

Do Not Be Afraid

(Part 3)

God's word is always reaching us on the right time to teach us, correct us, admonish us and to encourage us to do what is right and just in His eyes. We need to hear, ***“Do not fear,”*** or ***“Fear not,”*** as we continue to serve and live our lives unto Him.

10- “¹⁰ Then he said, “Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.” (Ruth 3:10-11) Ruth as we know had taken her firm decision after the death of her husband to stay with her mother in law and to go back with her mother in law to God and to His people. When they reached their place in Bethlehem Ruth was able to find a work in the field of Boaz the relative of her husband, and she gleaned the field after the harvesters. Her mother in law suggested to her to approach Boaz for marriage because he was her kinsman redeemer and that was the will of God at that time, that if a married man died without children his nearest brother or relative should marry his wife and the first child will be recorded under the name of the dead so his name will not disappear from the records. Ruth approached Boaz, and indeed he answered her, ***do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.*** Ruth was not after the man but after the will of God to be done so she can receive what is due for her. So she was not ashamed or shy to express her rights and God's will to be fulfilled to others. What we learn here is that we should not be intimidated, ashamed or afraid to express our needs and what is due to us in God's will to others. Even Christ on the cross to fulfill the Scripture He asked for a drink when He said, ***“I am thirsty.” (John 19:28d)*** So we should be clear minded, ***“Fear not,”*** and go forward to fulfill the Scripture, and request what is due to us to have.

11- “⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ ‘Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have instructed a widow there to supply you with food.’ ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, ‘Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?’ ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, ‘And bring me, please, a piece of bread.’ ¹² ‘As surely as the LORD your God lives,’ she replied, ‘I don’t have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.’ ¹³ Elijah said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.’ ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.” ¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.” (1King 17:7-16) That woman whom Elijah met was poor and she was out of food and at the edge of death. Elijah suggested to her to share her food with him, at first she was reluctant but Elijah told her, ***“Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have***

and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.” She obeyed and God fulfilled what He promised and she received a continuous provision from the Lord. The same for us; we need not to be afraid to share our food with the people of God who are in need. Do not share your food, time and money with friends and people who does not need help or do not deserve it by doing parties and involve in worldly celebration, ***“¹² Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12-14)*** So do not be afraid to share your time, money and effort to reach the lost and go and make new disciples and get involved in the mission work of God.

12- “¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. ‘Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?’ the servant asked. ¹⁶ ‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.” (2King 6:15-17) An army was surrounding Elisha so His servant was afraid, but when God opened his eyes he saw the hill full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha. ***‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’*** In the same way, when you are surrounded by threats and enemy around you, ***‘Don’t be afraid,’ ‘You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.’ (1John 4:4)*** King David said ***“¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. ³ Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:1-3)*** You don't need to be afraid, as long as you did not do something wrong the, Lord will fight the battle for you

My dear and beloved: “In God, whose word I praise –in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (Psalm 56:4) This should be your stand and your banner. Live in righteousness and holiness and that is how you do your part, trusting God that He will do His part and reward you for your conduct and the good decision and the steps that you took for His own glory. 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 that gives me assurance and confidence in you that you are faithful and you are standing at my side and you will do your part in full. Help me Lord to commit my ways fully unto you, cooperating with you and doing your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.