

Do Not Be Afraid

(Part 2)

Not every time life is easy and is full of roses. Sometime there is tough time and trials. But there is special grace of God for such seasons and 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, revived and inspired with God's word to go on and do His work and live our lives unto Him.

4- ¹⁶ ***They moved on from Bethel. Ephrath wasn't very far away when Rachel began to have a baby. She was having a very hard time of it. ¹⁷ The woman who helped her saw that she was having problems. So she said to her, "Don't be afraid. You have another son." ¹⁸ But Rachel was dying. As she took her last breath, she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.*** (Genesis 35:16-18) Rachel was giving birth to her second son and it was difficult labour that caused her to die. But, ***"As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni,"*** Ben-Oni mean the son of my trouble, but his father named him Benjamin means the son of my right hand. Life events may knock us down but as we are giving birth to new children and teaching them the ways of the Lord and as we go on and making new disciples we don't need to be afraid, ***"Don't be afraid. You have another son."*** Yes you have another disciple for the Lord, so, ***"Do not be afraid."***

5- ***"So Israel started out with everything that belonged to him. When he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² God spoke to Israel in a vision at night. "Jacob! Jacob!" he said. "Here I am," Jacob replied. ³ "I am God. I am the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. There I will make you into a great nation. ⁴ I will go down to Egypt with you. You can be sure that I will bring you back again. And when you die, Joseph will close your eyes with his own hand."*** (Genesis 46:1-4) Jacob whom the Lord named Israel was about to move down with his children and their families to Egypt to be beside his son Joseph because there was great famine in the land. Of course he might be having worries and concerns as he is moving to the new place for living and settlement and he need to take a move. Therefore the Lord confirmed it to him, ***"Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt."*** God encouraged him to go forward for the next turn in his life to continue the good plan of God for him in assuring him the following" ***A- There I will make you into a great nation:*** God confirmed to him that the goal of the initial vision will not be lost but accomplished. ***B- I will go down to Egypt with you:*** God will not let him alone, He will be with him, ***C- You can be sure that I will bring you back again:*** God would accomplish to Jacob what He had promised him. The same for you, if you are about to take a certain turn in your life, you don't need to be afraid to go and move to certain places as the Lord is leading you. He will neither leave you nor forsake you, and sure He will accomplish to you what he had promised you.

6- ¹³ ***Moses answered the people. He said, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today. Do you see those Egyptians? You will never see them again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you. Just be still."*** (Exodus 14:13-14) When God brought His people out of Egypt, the army of Pharaoh followed them and pursued them up to the edge of the red sea. Here at the edge of the red sea their faith were tested. They were so afraid that they will be crushed with Pharaoh Army. But Moses encouraged them and assured them that God will deal with the situation as he told them, ***"Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today."*** At the edge of the red sea there was nothing left in their hands to do other than trusting God fully for deliverance. The same can be applied today. There are certain times we cannot do anything but to trust God for complete deliverance. We need to stand firm in faith trusting God for deliverance that He will be the one to deal properly with our enemies.

7- ²¹ ***The LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take it. Do what the LORD says. He's the God of your people. Don't be afraid. Don't lose hope."*** (Deuteronomy 1:21) Moses was encouraged the people to go on and possess the Promised Land that the Lord had promised to give them to settle in and live and multiply and increase in number. Moses also encouraged and strengthened Joshua with God's word, ⁶ ***Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be terrified because of them. The LORD your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you."*** (Deuteronomy 31:6) The same for us today; Jesus' command for us is clear, ¹⁹ ***Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*** (Matthew 28:19-20) The whole world is ahead of us, so we are called to go and evangelize and win new disciples for Christ by teaching them the ways of the Lord and baptizing those who are willing to follow Christ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

8- ⁹ ***Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."*** (Joshua 1:9) God strengthened Joshua directly that He will be with him everywhere he goes. In the same way God will neither leave us nor forsake us as a church and His disciples in our mission to serve Him.

9- ¹ ***Then the LORD spoke to Joshua. He said, "Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. Go up and attack Ai. Take the whole army with you. I have handed the king of Ai over to you. I have given you his people, his city and his land."*** (Joshua 8:1) In the battle of Jericho God handed over the city victoriously to Joshua but one of them, Achan son of Carmi, had taken some of the devoted things and put under his tent. So God was angry with the Israelites. Therefore in their battle against Ai God caused them at the first round be defeated before their enemies. But as Joshua was crying at the feet of the Lord the sin was revealed and Joshua dealt properly with the one who sin (***Read Joshua 7 in your own bible***) That act of Joshua to deal with sin pleased the Lord and once again caused the Lord to encourage Joshua and the Israelites to go and fight to capture the city of Ai. After the people of God cleansed the camp from sin God was pleased with them and brought them great victory. That brought further victories to the Israelites. Five more kings with their armies came to fight against them but the Lord assured Joshua as, ***"The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them. I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to fight against you and win."*** (Joshua 10:8) Truly their armies were defeated and the five kings captured, and this what Joshua did to them, ²² ***Joshua said, "Open up the cave. Bring those five kings out to me."*** ²³ ***So Joshua's men brought the five kings out of the cave. They were the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon. ²⁴ The men brought them to Joshua. Then he sent for all of the men of Israel. He spoke to the army commanders who had come with him. He said, "Come here. Put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came forward and placed their feet on the necks of the kings. ²⁵ Joshua said to them, "Don't be afraid. Don't lose hope. Be strong and brave. This is what the LORD will do to all of the enemies you are going to fight."*** (Joshua 10:22-25)

My dear and beloved: As you live a righteous life unto the Lord hating wickedness and loving righteousness the Lord will do to you the same 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 and the clear way of life that you had set before me. I commit my life to walk fully in your truth and in your ways so that your good plan for me will be fulfilled. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*