

Overcoming Fear – 3

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

⁷For 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

If we do not face off with our fears they will keep us from living the victorious life God has planned for us

- You will never be perfect
- Therefore, you will never be perfectly successful
- That doesn't mean you will not succeed in life
- You must try

Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

¹²I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

¹³No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,* but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

We learned that we have a place of safety in the “Shadow” of the Almighty – **Psalm 91**

Yes, God will rescue us but know we need to take responsibility and let our faith take root and grow to conquer fear and live in victory

We fight the good fight of faith – **1 Timothy 6:12**

- Faith attracts God
- Fear attracts Satan
- Jesus referred to the devil as a thief – **John 10:10**
- Jesus is the One that gives life abundantly
- Our faith release the abundant life of God into our situation

Are you in a faith fight for your future?

- Your marriage
- Your finances
- Your health

Unless you win the fight of faith, what you fear can become a reality

- The battle is in our mind and emotions
- Our five senses
- Fear attacks through what our senses tell us
- We must not allow ourselves to be driven by the fear that tries to rule our five senses
- Do what you see and hear rule your life?
- Determine your decisions?
- Control your feelings?

Joshua heading into the Promised Land

- There were five kings they needed to face and defeat
- They were constantly making war and resisting them as they entered the Promised Land
- They were determined to defeat Israel and rob them of their inheritance from God
- We have five senses we need to face and defeat

God was with Joshua and the people and help them defeat those five armies

- These five kings ran away and hid in a cave
- Joshua and his warriors chased them down and found them

Joshua 10:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, “Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.” And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. ²⁵ Then Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”

- Dismayed – “to be torn apart” or “to fall apart”
- The devil wants to tear your mind apart and rob you of your peace
- He wants to tear your emotions apart and give you a nervous breakdown

What we need to do with the enemy

- First, we need to bring the enemy “out of the dark”
- Then, put our feet on their necks
- We need to confront them
- We need to subdue them
- Declare, “you will not rule over our lives!”

Our five senses

- What we see
- What we hear
- What we smell what we taste
- What we touch

God gave us our senses to tell us what’s going on around us, but if we believe everything they tell us they become tyrants of fear

- When you hear a bad report from the doctor, don’t let what you hear put fear in your heart
- When you see the economy turning down, don’t let what you see rob you of faith in God’s provision
- When you feel bad, don’t let Satan tell you that you have cancer
- You must refuse to let your five senses rule your mind and heart

You must determine from this day forward, to overcome the five kings of your senses I order to live in victory over fear

You have a sixth sense – faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- It's this faith sense that lets me know I don't have to live my life in fear and disarray
- We are made to be purpose driven, not fear driven
- If you let your senses rule you will be...
 - One defeated, schizophrenic, messed-up person
 - Up one minute and down the next!
- By faith we learn to keep our foot on the necks of these five senses

Remember the three Hebrew boys?

Daniel 3:27 (NLT)

²⁷ Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!

- They didn't even smell like smoke
- They didn't let their senses rule
 - They declared that God would deliver them
 - But even if He didn't, they wouldn't bow down
- Sometimes God will allow us to go through a trial instead of sparing us
 - Our faith will deliver us out of it!
 - They were thrown in bound – yet they were seen walking around

No matter how hot the fire you must walk through, or how difficult the trial, you don't have to smell like it!

- You don't have to smell like the divorce you went through 20 years ago
- Or the bad business deal 10 years ago
- Stop complaining about it and blaming everything in life that doesn't work out on it
- Get the victory over the smell of your circumstances
- Don't let the smell of smoke cling to you the rest of your life

In our trial, we need to be the aroma of praise

- We are a living sacrifice – **Romans 12:1**

God loves the smell of burning flesh

Leviticus 3:16 (NLT)

¹⁶and the priest will burn them on the altar. It is a special gift of food, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. All the fat belongs to the LORD.

- God loves the sacrifice of our carnal nature
- It allows His life to reign in you
- He loves to see you decrease so that He can increase His victory through faith in your heart
- That is the aroma of praise
- Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God
– **2 Corinthians 2:15**

What are your feelings telling you?

