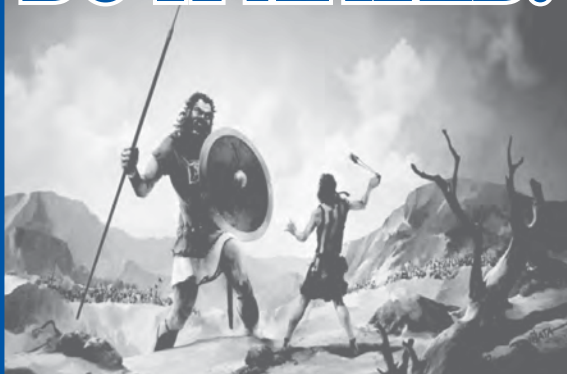


DO IT AFRAID!



by Jason Peebles

There will be times in life when you sense that you should move forward in faith for something, but fear will try to stop you. It may be when you sense the time is right to purchase a home, look for a better job, launch a business, or start a new ministry project. **Call it fear, anxiety, concern, or hesitation – the fact is that we all face moments when fear tries to keep us from something better. It is in those times that you must use an important key to faith -- “DO IT AFRAID!”** Joshua 1:9 says, *“Be strong and of good courage; BE NOT AFRAID, neither be dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever you go.”* If you will move forward and do it afraid, you will find that fear loses its grip. If you don’t, then you’ll miss many opportunities.

Fly Like An Eagle

I can remember when I first took flying lessons many years ago. I had been driving cross-country nearly every week for Bible conferences, seminars, and church meetings and it was literally wearing me out. Thus, I started dreaming about taking flying lessons and owning our own airplane for the ministry. The idea of being able to cross half the country in a few hours was an awesome thought to me. **Eventually, my dream was fulfilled and we ended up owning several airplanes through the years that served us well. But in the beginning, fear almost stopped me.**

At first, the notion of flying seemed romantic and exciting -- until the day that I actually climbed into an airplane with an instructor! When the engine roared to life and I saw the propeller turning, it was very intimidating. I expressed my anxiety to my instructor and I still remember what he said:

“Jason, you can either learn to fly like an eagle or you can spend the rest of your life scratching in the dirt like a chicken.”

Without even knowing it, my instructor was teaching me a powerful faith-lesson that day. He said exactly what I needed to hear. **I didn't realize it at the time, but learning how to overcome fear is a major theme throughout the Bible. No matter what you try to do in life, you can be sure that fear will try to hold you back.** If you want to fly like an eagle, then you must learn to “do it afraid” and overcome fear.

The Force of Fear

There are two forces that you will deal with throughout life – the force of fear and the power of faith. In many ways, fear is the opposite of faith. **Faith is a confidence in God's ability that says “you can do it” while fear says “you can't.”**

Let's look at a key verse on the subject of fear. Hebrews 2:15 says, ***“And deliver them who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*** Here are two important things to note in this verse: **1) First of all, it says that fear connects you to bondage.** In other words, when you allow fear to rule your life, it puts limitations on you and keeps you in bondage. Fear is like a prison with high walls that will try to keep you locked up. When you allow fear to have the upper hand in something, then you miss out on what you could have had by faith. Fear says, *“You can't do that!”* whereas faith says, *“You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you” (Phil 4:13).* **2) Second, the verse above identifies the ultimate fear known to mankind – the fear of death.** Perhaps you have never thought of it this way, but death is the greatest enemy that you will ever face (1 Cor 15:26, 54-58). The root of every fear is a sense of danger or loss – and death is certainly the ultimate loss. Everything else is a “lesser” loss. Yet the Bible says that we have been delivered from death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ! The resurrection of Christ is our foundation for expecting “victory” instead of “loss.” Thus, if you have been delivered from



the ultimate loss (which is death), then why should anything else intimidate you? Once you begin to understand just how complete and awesome our victory is in Christ, it will be a great step forward in your mind and heart for overcoming fear. **You need to make a decision that you will never again let fear hold you back from God's best. All through my life I've had to learn to “DO IT AFRAID.”** Whether I was learning how to fly airplanes, buying a home, traveling to other nations for missionary work, or whatever – I've had to overcome fear by “doing it afraid.” It's sad that many good people let fear stop them from going to college, learning a trade, traveling, buying a home, getting married, having children -- and the list goes on and on! Some never even try because they give in to the force of fear.

