

Steer Fear

The man or woman who fights life's battles without fear fights one enemy—the real thing they are confronting. But the one who fights with fears within fights three enemies—the real thing to fight, plus the imaginary things built up by fear, plus the fear itself.

(E. Stanley Jones)

General George Patton, a man esteemed for his courage in World War II writes, “I am not a brave man ... I have never been within the ... sight of battle ... that I wasn't scared ... but I learned very early in my life never to take counsel of my fears.” We have the ability to transform negatives into positives. When you are facing an overwhelming circumstance, causing fear to arise in your heart, allow that emotion to stimulate your faith. Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind, and if encouraged it cuts a channel into which all thoughts are drained (Robert Albert Bloch). Fear does not have to be bad.

Jehoshaphat faced a trial that resulted in him being taken to a new level of faith. The mighty Israeli empire that his forefathers, David and Solomon, had built was on the decline. After several decades of spiritual instability Israel's enemies united and formed a vast army that was determined to destroy the Jews; the situation looked hopeless. Israel was greatly outnumbered and when Jehosphaphat saw the multitudes coming against him, he trembled with fear and turned to the Lord. God worked a great miracle and delivered the king from his enemies.

Trials can help us learn to trust God. David said in Psalms 56:3 (NLT), “When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.” There is no such thing as a hopeless situation. Pat Riley made this comment, “Fear will lead you toward despair, wrong decisions and incomplete performance. It's one of the last hurdles between any person ... and their greatness.” Over and over again the Jews found themselves in circumstances that threatened their existence. Every time they were afraid and turned to the Lord, He moved mightily in their behalf. “Anxiety has its use,” said Augustine, “stimulating us to seek with keener longing for that security where peace is complete and unassailable.”

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