

BE NOT AFRAID

JOSHUA 1

Text: Joshua 1:9

(Joshua 1:9) "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Introduction:

This little statement with gigantic meaning and power appears in the Bible 28 times in 26 verses.

In Joshua 1:9 God says to His servant, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." There are too many people today living lives of needless fear. As you study your Bible you can clearly see the Lord, in many cases seeking, to relieve fears of the saints. When we speak of "fears" or "phobias," we speak of that which brings a sense of dread or fright. There are various types of phobias in our everyday lives. Let's bring the matter of fear into the realm of our spiritual lives.

1. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DENOUNCE.

A. You and I are to cry out against sin, as the people of God.

B. Too many people today are getting "use to the dark" and are afraid to stand for God as boldly and confidently as they should in daily life.

C. God told Isaiah in Isa. 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

D. When you denounce sin, make sure that your own life is pure and above reproach, or else you will hinder the Gospel rather than help it spread.

2. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DECLARE.

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:16, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

(Acts 18:9) "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:"

A. We should be like the Apostle Peter who stood at Pentecost and fearlessly preached, through God's power, the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2).

B. See Luke 12:5. God is much mightier than man—Jesus is omnipotent.

(Luke 12:5) "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

3. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DENY.

Deny who?

A. Deny Satan.

(Ephesians 4:27) "Neither give place to the devil."

1. The Bible says we are to "Neither give place to the devil."

2. That means we are not to give way to Satan, giving him opportunity to work.

3. Someone has said that the clause suggests that we are not to give the devil elbow room or a beach head of operation.

B. Deny Self

(Mark 8:34) "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

(Luke 9:23) "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

1. No longer what I want but rather what He wants.
2. No longer where I want to go but follow Him.
3. Notice this is supposed to be a daily occurrence.

4. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DEPOSIT.

A. When a sinner is saved by grace, He deposits the safekeeping of his soul to the Lord Jesus.

(2 Timothy 1:12) "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he

is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

B. That is part of what is meant when we use the term "believe." It is a depositing of one's soul

5. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DEPEND.

A. You can depend on the Lord in all situations you face to lead and guide you.

B. The Lord will not let you down. He is faithful and true.

C. Our text (Josh. 1:9) says the Lord is, "With thee whithersoever thou goest."

D. Rely on Him!

(Proverbs 3:5-6) "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. {6} In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

6. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DEPART

(Proverbs 3:7-8) "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. {8} It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."

A. The Lord will take care of you in doing so.

(Proverbs 14:16) "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident."

7. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DIE.

A. None of us know when we will die, but we do know we have an appointment with death.

(Hebrews 9:27) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

B. You need not be afraid if you die in Jesus.

(Philippians 1:21-23) "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. {22} But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. {23} For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"

(Psalms 116:15) "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

Close:

(Joshua 1:9) "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

I believe that the verses to this great hymn would be better sung in reverse order. Notice what the writer said.

Read all three verses of Leaning On the Everlasting Arms (Starting with verse 3, 2, 1)