

Fear Not

Scripture

“And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that [are] with thee [are] too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever [is] fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people [are] yet [too] many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, [that] of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, [putting] their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the [other] people go every man unto his place.” (Judges 7:2-7 AV)

Devotion

Sometimes God makes the odds look unfavorable just to prove to His people that He is the One in control. There would be no question that the Lord had fought for His people when only 300 men routed such a great horde. “. . . The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels [were] without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.” (Judges 7:12 AV)

God knows it is important that His people trust Him. If we always run away from our fears, if we are unwilling to live by faith, then God may put us in the midst of a battle so that we must rely upon Him.

As it is written, “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, [or] as the mule, [which] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.” (Psalms 32:8-9 AV)

Think of the bit and bridle as the adverse circumstances that God may lead you into if you do not live by faith. However, realize that the bit and bridle are for those who have no understanding. You should not require this restraint to walk by faith.

“Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all [ye that are] upright in heart.” (Psalms 32:10-11 AV)

Evaluate your walk today. Is it one marked by faith? Do you trust God with your day-to-day activities? In other words, are you responsible to read, meditate, and pray regularly, or must God put you in a crucible to force you to trust in Him?

Think about it as we close with these words from the Book of Hebrews. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 AV)