



FAITH
OVER
FEAR

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*Published in Nigeria by
Swift Books
an imprint of*

*Swift Publishers
62, Olawale Street, Ososami,
Oke-Ado, Ibadan, Oyo State.
+2348072970850, +2348157631661
swiftpublishers@gmail.com*

ISBN:

978-978-986-387-7

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INTRODUCTION

Our success or failure in life depends on whether we are living above the fears and worries we entertain or our thoughts are dwelling on them. If people understand how their fears exert negative impact in their lives, they would keep their entrepot closed forever, because fear is a thoroughfare for Satan into man's psyche. Fear is not unusual and isn't strange to man either. As long as man exists in this world, he must experience fear at one time or the other. Fear is a kind of mental pain or suffering that most of us experience, but few have the “know-how” to overcome it.

Personally, one of the lessons I have learnt in this journey called life is the mastery of fear. Everything you cannot surmount will cause you to fear. In other words, if we don't learn how to handle fear, fear will manhandle us. As at now, there is no effective treatment or drugs for fear-induced disorders. None!

This is why this book is a must read for everyone. Let us establish that God is not the author of fear. Whatever may be your fear today, the truth is that, it did not originate from God. Satan is the manufacturer of fear, and he uses it to frighten or threaten man, to make him lose faith in God and feel less confident.

Permit me to provoke your thought at this point by saying that fear is completely unnecessary and totally unreasonable. It is a powerful emotional paralysis – a false belief created in the mind – that ultimately imprisons man within himself. Remember this when fear enters your mind or worry invades your feelings: the things that frighten you are not what they appear to be.

There are travails, sufferings and hardships around us, but that should NOT bring fear or anxiety. Never let fear have control over you. Let's strive to keep our doors shut to fear. Let fear be shut permanently out of our lives. Determine to be fearless all the time.

Living a fearless life is important and necessary as you move forward in life. Never allow Satan to subject you to living in fear. Fear is nothing,

but a deceit of the enemy. Great men and women do not submit their minds to the enslavement of fear and worry, no matter what happens. Fear is a problem only when we fail to recognise or understand this important truth. When we understand that we are too big for fear to overcome us, we would always learn to rise above our fears and worries with gladness and cheerfulness. This is something to ponder over.

We can fill our lives with fear and worries or choose to fill our lives with joy and peace of mind. It is a personal decision that we all have to take. Let us meet life's challenges with courage, and face the future with confidence, knowing too well that God is with us and in us.

Reading this book with understanding will be one of the best decisions you ever make. You will see that the book is a shining light that makes a way for you out of the spiritual bondage of fear.

I pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will help us overcome **fear** as I take you on a most enlightening journey.

Shalom!

CHAPTER 2

DO NOT FEAR MAN

PROVERBS 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whosoever putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

ISAIAH 51:12-13

I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

Today, Satan is using the fear of man as a weapon to hinder many from fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. One of the things each of us has to battle with is the *fear of man*.

Even though fear is a normal reality we all have to deal with, it becomes dangerous when it starts to control us. It is unfortunate that we are intimidated by men, rather than to fear the Lord our Maker – the only one person that we should fear. Fearing people is a dangerous trap, because it opposes our trust in the Lord.

God's power is much greater than any man's power or anything we fear. When we choose to fear God, the fear of man will have no place in us. There is no need to be afraid with God on our side, because He is our refuge and strength, and always ready to help in times of trouble.

PSALM 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Although we live in a time in which we see wickedness increasing on a daily basis, we need not fear. Always put your trust in God, whenever you are surrounded by difficulties and dangers. Put your entire faith and confidence in His ability to take care of your life. He tenderly comforts those who sincerely look for Him in times of trouble. His love and care do not change. He has been and will be the same forever.

Do you know that God can turn around the harm others intend for you to work for your good? This was the case of Joseph. God made the evil actions of his brothers to work in his favour. The All-wise God can use any situation for good, even when others intend it for evil. We also read in the Holy Bible that evil was planned against Mordecai, but God turned it into goodness (*See Esther 6-7*).

ESTHER 7:10

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

We cannot see the future the way God sees it. What we consider the worst may be God's best for us. No one chooses to go through trials and hardships, but sometimes, we need such experience as long as God is concerned. He sees situations differently and uses it to glorify His name. His knowledge and wisdom are incomprehensible by any human.

ISAIAH 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways saith the Lord. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thought than your thoughts.

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

God's thoughts and ways surpass man's understanding. One thing we must never forget is that God always has a plan, no matter how confusing what is going on around us appears. We cannot make His plans and purposes conform to ours. Instead, we must strive to fit into His plans. There is no limit to what God will do or will not do, use or will not use

for His glory. No one can comprehend or interpret the methods He uses. How He does things are determined only by Him.

Sometimes He allows us to go through “unpleasant” circumstances for our good and for His glory. One thing we should never forget is that God does everything for a good reason, but is not responsible for our problems. Understanding this truth makes it imperative to have a different view of things.

This is because too often we misplace so many things in our understanding, especially when we are going through tough times. But one thing is sure: no matter how great our intellect, we will never be able to understand God completely. We are however certain that every bit of trial and pain we endure as Christians produces eternal weight of glory.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Many times God uses things we don't desire or choose, to fulfil His ultimate plans. What we think is good or bad and what God considers good or bad may be totally different. His ways are not our ways, and He knows the end from the beginning. The best way to live is to thank Him in everything but not let any situation intimidate us. God's plans and purposes are working together for our greatest good.