I can remember the first house that I purchased. In the beginning, just the idea of “going and looking” was intimidating to me. At the time, I didn't have a down payment or understand the process -- but I decided to look at homes “in faith” anyway. **I made up my mind that my faith in God's ability to help me was going to be stronger than my fears.** Fear was trying to put me in bondage and limit me. If I had given in to my fears and doubts, I suppose that I would have continued renting homes for the rest of my life. **Some people never even take the first step of exploring the possibilities because they are too focused on what they don't have.** In your life, it may be an entirely different area where you need to apply this key. It may be the fear of starting a family, buying a car, being a missionary, or launching a new project. Whatever the case, God wants you to overcome the force of fear and trust in His power and His ability to work on your behalf. He wants you to fly like an eagle!

Joshua and Caleb

Let's look at the story when God commanded Moses to send spies into the Promised Land (Numbers 13). Israel was poised to enter the Promised Land, but it was going to take faith to do it. God required them to fight their way in and dispossess the other people living there. Thus, God told Moses to send twelve spies (one for each tribe) to scout the land and bring back a good report. The whole goal of "going and looking" was that the spies would come back with a good report of how beautiful and rich the land was. **They were supposed to spread an attitude among the people of -- "With God's help we can do it!" It was meant to be a sort of faith-pep-rally.** But instead, ten out of the twelve came back with a negative attitude. They agreed that the land was indeed beautiful and lush with rivers, fruit, and wild life – but they said that the task of possessing the land was going to be too hard. **Instead of trusting in God's ability, they came back talking about how hard it would be. They took a totally negative view of things. Only two spies (Joshua and Caleb) came back with a "We can do it attitude."** Let's look at these two attitudes as described in Numbers 13:30-32 --

30 *"And Caleb (with Joshua) stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; FOR WE ARE WELL ABLE to overcome it."*

31,32 *"But the men that went up with him (10 of the spies) said, WE BE NOT ABLE to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil (negative) report of the land which they had searched . . ."*

1. "WE BE NOT ABLE" – Look closely at the verses above. Ten of the spies said WE BE NOT ABLE! They allowed fear to paint a negative image. They gave in to the force of fear, to the point that they believed that the enemy was stronger than they were. This is an important lesson for all of us. When we allow fear to dominate our decisions, it has a way of negating God's ability and robbing us of God's best. In this story, their fear was also "contagious." Most of the people believed what they were saying instead of Joshua and Caleb. Eventually, their negativism caused the whole nation of Israel to miss out on the miracle that God had promised.



2. "WE ARE WELL ABLE" – Notice that Caleb and Joshua took a direct opposite view of things. They said WE ARE WELL ABLE to overcome it. Only Caleb and Joshua "saw" with the eye of faith the awesome possibilities that God was offering. In their case, they allowed faith to paint an "image" of victory. They refused to let fear rob them of God's promise. It's important to note here that faith does not ignore the obvious challenges – in this case, the strong people that lived in the land. Yet, faith analyzes things with the "God factor" calculated in. Faith (trust, reliance, dependence) is the main element that God longs for from us. He wants us to place our trust in His ability and His power. Hebrews 11:6 says, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."*

