

Reading: 2 Chronicles 32:1-8

“Do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward” (Heb 10:35)

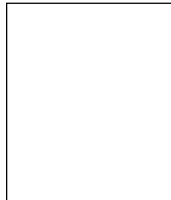
“Anything dark is devil for the fearful!” So goes a Tamil proverb. I have not counted it, but I have heard more than one preacher say that there are 366 “Fear Not’s” or similar statements in the Bible—one for each day of the year! In all situations of life, we must remind ourselves of what God told Joshua: “Be strong and of good courage; do not fear, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you” (Josh 1:9).

The spies who were sent to Canaan became fearful not because of the giants they saw in Canaan but because they disbelieved the promise of God (Num 13:33). Fear will grip us when we lose our fellowship with God. When we don’t depend on the power of the Spirit of God but rely on our own intellectual stamina and physical strength, fear will dominate and torment us (1 Sam 16:14; 17:24; Psa 78:9). If popularity is our goal, the success of any other person will be a threat to us (Jn 12:42,43).

Nothing good will come out of fear. When Peter was afraid, he denied and even cursed his Master (Mk 14:66-72). His fear in a later situation made him play a hypocrite (Gal 2:11-13). Fear begets hypocrisy, and hypocrisy further leads to fear! (Isa 33:14). Those fearful in a team melt the hearts of others too (Dt 20:8). Because of fear Adam hid himself from the presence of God. The last page of the Bible speaks of the fearful being shut out of Heaven (Rev 21:8).

He who bows humbly before God will stand boldly before men. How much we are scared at times before opposers of the Gospel and officials of the Government! The timid disciples spoke God’s Word with boldness when they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31). The Priests and Saducees were thrilled to see the boldness of the uneducated Peter and John, and concluded that the reason was that “they had been with Jesus!” (Acts 4:13). When we maintain a good conscience before God and man, it becomes easy for us to overcome all sorts of fear. “The righteous man is as bold as a lion” (Prov 28:1). Fellowship of God’s people strengthens us in threatening situations.

Fear will fly away if we keep confessing, “For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain!”



*The earth is receding;
Heaven is beckoning;
This is the day of my coronation!
O death, how sweet!*

(Evangelist D.L. Moody, 1837-1899)

MAY 26

PRAYER

Subject: Character

Reading: 2 Chr 32:1-8

Memorising: Heb 10:35

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your promise that You are with us always whether we feel it or not. You are our shield, so we need not fear. Thank You, O Lord, for Your outstretched wings which cover us. Thank You, O God, for Your eternal hands which uphold us. Thank You, O Lord, for Your presence that goes before us. Thank You for Your loving hand that's leading us. Your eyes, O God, are always on us. You have promised to keep us as the apple of Your eye. Our life is hidden in You with Christ. What a safety, O Lord, and what an assurance!

Father God, no evil shall befall us, and no plague shall come near us, because You are our Refuge, and You the Most High are our Habitation. Thank You for Your truth which is our shield and buckler. When You, O God, are for us, who can be against us? Who can be against us? Who can be against us? Who can be against us?

Father God, we confess to You our fear for future. Remind us, O Lord, that You are not only the God of Abraham but also the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. You are not only the God of yesterday but also of today and tomorrow.

Dear Lord God, in Your Name we come against the devil who challenges us and threatens us like Goliath. Help us, O Lord, to rebuke and resist the devil who paralyses us through fear. Deliver us from the spirit of negativism that prevails in this world of unbelief. We join David and sing, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear!"

Father God, we thank You for sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil. Thank You that He Himself has tasted death in order to release us from the fear of death. Remind us again and again, O Lord, that our times are in Your hand. Not a hair from our head will fall off without Your knowledge and permission. Help us stay bold in all situations because You are with us as the Lion of Judah. Grant us the confidence the apostles had, that we are more than conquerors in all things through You who have loved us. Nothing can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Amen and Amen!

(Isa 41:10; Psa 17:8; 27:1-3; 31:15; 32:8; 91:4,9; 144:2; Ex 33:14; Col 3:3; Rom 8:31,37; Mt 22:31,32; Heb 2:9,14,15; Lk 12:7; Rev 5:5; 1 Jn 3:8)