on to His promises by keeping our eyes fixed on the Prize, so that we will not succumb to unbelief. When we do, we will know the power of His resurrection Life, flowing into every plan of His in our lives that looks as if it has died. We will be able to watch out for our brethren, and be able to tend to their needs. We will not leave them on the battle field to die, but revive them with hope.

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Beloved, may we never stop believing that His Word speaks a better word over our lives and

circumstances—no matter how dire they may seem. We must reject the lies that the enemy whispers into our ears trying to bring fear, discouragement and defeat. Instead, may it be done unto us, according to His written Word and rhema words, and according to our faith. And when our faith is weak, we must ask Him to make it strong. When we have no faith to walk through the doors that He has flung wide-open for us to walk through, we must cry out to Yeshua to give us His faith, until the very breath of His hope, fills the very depths of our souls. That we can complete the long-endurance race, which is set before us. AMEN!

ENDNOTES

- 1 *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fear>, (accessed February 23, 2025).
- 2 *Dictionary.com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/doubt>, (accessed February 23, 2025).
- 3 *Dictionary.com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/doubt>, (accessed February 23, 2025).

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