

Do Not Be Afraid

(Part 1)

God's word encourage us and comfort us in our lives as we pass through trials and various circumstances that impose on us threats that we need to handle, challenges that we ought to face, or tasks we ought to achieve. The Scriptures are full of that, and as we read and discuss we will get encouraged and revived and inspired with God's word to go on and do His work and live our lives unto Him.

1- ***“After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” (Genesis 15:1-5)*** When God called Abram was at the age of seventy five years old, God promised him the following: ***“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:2-3)*** But after a considerable period with walk with God Abram was worried and afraid that God's promise might not be fulfilled in His life because he did not have yet any child. But the LORD comforted and assured him that a son will be born from him and with that very son God would fulfilled what He had promised to Abram. The same things for you, you may not have children or even a family, but fear not and trust Him that He can fulfill and achieve to you what He had promised you.

2- ***“¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.” (Genesis 21:17)*** Hager was sent away with her son Ishmael as God instructed Abraham to do that as we can read here: ***“¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.” (Genesis 21:14-15)*** It was so painful for Hagar to see her son dying in front of her eyes therefore ***“¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob.” (Genesis 21:16)*** At that very moment God interfered and revealed himself to Hagar when He sent His word and told her, ***“Do not be afraid!”¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.²¹ While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.” (Genesis 21:18-21)*** The same for you today, ***“Do not be afraid!”*** Even if you are rejected and thrown away and you are alone with a great responsibility, ***“Do not be afraid!”*** God is beside you and He is able to sustain you and sustain your family and lead you in safe and prosperous way.

3- ***“²⁴ That night the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the***

number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.” (Genesis 26:24) Isaac the son of Abraham God blessed him as we can read, ***“¹² Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him.¹³ The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.¹⁴ He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.” (Genesis 26:12-14)*** That success caused the people around him to be jealous and started to harm him, ***“¹⁵ So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.¹⁹ Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there.²⁰ But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, “The water is ours!” So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him.²¹ Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.²² He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, “Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land.²³ From there he went up to Beersheba.” (Genesis 26:15-23)*** Isaac was persecuted and ill treated by the people who were around him because of his success and his diligent to live his life for God. But the LORD did not leave him alone. He Told him, ***“Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants.*** And indeed God was with him and blessed him as we can read the proof here: ***“²⁵ Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.²⁶ Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces.²⁷ Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”²⁸ They answered, “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’—between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD.” (Genesis 26:25-9)*** The same for you, the Lord's word is: ***“ ... Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants ...” (Genesis 26:24)*** Trials and hardships that you are passing through with the people around you are temporarily and the Lord will surely bless you as you persevere, trusting Him and living your life fully unto Him, and everyone will see the blessings of the LORD in your life.

My dear and beloved: God's word declares, ***“⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*** So be encouraged to face life's events and trials because you are not alone, God is with you as you agree to pray

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging word to me. Lord takes all my fears away and help me to trust you and believe more in you and in your real presence in my life. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*