

Scripture

Read Ephesians 6:10-18, KJV

Pray

Acknowledgements

Thank Bishop & Pastor for the opportunity to share God's Word, acknowledge Gip and the kids, and my Jubilee family

Introduction

Testimony of how this message developed – through personal experiences this week.

- Saw the creature Uptown on Tuesday – my reaction
- Saw the National Geographic commercial – you know that feeling in the pit of your stomach when you know something is coming that you don't like? Well, that "feeling" was right.
- Yet, the scripture that came to mind was Luke 10:19, "Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."
- So this message is for ME – if you get something from it, great! I pray you'll walk it out and apply His Word in your own life like God is causing me to do.

Have you ever felt like you couldn't do something? Then you look at God's Word and it tells you the exact opposite. (*refer to our JLC decree*) Then you have to believe His Word because He **is** Truth, and He is not a man that He should lie.

Definitions

For a moment, let’s examine: What is Fear?

Clarification at the outset: We know that the fear of the Lord means to be in awe of or to reverence – that’s not the fear we’re talking about today.

Definition of **fear** – (as a noun): a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; the feeling or condition of being afraid

Synonyms for fear include: apprehension, terror, fright, panic, horror, alarm, dread

(as a verb) **fear**: to be frightened of, to be uneasy or apprehensive about

Natural responses or reactions to fear include a desire to flee or fight. Today, we’re going to examine the “fight” part. I thought I was a pretty peaceable person, but the older I get, the more I realize that some stuff, you’ve just gotta confront. So y’all pray for me!

What does it mean to **face** something (as an action word)?

Definition of **face** – to confront directly, courageously, or boldly; to oppose or to meet defiantly (taking no prisoners – only casualties)

In sports, teams refer to **offense** as: the ability to score, or the act of attack. They’re not hoping to get the ball by some fluke or chance or wish, they’re **strategizing** on how to take possession of what’s theirs, and then they execute to make it happen. As Christians, we’ve got to be just as strategic.

Definition of **empower** – to give power or authority to; authorize, especially by legal or official means; to enable or permit

The word “empower” implies some action, so it means **we’re going to have to do something**. Today, I want you to know that God has empowered you to face your fears. You are empowered for the purpose of destroying, vanquishing, conquering, overcoming them – not wallowing in them and nursing them, catering to them!

4 Progressive Action Steps for us to follow when facing a fear:

1. Look at it – identify
2. Deal with it – get support/help from the brethren
3. Be delivered from it – let it go!
4. Help deliver others (minister deliverance) – walk in freedom/spiritual liberty

II Timothy 1:6-7 (Paul speaking to Timothy) tells us to:

v. 6 – “...stir up the gift of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands.”

v. 7 – “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of **power**, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

The Purpose of Being Empowered

Power creates change. Knowing that God has empowered us for a purpose, let’s create some change today!

You must know what you can do to keep what you fear from coming to pass (that’s where wisdom, knowledge, and understanding come into play).

For example: If I have a nagging fear in the back of my mind that a particular health condition that runs in my family is going to affect me, I can choose to eat less salt, exercise more, drink more water – make better, wiser choices and decisions to directly FACE that fear. You can do the same for whatever fear you face.

The Armor of God

So what in the world does this have to do with the armor of God?
I'm glad you asked!

You **must** put on the whole armor of God (this requires total commitment, not partial) – or else you're exposed and vulnerable for your fears to overwhelm you. God is calling for us to stand **against** the wiles of the devil – not run from them, not hide from them, not ignore them, but FACE them!

Eph. 6:12 tells us we need to identify our enemy so we're not shooting blind or in the dark. In verse 13, we're going to have a SHOWDOWN! So we need to be equipped with **all** the weapons of warfare He's placed at our disposal to be victorious in the fight when we FACE our FEARS.

The Message Bible translation of this passage tells us "truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon."

So we have to acknowledge that we've been fighting (or attempting to fight) with the wrong weapons: reason, intellect, will power, and resolve...NO! We've got to use the power of prayer

and the power of the Word if we expect God's decreed results: total victory over the enemy.

You've got to know that your fear is your enemy because it's keeping you from what God promised you!

Gates and Walls

Isaiah 26:1-4 says:

v.1 – “In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.”

v. 2 – “Open ye the gates that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.”

v. 3 – “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

v. 4 – “Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”

I don't know about you – but I **need** everlasting strength that comes from the Lord Jehovah! We also need truth, and this passage talks about opening the gates so truth may enter in.

A gate is defined as: a means of access, a passageway, an opening permitting passage through something that's closed, or a moveable barrier – isn't that good news? It doesn't have to stay there forever and a day! Furthermore, this “moveable barrier” is usually on hinges, so that means if you find that pivot point, you can turn it with even less effort. A gate can provide protection and security, or it can imprison you. What are your gates – do you know? Your

fear can be a gate that’s letting things in that are holding you hostage.

During Bible times, some cities had gates and walls; they were called defenced cities. The ones that didn’t have gates and walls were pretty open and exposed.

The root of defenced is a **fence**.

Fence: a barrier enclosing or bordering a field, yard, etc., usually made of posts and wire or wood, **used to prevent entrance, to confine, or to mark a boundary.**

A wall serves the same purpose.

A defenced city is one that’s resistant against attack because it’s fortified. Some of your fears have become defenced cities because they’re so familiar and entrenched. But today, I declare that you can see them come down!

