

# Fearless

## 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Fear is something we all face in life. Fear of failure, fear of people, fear of the unknown

In short, there can be no progress in life without taking risks

- You cannot succeed in life if you give in to fear
- The corporate world risks failure every time they launch a new idea
- Do they always win? No!
- The business world faces fears better than many Christians
- But without taking a risk, they have no chance to succeed
- God has empowered us to live by the power of His Spirit to overcome fear and live a victorious life

## F.E.A.R – False Evidence Appearing Real

- We must face and conquer fear to fulfill our God-given destiny
- Living the fearless life requires living in the faith zone
- You will never see a Red Sea part living in the safe zone

Fear is one of the greatest evils you must face off with and win!

Remember, when a God-given opportunity comes along, it is God's gift to you. What you do with that opportunity is your gift to God

### **Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)**

*<sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

What area of your life have you kept yourself tucked up in your safe zone so that you'd never be vulnerable again?

- Fear of failing and suffering
- A business venture or promotion
- Learning to trust again after a divorce
- Maybe something else

When we overcome our scariest moments we step into our greatest opportunity

- Schuil – Bible study – TC – Two-hour drive then move

Living the fearless life requires you to get over your fear of failure

- Fear will paralyze you at the fear of taking a risk
- Remember, when you fail don't quit
- History shows that failure can actually become a catalyst to propel you to success

Colonel Harland Sanders:

- His father died when he was 5
- He had a challenging childhood and quit school at 16
- He worked a string of dead-end jobs and didn't even cook until he was 40
- Retired penniless at 65 and received his first retirement check of \$105
- He contemplated committing suicide
- He borrowed \$86 against that check and started taking samples of his chicken to area restaurants
- If they liked it he would cook it for their restaurant
- He was turned down 1009 times before he got his first yes
- He sold his franchise in 1964 for 2M
- He remained the spokesperson for the franchise until 1976
- He was ranked as the second most recognized celebrity
- At 65 he was ready to commit suicide, by 88 he was a billionaire

When we choose to live the face fear and take risks we will sometimes feel afraid

**Psalm 56:3 (NKJV)**

**<sup>3</sup> Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.**

When we overcome fear of failure we will live a happy, productive, fearless life

## Courageousness is Fearlessness

### **Joshua 1:1–6 (NKJV) *God's Commission to Joshua***

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: <sup>2</sup>“Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. <sup>5</sup>No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

- Can you imagine being the leader to replace Moses?
- What an act to follow
- God is giving Joshua a pep talk to prepare him
- He told Joshua how to assemble a great army and how to be a great leader
- He told him to be courageous and not give in to fear

In life we will face giants. When we do we must not give into the spirit of fear.

- God has all power to work through you when you refuse to fear
- He will fight for you and bring a victory
- We need to be bold and do what He tells us to do

God is telling us the same thing He told Joshua: Be Courageous

#### 4 Reasons to be Courageous

##### 1 – Be Courageous for the Sake of Others

**Joshua 1:6 (NKJV)**

**6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.**

When you face fear and follow God with all of your heart there are people around you who will benefit from your success

- Your family, friends and others whom you influence
- Others will follow your example into their promised land
- Your godly decisions and courage will encourage them to take risks in life
- No one lives in isolation
- Your marriage, your children, your employer, friends and others are watching you
- Their success depends on your success and courage

## 2 – Be Courageous for your Sake

### Joshua 1:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

- God's desire was for Joshua to prosper everywhere he went
- He had been mentored by Moses to take Israel into the Promised Land

God did not want the fear of failure to paralyze Joshua from being able to accomplish the tremendous task ahead of him

- Are you facing something that seems to big for you?
- God can give you the strength, ability and resources to succeed
- Your main goal is to resist fear and trust God to take you through the door of opportunity
- It's Gods desire to prosper you in all you do

### Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

### 3 – Be Courageous for the Lord’s Sake

#### Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

- The Lord promised that he would be with Joshua wherever he went
- The Lord had more at stake in Israel’s success than they did
- His eternal plan for the Messiah depended on their success
- Pagan nations had heard of the way God delivered the Jewish people out of bondage
- If they failed to conquer their Promised Land they would bring reproach on God’s name
- God’s reputation is on the line when He makes you a promise
- He loves you and has ordained for you to walk in His ways
- He has a plan for your success
- If you fail to inherit His promises because of fear, your failure affects the great mission of God

#### 2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

## 4 – Be Courageous for the Sake of your Enemy

### Joshua 1:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage.”

- God told Joshua to display courage when facing his enemies
- He promised to be with him and fight for him
- God needed to conquer fear for the enemy’s sake
- God wants to prove His victory in your life for the enemy’s sake

### Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

- God vindicates His people when we refuse to fear the enemies of our faith

Take a stand and resist the enemy by the word of the Lord when he tries to steal, kill and destroy God’s plans for your life

- Sometimes it’s good to have enemies
- They can push you where a friend cannot
- Think of David and Goliath
- You wouldn’t have known about Moses without a Pharaoh
- You never would have heard about Esther without Haman’s evil plot

What's keeping you from your dreams?

- Is there an enemy standing between you and the promises of God?
- Dare to confront the enemy without fear and intimidation
- You will become an instrument in God's hand to bring about your destiny

When King David's son, Absalom committed treason and drove his father from his throne a man named Shimei followed David, cursing him and throwing stones

- David's servant asked permission to kill him

## 2 Samuel 16:11–12 (NKJV) David's Response

<sup>11</sup> And David said to Abishai and all his servants, “See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now *may this* Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him. <sup>12</sup> It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day.”

- Absalom died that day and the throne was restored to David
- Once again God prepared a table for David in the presence of his enemy
- Remember people are not the problem
- Stand strong, overcome fear, and see the victory of the Lord

## Will You Fight for Your Bean Patch?

David surrounded himself with men of great courage, men who followed his example of fearlessness

- They were willing to die for their conviction

### 2 Samuel 23:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> But he (*Shammah*) stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

- He was devoted to David and fought alone against great odds
- Why would a man be willing to defend a bean patch?
- It wasn't for the value of the beans

He understood that if the enemy took that field he would keep coming and take more territory from the people of Israel

- If he gave up that field what would be next?
  - His home?
  - His children?
  - His city?

The moment you compromise one inch in fear you compromise more territory

Before you know it, you will lose everything you ever had in God because you didn't take a stand

Benaiah was another of David's Might Men  
Not only did he not turn his back on danger, he pursued it

## 2 Samuel 23:20–21 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. <sup>21</sup> And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

- Why would you chase down a lion?
- And if you did, wouldn't you pick a sunny day?
- The bible tells us the outcome that day but not the details
- To live such a fearless life you can't just be some average Joe
- This became part of his impressive resume
- His father was a priest
- His grandfather was also a valiant man (others are watching)

He was promoted in charge of David's Bodyguards and mercenary armies, he was later promoted to General under Solomon

- He became the second most powerful man in all of Israel because of his fearless courage

Do you like to have a sure thing before you take a risk?

- Need a guaranteed return before you invest?
- Have to know someone likes you before you offer friendship?

Many times God will ask us to do something that doesn't seem like a sure thing at first

Most of the great miracles in the Bible were when people stepped out in faith on a maybe

Jonathan, son of Saul is pursuing the great philistine army when he gets a maybe from God and decides to act

### 1 Samuel 14:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.”

- Maybe the Lord will help, maybe not
- They pick a fight with a few of them and slaughtered about twenty
- The Lord caused the entire army to disrupt in confusion
- When we take a step of faith on a maybe God will act

The key to tapping into the supernatural is to do the natural by faith

- Faith in God's maybe is a safe place
- God can turn that maybe into a miracle