

Do Not Be Afraid

(Part 6)

God's word is continually bringing more comfort and assurance to us and to the rest of His people who had set their heart to follow God and walk in accordance to His ways. God's word encourage His people to continue to seek God, trusting Him and obeying all His decrees and command because all His promises are true and will come forth sure.

17- ⁷ *Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have taken my instruction to heart: Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals or be terrified by their insults. ⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a garment; the worm will devour them like wool. But my righteousness will last forever, my salvation through all generations.*” (Isaiah 51:7-8) God is encouraging His people who are obedient to His commands and who had taken His law in their heart. He is telling to all of us who fear Him and obey Him not to be afraid or be ashamed of what the people are saying about us. God will sure deal with them and give to them what is due for them of shame and disgrace. God will prove to those who oppose us and ridicule us that our choice to follow Him and live our lives for Him is the correct decision. *“Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.”* (Isaiah 54:4) May be at the time being we are suffering and persecuted because we are living in godliness, *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”* (2Timothy 3:12) But the Lord will work it out wonderfully for our behalf and He will take us out from this current suffering and bring us out from reproach and will fill us with joy, *“For your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.”* (Isaiah 54:5) Therefore ²¹ *Do not be afraid, land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things!* ²² *Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. ²³ Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. ²⁴ The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. ²⁵ “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you. ²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.”* (Joel 2:21-27) The Lord finally will restore His people and reward them for their perseverance in repentance and willingness to suffer for the sake of Christ.

18- ¹³ *Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”* (1Peter 3:13-15) Do not be afraid if you had already decided to obey God and walk in His ways, no one can harm you and the Lord today is strengthening you with His word so that you will continue to serve Him and live your life unto Him, *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”* (2Timothy 1:7)

19- ¹² *Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I*

have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.” (Daniel 10:12-14) Daniel was led by the Holy Spirit and instructed with God's word to pray and fast and humble down to gain understanding and wisdom. The Lord moved for Daniel behalf but the Devil opposed that. Therefore the Lord encouraging message to Daniel, *“Do not be afraid, Daniel ... “Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.”* (Daniel 10:19) The same for you today if you are seeking God and willing to follow Him, and Devil is opposing you then the message in your hand is to encourage you to go on and continue to stand firm because God's aid is on the way to help you and relief you.

19- ²⁸ *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”* (Matthew 10:28-30) As Jesus was sending out His disciples He foresees the opposition and the persecution that they would face in their service to God. So He encouraged them not to be afraid from people who would oppose them and threaten them, rather to fear God more and continue to serve Him. *“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”* (Luke 12:4-7)

20- ⁴ *But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the LORD Almighty. ⁵ This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.”* (Haggai 2:4-5) While the people of God after returning back from exiles and started to build the temple of God in Jerusalem, the Lord encouraged them; He encourage their king Zerubbabel, their high priest and the rest of the people so they will go on in their service and the temple of God will be rebuild and finished. The same for you today as you continue to serve God and ahead of you lot of goals to achieve and you ought to finish these tasks the Lord is here to help you and to uphold you with His word to be true builder for a great ministry for His glory.

My dear and beloved: ³² *Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”* (Luke 12:32) The Lord encourages His church who perseveres and stands firm to live His word and do His will and plans.

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 serve you wholeheartedly and to continue in doing the tasks that you entrusted to me. Give me Lord good health and the needed strength to achieve that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*