

Do Not Be Afraid

(Part 4)

One of the human weaknesses is fear. And if fear going to be rooted in the life of the person that fear will hinder him from progress and move to the next step that God wants him to do and to be. God's word is a prescription and treatment for the fear of man and there is a particular message that can deal with each and every type of fear.

13- ²² *Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to be over the people he had left behind in Judah.* ²³ *When all the army officers and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah as governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, Jaazaniah the son of the Maakathite, and their men.* ²⁴ *Gedaliah took an oath to reassure them and their men. "Do not be afraid of the Babylonian officials," he said. "Settle down in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you."* (2King 25:22-24) The people of God were disciplined by the Lord because they left Him and went to worship idols of other gods. So the Lord sent them Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his army who came and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and took the people of God into captivity in Babylon. That was God's discipline for them for their sin, to be under subjection and to serve the Babylonian. But they wanted to escape the discipline of God refusing to abide with His word and command. So Gedaliah assured by telling them: ***"Do not be afraid of the Babylonian officials," he said. "Settle down in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you."*** The point that he made for them is clear, that it will go well with them if they will humble down and accept to serve the Babylon. What is the application for that in your life is this: If you had done something wrong and sinned against the Lord then do not be afraid to accept God's discipline and apply in your life because if you do it will go well with you and you will get relieved and restored. But if you refuse God's discipline, and rebel and retaliate against God then things will go worse with you. ⁴ ***In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.*** ⁵ ***And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,"*** ⁶ ***because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."*** ⁷ ***Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?*** ⁸ ***If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.*** ⁹ ***Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!*** ¹⁰ ***They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.*** ¹¹ ***No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*** ¹² ***Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.*** ¹³ ***"Make level paths for your feet,"*** so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed." (Hebrews 12:4-13)

14- ²⁰ *David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.* ²¹ *The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing person skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people*

will obey your every command." (1Chronicles 28:20-21) When David commissioned His son Solomon to be willing to start to build the temple of God, he assured him that the vision, the provision and the required personnel are there to help him to achieve the task therefore he told him, ***"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished."*** The same for you, do not be afraid to put your hand forward and do the work of God, the Lord is with you will neither leave you nor forsake until you finish the task, and the Lord had given you His vision and provided all what is needed and make available the required personnel. Serving God is one of the enjoyable things that man can involve with and enjoy it, and enjoy His life with God's service.

15- ⁴⁵ *He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.* ¹⁶ *Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.* ¹⁷ *You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."* (2Chronicles 20:15-17) Three large and vast armies came to attack Jehoshaphat king of Judah. He did not do anything wrong toward those people who came to attack him. Therefore to face them he called all Judah to come to seek God's help with prayer and fasting. The Lord responded to their prayer and spoke in the mid of their meeting through one of the Levites, ***"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's."*** Wonderful when God would speak and assure us as we pass through the hard and dark moments of our lives. God instructed them to. ***Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, ... Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."*** Truly God did mighty things for them and delivered them from the three armies and gave them great and wonderful victory with big plunder. Certain time you are faced with problem from people. But you are afraid to go out and face. God want you to have the courage and go out and take position and face those people. You don't need to fight this God will do it for you, you need only to go out and show yourself to face those evil doers who are trying to harm. God want you to go and face them so you can see clearly with your eyes how God will deal with them, as well as to collect the big plunder that God is going to give you.

My dear and beloved: The Psalmist said, ¹⁰⁵ ***Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*** ¹⁰⁶ ***I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.*** ¹⁰⁷ ***I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.*** ¹⁰⁸ ***Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.*** ¹⁰⁹ ***Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law.*** ¹¹⁰ ***The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts.*** ¹¹¹ ***Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.*** ¹¹² ***My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end."*** (Psalm 119:105-112) This should be your stand and your banner 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 the encouraging word that you sent me and had taken away my fears. Lord I commit myself to read and meditate daily on your word and apply in my life. Lord speak to me daily and watch over the affairs of my life, and warn me if there is danger that I am not aware of and hide me with the shelter of your wings. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.