Giants in the Land

Let me tell you about something I discovered while studying – it blessed me! Deuteronomy 3 talks about Og, the king of Bashan who came up against the children of Israel. What was significant about him was that he was “of the remnant of the giants.” A remnant is a portion, a residue, something left over, a trace, fragment, or scrap. To me, that says: you may have dealt with some – or even most – of your issues. But there’s that *one lingering thing* that’s just been hanging around, hanging on,

weighing you down, holding you back from entering into a new realm of God's glory for your life.

Let me go on about Og, whose name means "gigantic." (remember: a fear can be real or imagined). He reigned over 60 fortified, fenced cities in the land of Bashan, which means "fruitful." Deuteronomy 3:11 tells us his iron bed was 9 cubits in length and 4 cubits in breadth. That means his bed was over 18 feet long and over 8 feet wide – wow. That's a big bed for a big giant. Now I've gotta ask you today: Is there a free-loading giant living in – and reigning in – a fruitful land that's rightfully yours??? What big bed have your fears been sleeping in, occupying your promised land? That oughta be enough to make you face your fears right now!

David faced his giant (Goliath) – now will you face yours?

God is telling us today, "It's time to get rid of the excess baggage!" Airlines charge a fee for an overweight bag – if you don't want to pay extra, either you transfer some of the extra weight to another bag, or you decide it's just not worth it, and leave it at home.

God's fee for trimming down your "extra stuff" may be the next level of your anointing or your ministry. And if you choose not to pay the price and you miss it, you're just short!

In Deuteronomy 3:18, Moses led the charge for obeying God by destroying this enemy – no matter what his size, they were not to be intimidated. "And I commanded you at that time, saying, the Lord your God hath given you this land to possess it: **ye shall pass**

over armed (that’s the *whole armor!*) before your brethren the children of Israel, **all that are meet (*prepared*) for the war.**”

So are you battle-ready? They left wives, children, and cattle – for the cause of battle. Verse 20 says they returned to their possession that the Lord had given them **AFTER** they possessed the land before them. Some folks may not be able to go with you. Some folks may want to stay in the place of bondage – you’d better leave them there! Are **you** equipped? Do you have on the **WHOLE** armor of God, or are little pieces of flesh hanging out, exposed?

In II Kings 3:19, the Lord spoke through the prophet Elisha and told the people, “And ye shall smite **every fenced city**, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.”

That meant the utter destruction of that which was going to *hinder* them going forward. Even the stuff that *looks* good or “not so bad.” Identify it according to **GOD’S** standards in His Word, and then destroy it!

Consider yourself: Is fear of a giant keeping **YOU** from possessing the land God promised you? Be honest in your assessment.

Conclusion

If I might take the liberty to paraphrase and personalize Deuteronomy 9:1 for you:

“Hear, O Jubilee: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven.”

In verse 2, the enemy was known as “a people great and tall” that nobody could stand against. Has someone told you that you can’t be an “A” student, or get a promotion on your job, or go back to school? Maybe you’re afraid someone will find out about a nasty habit you have that you just haven’t been able to get rid of – smoking is no worse than gluttony, and stealing is no worse than lying and gossiping. You know you’ve gotta get rid of this habit, but you’re afraid to face it? Is facing that fear standing between you and your God-given destiny?

Verse 3 says, “Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy **face: so shalt thou drive them out** (that means YOU have to face them!) and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee.”

Don’t hesitate! This is your opportunity – today. Don’t let your fears keep you paralyzed any longer.

We all know what the world celebrates at the end of October as Halloween. In this season, be encouraged and know that as Christians who apply the Blood of Jesus to our lives, we don’t have to walk in fear.

Christ *is* the Power to face your fears.

Fear of failure, rejection, being alone/abandonment, success, inadequacy, not being in control, the unknown; fear of not being heard, understood, respected, appreciated, acknowledged, loved, validated/approved, poverty/lack, abuse...the list goes on.

We go out of our way just to NOT face our fears!
But what are you missing out on by staying stuck?

You're going to face it one day – one way or another – it may as well be on your terms – with the power of Christ.

Stop expecting the worst – God's got your back!
Turn the page, close the chapter, don't go back or turn back, or try to peek back – it will ensnare you. Today can be your new beginning.

Admitting **truth** is the first step toward deliverance, which leads to healing, which leads to restoration.

Are you wondering:

- What if I'm as great as God says I am?
- What if they don't like me?
- What if I let go of my past (the blanket, the pacifier, the coat)? (This is the comfort zone).
- Today, Step up to the challenge: face your fears with Christ
- That which you try to run from/avoid/ignore, you usually end up running straight into (bill collectors, emotional terrorists – the people who push your buttons)
- Face it once and for all...

Your fear can no longer be used as a crutch, a cloak, or a debilitating excuse

Humble yourself and receive God's power

One decision you make today can lead to your growth, development, and maturity – and freedom from bondage.

Altar Call

I want you to know that you can break out today, face your fears, and go forth into the promises God has for your life.

Someone is waiting for you to get in position to help them be delivered, but you've got to be delivered **FIRST**.

Two things – first, if you don't know Jesus, your greatest fear could be "where would I go if I died today." Today, you can settle that answer for good, and it will be established in both heaven and in earth. So I invite you to face your fears of living another day in sin. You can make the choice to invite Jesus to live in your heart and learn His ways of facing those things that held you captive for so long – too long.

Second, if you have a relationship with Jesus, but there is a particular fear that you haven't faced – either it was too painful, you were ashamed that somebody might know what's **REALLY** going on with you, or for whatever reason, there's a fear that's kept you a prisoner, even when you're so close to the glory of the King of Kings – we want to pray with you, stand in agreement that God will give you the courage to face it, because He's **ALREADY** empowered you to face your fear and **OVERCOME** it. You are victorious!