

Do Not Be Afraid

(Part 7)

Yes, ***‘Do not be afraid,’*** This is God’s word that He keep encourage us with and keep upholding us with His grace to go on in our lives to do His work and to live His will.

21- ²⁰ *“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:20)* Joseph was in the planning process and for preparation for marriage with Mary the mother of Jesus. The Bible tells us the following: ¹⁸ *“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.” (Matthew 1:18-19)* So Joseph was perplexed of what to do with Mary and how to handle the situation. There was only one thing came to his mind is to divorce her because nothing acceptable for Joseph can explain why she is pregnant. While he was wondering what to do, the Lord spoke to Him in a dream and the voice of God came to Joseph ... ***do not be afraid*** And the Lord explained to him from His word that what Mary is passing through, the word of God confirm as it is written in the book of Isaiah, ²² *“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us.” (Matthew 1:22-23)* Joseph was passing through something that is extraordinary for man but the Lord explained that adequately for him and assured him and removed all his fear. The Lord gave Him more insight about the mission of Jesus and what His purpose in the people’s lives as He told Joseph, *“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)*

The same for us today the Lord can assure us and interfere in the most perplexed moments of our lives and explain things to us; that what is going on is according to His will and plan. We have therefore God’s provision and as the following:

A- The Holy Spirit: The Lord will come and speak to us and assure us that He is in control and behind all the events of our lives, ⁴ *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.” (Philippians 4:4-5)* Let us trust in God, as the Lord went and spoke to Joseph and assured him, He will do the same with us because The Lord is near.

B- The Word of God: The Lord will confirm what He will speak to us from His word. God will not speak out of His word. As when He spoke with Joseph He gave Him the word that speak exactly about the condition that He is passing through. That is why we need to continue to read the Bible, because in the bible is God’s Word that we need to read and hear Him speaking to us through His word.

The Holy Spirit and the Word of God are the two things that the Lord will always use to reach us and comfort us and assure us and to direct us to continue to walk in the right way. Even through dream or visions, or through people the same principles God He will use.

22- ¹³ *“But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.” (Luke 1:13):* Zechariah the priest is another person the Lord comforted and assured. ⁸ *“Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹ Then*

an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.” (Luke 1:8-12) Zechariah was afraid when he saw the angel thinking that God was not pleased with His service and ministry. But the Lord assured him that God had heard His prayer and granted his desire with son whom he will call John. Not only that, but the angel added the following: ¹⁴ *“He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Luke 1:14-17)* What a wonderful answer prayer, not only God is giving him a son but a great man of God, who will serve the Lord and will go with the same spirit of Elijah.

Sometimes you are overwhelmed with fears and doubts but the Lord is faithful He is coming to you in times of being low, depressed and daunted and encouraged you with answered prayers. So don’t doubt God and don’t be pessimistic, the Lord can do and sure will do wonderful and great things for you.

23- ⁸ *“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:8-12)* Poor shepherds watching the whole night for their sheep in the open field, the Lord comforted them with the good news of Jesus birth, the Saviour of the whole universe; the time had come for them to be comforted and well rewarded and got relieved from their suffering. The good news of the Saviour gave them the strength and the stamina to go and to see Jesus and to tell others about Him.

24- ¹ *“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” (Matthew 28:1-7)* The women came to visit the tomb of Jesus, they were full of fear and sadness but the Lord comforted them with the good news of Jesus resurrection from the death. That good news and the encouragement they received motivate them to go on and preach the good news of Jesus resurrection to others.

My dear and beloved: I pray that this message is great encouragement to you to read or hear. Trusting Him that He is beside you, He will neither leave you nor forsake you. Therefore commit yourself fully to God, to serve Him and to live your life for Him 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 serve you wholeheartedly and to continue doing the tasks that you entrusted to me. Give me Lord good health and the needed strength to achieve this and fill me with joy as I go on and live my life for you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*