All through the Bible, you can find the same basic lesson of fear vs. faith. In fact, it's one of the major keys to your success in life. If you never learn this key (or if you let it slip), then fear will keep you in bondage and prevent you from possessing "your Promised Land." For example, when Abram heard God telling him to leave everything and follow Him, Abram had to overcome the normal fears that anyone would have. He had to leave everything that was familiar to him and follow God's will into the unknown. Every missionary knows about this. Abram's obedience in following God's guidance is listed in Hebrews chapter 11 as an example of faith. Hebrews 11:8 says, *"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed and he went out, not knowing where he went."* **In other words, he trusted God to the point that he went not knowing where he would end up. That's faith!** Likewise, consider all

the fears and doubts that Noah must have faced when he built the ark for nearly 100 years before he ever saw the first drop of rain! In my mind, that has to be one of the greatest faith-stories in the entire Bible. No doubt, everyone called him “*crazy Noah*” before the rains came! Day after day Noah would get up and work on the ark, solely based on what God had said. And then consider Moses, Joseph, David – all those listed in Hebrews chapter 11. Every one of them had to face their fears and “do it afraid.” When they did, God saw their faith and rewarded them (Heb 11:6).

Dear friend, if you are going to experience God’s best in your life, then there will be times that you must overcome fear and “**DO IT AFRAID.**” Keep in mind that God does not expect blind-faith as some would call it. No, the Bible contains wonderful promises that we can place our trust in. This is not blind-faith but rather trust in what God has said. **For me, it’s just like a pilot who learns to place his faith in his instruments and what they are telling him.** As a pilot, there have been many times that my radar told me that a storm was ahead, yet I could not see it with my eyes. Yet, based on faith in my instruments, I altered course and avoided the storms. Friend, this is why it’s vital for you to study the Bible and make it a habit to mark key verses and promises. God’s Word is your instrument panel! God’s Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit will allow you to fly high like an eagle.

Jesus said -- “Fear Not”

One of the favorite sayings of Jesus was, “*Fear not.*” For example, when Jairus’ daughter was at the point of death, Jesus said, “*Fear not, only believe, and she will be made well*” (Lk 8:50). Over and over again, Jesus came against the force of fear. Referring to our need for food and clothing, Jesus said, “*Fear not little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*” Obviously Jesus was letting us know that our heavenly Father wants to take care of us and provide for us – but we must do our part and overcome fear. He made it clear that our part is to resist the temptation to yield to fear and its influence. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*” God wants you to yield to His Spirit and not the spirit of fear.

Learn to Do it Afraid

Here are some keys that will help you overcome fear and DO IT AFRAID!

- 1. Fear Exposed** – Here’s a good definition for FEAR: **False Evidence Appearing Real.** Train yourself to believe what God’s Word says more than your circumstances.
- 2. Stay in the Word** – A pilot has to log a certain number of flight-hours per month in order to maintain proficiency. If not, then they are not considered “current.” As a believer, you need to stay in God’s Word to keep your faith built up.
- 3. Just show up!** Some things seem much bigger in our minds than they end up being in reality. Most battles can be won by just showing up! Don’t let fear keep you from going, trying, and doing.
- 4. Associations** - your main friends need to be people who are positive faith-people. You can reach out to everyone – but when you have a choice, find people who inspire you and encourage you to live for God and trust His Word. Don’t let wrong associations pull you down and drain your faith.
- 5. Take action!** There comes a point where prayer-time is over! Ask God to show you what you can do right now (even without money) to get started. Ask for His wisdom (Jam 1:5). You can do research, look at homes, make phone calls, etc. There’s something that you can do to get started that requires either zero money or little money. Train yourself to do it afraid and God will reward your faith.



Dear friend, whatever challenges or goals you are facing, I encourage you to cast off fear and move forward in faith. **DO IT AFRAID AND EXPECT MIRACLES!**

■ Jason Peebles



Key Memory Verse:

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Prayer to “Do it Afraid!”

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I want to overcome fear and move forward in faith. With your help I choose to “DO IT AFRAID” and expect miracles! Thank you for your great love -- In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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