The story of Isaac blessing Jacob instead of Esau

- Esau was a hairy man
- Jacob had smooth skin
- Rebekah wrapped Jacob's hands in goat's hair and brought Esau's clothes for him to wear
- Jacob went to his father pretending to be Esau
- Isaac asked him to come near

Genesis 27:22 (NLT)

²² So Jacob went closer to his father, and Isaac touched him.

“The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's,” Isaac said.

- Isaac *trusts what he feels* and pronounces the blessing of the first born over Jacob
- We need to *trust that we have heard the truth*
- Faith comes by hearing – **Romans 10:17**
- Don't say “I don't feel God anymore”
- In the midst of your trial don't let what you feel cause you to doubt what you know to be true

Don't be so “touchy”

- “Well pastor I got my feelings hurt, so I haven't spoken to them since”
 - Get over it! Learn to forgive
 - Refuse to be offended
 - Practice love!

Do you believe what you see?

Has the promise of God been aborted because you chose to believe what you saw instead of what God had promised?

Jacob was an old man when his sons brought him the blood-stained coat of many colors

- He saw that coat and declared that an evil beast must have devoured his son
- That was the pictures Joseph's jealous brothers wanted to paint

Genesis 37:33 (NKJV)

³³ And he recognized it and said, "*It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces.*"

- Without doubt – “believing with perfect faith”
- It is possible to have perfect faith in a lie
- Stop declaring and believing what you see
- Do you have more faith in a lie than in the truth?
- You have to decide to believe the doctors report or God's word
- You have to decide to believe the financial circumstances or have faith in God's word that says He will provide all your needs – **Philippians 4:19**

2 Kings 6

Elisha and his servant are being pursued by a great army of horses and chariots

- His servant sees the army and is in dismay and asks, “what shall we do?”

2 Kings 6:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them.” ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ So when *the Syrians* came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

- If you look only in the natural you will miss the miraculous
- God doesn’t want you falling apart because of what you see all around you
- He wants you to look to Him and know that you don’t have to be afraid
- You may not be seeing anything encouraging right now
- Don’t just look at your problems
- Look at God’s promises
- Don’t just look at the enemy; see God’s angels
- Be assured your help come from the Lord

What have you heard?

I can assure you that the enemy will whisper to you to quit, to give up because you can't make it anyway

- You are going bankrupt
- You are going to die *or* no one loves you

You cannot allow what you hear to rob you of your faith

Elijah announced the word of the Lord to Ahab that it wouldn't rain for three and a half years

- After three years without rain everyone would be talking about the famine
- How are we going to survive?
- Animals are dying
- People are moaning in hunger

Elijah heard something different

1 Kings 18:41 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for *there is the sound of abundance of rain.*"

- Elijah had heard Gods voice for his provision all through the famine
 - The brook, the widow
- You must decide who you are going to hear in your circumstance

What do you taste?

2 Kings 4

Elisha returning to Gilgal

2 Kings 4:38–41 (NKJV)

³⁸ And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and *there was* a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him; and he said to his servant, “Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.” ³⁹ So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced *them* into the pot of stew, though they did not know *what they were*. ⁴⁰ Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, “Man of God, *there is* death in the pot!” And they could not eat *it*. ⁴¹ So he said, “Then bring some flour.” And he put *it* into the pot, and said, “Serve *it* to the people, that they may eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

- The flour represents the word of God
- When you add the word of God to your bitter circumstance it is something you can stomach
- It takes something inedible and makes it edible
- The word of God takes the poison that attacks your life and brings grace and forgiveness
- He can remove bitterness from the most difficult situation and life’s disappointments

Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

- We must learn to forgive others
- Unforgiveness will make your soul bitter
- Some of us have to forgive God for situations we do not understand
- Some of us have to forgive ourselves for our regrets and failures in life

Your senses will cause you to live in fear

- What are you facing?
- What are you hearing right now?
- What are you seeing?
- What are you feeling?
- What are you tasting?

Your sixth sense of faith is no match for the other five senses

- Take authority over the natural realm of your life
- Let your faith see what God sees in you
- When you agree with Gods word instead of your senses you will live a victorious life

Psalm 60:12 (NKJV)

¹² Through God we will do valiantly, for *it is* He *who* shall tread down our enemies.