

Overcoming Fear

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

⁷ 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

*“There was a very cautious man Who never laughed or played;
He never risked, he never tried, He never sang or prayed. And
when he one day passed away His insurance was denied; For
since he never really lived, They claimed he never died!”*

– Harvey Mackay – “Worry makes you cross the bridge before you come to it”

It is impossible to live life without trying new things and taking some risks with the possibility of failure

- We will fail
- Human race failure rate is 100%

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 3:12-16 (NLT)

¹² I 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.

¹³ No, 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, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. ¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

Story:

There was a tourist driving through beautiful farmland

He saw an old farmer sitting in a rocking chair on the porch,
chewing a piece of straw

- He stopped, and asked “is that your land?”
- “Yep” the farmer answered
- “Well, what are you doing with it? Are you going to grow cotton?”
- “No, I’m afraid the boll weevils will get it.”
- “What about corn?”
- “No, locusts will eat the corn.” As he chewed the straw
- “What about raising cattle?”
- “I’m afraid the price of beef might go down.”
- “So what are you going to do with these seventy-five acres of prime farm land?”
- “Nothing, I’m going to play it safe and do nothing.”

A lot of people do that with their life’s potential

When fear rules your life, you will not step out in faith to fulfill
your destiny in God

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

We have all experienced fear that makes us want to pull back in life

The ones make it in life are the ones who overcome fear

Three things we need to remember...

1. Jesus is with me, and He has all the power I need

Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,* baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- This must have seemed impossible to the disciples
- They had never travelled beyond their homeland
- Their impossible job was to cover the earth with the gospel
- Jesus promised, I am with you wherever you go!
- That promise is for us as well
- Hell, couldn't keep Him, the grave couldn't hold Him and demons couldn't trap Him
- Don't look back, don't tremble
- Fear not!

We need to realize that in the furnace of fear God is with us

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wouldn't bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue

Daniel 3:19–23 (NLT)

¹⁹ Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰ Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. ²² And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in. ²³ So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

- When you make a stand, by faith, the enemy will turn up the fire
- You may feel like the flames are too hot
- Stay fully dressed for battle – **Ephesians 6:10-17**
- You may have to go deeper into the flames of the furnace
- The blaze of the battle will be too much for the enemies of your faith
- You are not alone!
- Say, “I am not alone!”

Daniel 3:24–26 (NLT)

²⁴ But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?” “Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied. ²⁵ “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god*!” ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire.

- Weren’t there three men, but now I see four?
- You may go into the furnace alone
- But Jesus will meet you there
- He is not bound by the flames
- Our trust is in Him
- You are about to “come out” of your fiery trial
- It’s time to step up and step out

Isaiah 43:2 (NLT)

² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

2. God is under you

It is true that God is a God of miracles and mountaintop moments

- God met with Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah
- On Mt. Horeb Moses encountered the burning bush
- On Mt. Sanai God gave the Ten Commandments
- At Mt. Nebo Moses looked across and saw the promised land
- It was on Mt. Carmel that God sent down fire for Elijah
- God is a God of the high places

When you feel like you've hit rock bottom remember God is with you

Deuteronomy 33:26–27 (NLT)

²⁶ “There is no one like the God of Israel.* He rides across the heavens to help you, across the skies in majestic splendor. ²⁷ The eternal God is your refuge, and his everlasting arms are **under** you. He drives out the enemy before you; he cries out, ‘Destroy them!’

- NKJV – Underneath – Hebrew “bottom”
- No matter how deep the valley is you're going through God's presence is deeper
- His arms are underneath you ...at the bottom

3. God has given you a measure of faith

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**

When you face, a trial say...

- I have faith for this
- God has given me the measure of faith I need to please Him
- God has given me the faith I need to walk in His will
- He knows the beginning from the end

Isaiah 46:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’

- God has already established your end
- If you stay in faith you will walk in His plan for your life
- It’s already established!
- When fear threatens your victory say...
 - Faith is important
 - It doesn’t take huge faith
 - I have faith for this

Faith is important

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

Luke 22:31–32 (NLT)

³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat.

³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

- This is the most important prayer Jesus could have prayed for Peter
- That his faith would not fail

We want a prayer that we will have...

- Our best financial year ever
- That we will have a life without troubles or problems
 - Faith is more important than money
 - It's more important than a successful career
 - It's more important than happiness

Why?

- Because if you take everything I have except my faith, I will be back
- Faith will connect me to God's will
- He has all the power
- Failure isn't final

Failure will never be final if my faith does not fail

It doesn't take huge faith

Matthew 17:20 (NLT)

²⁰ “You don't have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.*”

- The “mustard seed” concept was a phrase used in Jesus’ day to describe something “small and insignificant”
- Jesus was saying we need only that “insignificant” kind of faith to do the impossible
- Don't despise the day of small beginnings
- Let your faith work like a small mustard seed
- It will grow and overcome obstacles to become a mighty tree
- It will press up through the dark earth, around rocks, braving storms and avoiding animals and other threats

“It is not so much the size of your faith but the quality of faith that you need to succeed” – Jentezen Franklin – Fear fighters

It just takes “mustard size” faith to move something from the impossibility column into the possibility column

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

- Your faith will overcome your fear when you decide to stand in the faith that has been given to you!
- The key to living by faith in this world is submitting our life to the lordship of Jesus Christ

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

³³ Seek the Kingdom of God* above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

We need to develop our own personal arsenal by seeking God's kingdom and His words of faith

- Faith comes by hearing – **Romans 10:17**
- Strength comes through a personal revelation of the promises of God
- You can then declare His word in faith
- Nothing life throws at you will overwhelm or defeat you

John 14:27 (NLT)

²⁷ “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Mark 5:36 (NLT)

³⁶ But Jesus overheard* them and said to Jairus, “Don't be afraid. Just have faith.”