ROMANS 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

Fear no more! Fear will make you see the evil that does not exist. Anything that brings fear to your heart is not from God. No wonder, angels always need to tell people not to be afraid anytime they appear to man. Fear subjects us to slavery and dictates our reaction and behaviour. Never let it limit the works of God in your life. Bear in mind that the Lord has taken on our fears by His coming.

Fear is one of the consequences of sin which Satan uses as a weapon against us. However, Jesus Christ came to deliver us from sin and its con-

sequences. This is why we don't have to be afraid. Words like "fear not" and "Do not be afraid" occur over 365 times in the Holy Bible; most likely because God knows the enemy uses it to challenge and hinder our faith in God. This in turn causes us to doubt His love and faithfulness towards us. Let us strive always to replace our fear of any situation we may be experiencing with our faith in God.

PSALM 56:1-4

Be merciful unto me o God: For man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: For they be many that fight against me o thou Most High. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

In *Psalms* 56 David was desperate and in serious danger from men that he had to cry to God to come to his rescue. He was hiding from Saul in a cave in a Philistine territory. What harm can man do to you if God is on your side? Men may form weapons against you; but they can never be of any effect, except God allows them.

We have enemies whose thoughts against us are consistently evil, who also plot many things behind our back, but we don't have to fear any of them as long as we trust the Almighty God. We heard that David encouraged himself in the Lord in the midst of his frightening situations. David said: "*When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what He has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can men do to me?*"

As believers we need to demonstrate this kind of confidence in the Lord whenever we find ourselves in threatening circumstances. Remember that God knows, hears and sees everything.

HEBREWS 13:6

So that we may boldly say, the LORD is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Fear is a strong deterrent to the believer's peace of mind. The fear of man, fear of war, fear of disease, fear of poverty and so on can rob us of

our trust in God. When we fear man we no longer trust the Lord. No matter how insurmountable the obstacle may seem, it is good to remember that God is actively and absolutely in control. He has promised to fight for us as we place our hope and confidence in Him.

PSALM 94:20-23

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee which frameth mischief by a Law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood. But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge. And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

If God is your defence, what can those who are against you do to you? Let God fight for you. He is our defence and refuge. He feels for you when you suffer, and He wants you to have peace in the midst of the war you fight in the faith.

We can be intimidated and helpless, but if we remember that our defence is of the Lord and not of ourselves, we will have nothing to worry about. The Lord of Host is the One who fights for us. He often goes before us in our daily battles. Let us never forget this.

We see in *2 Chronicles 20* that the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites and some of the Meunites came against Jehoshaphat to battle. The Bible recorded that Jehoshaphat feared and ordered everyone in Judah to pray and fast. And God spoke through Jahaziel.

And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou King Jehoshaphat. Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: Set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you. (2 Chronicles 20:15,17)

How easy it is to be frightened or terrified by the wickedness we see all around us, but the Bible assures us that *Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world* (1 John 4:4).

Let us understand that we have an innate ability to destroy anything that we are afraid of.

The summary of the Jehoshaphat story is that when the army of Judah arrived at the watch tower in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped. We may not fight an enemy army, but the Bible tells us that we battle against

Principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

Satan is constantly battling against all those on the Lord's side. And this lifelong battle would not be over until we leave this world. When we become born again children of God, these unseen beings become our enemies, trying by every means to make us turn away from God. To withstand their attacks and gain victory, we must be courageous while depending on God's strength. Always remember that one of the major weapons of the enemy is fear, because he knows that no weapon works in the hands of the fearful.

The mind with all its thoughts of power and victory is easily overwhelmed by the pressure of sudden intimidation, and in this way loses courage by the appearances of human experiences.

Usually, Satan introduces fear in two ways – by what we see and by what we hear. Too often, we become fearful when we focus our attention on negative appearances of a situation, especially in the face of frightening or threatening phenomenon. In such a situation, all thoughts of courage would be drained out, because we live in human bodies and in a physical world. Satan exploits these thoughts to get us to forsake God.

When we understand the dynamics of the spiritual side of our life and learn to work with them, we can overcome our fears and be what we

want to be through the power that God has generously deposited in all of us (Philippians 3:14).

It is better to focus on the positive aspect of life, while trusting God to overcome the negative. Some people think that there is nothing they can do to rid themselves of fear and worry. However, when we get hold of the divine truth that God loves us, we shall never be afraid of anything or anyone.

Never forget that the enemy is always negative, but the Holy Spirit is always positive. In this sense, don't let the negative cause you to lose sight of the positive. It has been said that, "the greatest fear is fear itself," whereas there is nothing to fear! Someone once said: *FEAR is False Evidence Appearing Real.*

In order to overcome, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure. Although, it is good to recognise our limitations, it is far better to allow God's love and power to work through our fears and weaknesses, believing that the battle is not ours but God's. So, anytime you are facing fear, worry and indecision know that you are not alone; God is right there with you and in you!

PSALM 46:1-3, 7, 10, and 11

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

The fear of death, disease, failure, war, misery, to name but a few, is prevalent and haunts many people today. But the above Bible verses say that even if the world was to end today, there is nothing to fear, because God

is always ready to help us underin any circumstance we may find ourselves. Child of God, fear is a force that can hamper everything we try to do. Fear must never be allowed to rob us of the good things in life.

In the face of any frightening situation, let's have confidence in God's ability to help us out. He is our refuge, even in the midst of hopelessness and calamity.

PROVERBS 3:25-26

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.