

Winning the Bout with Fear and Doubt

by Joyce Meyer

Do you know that God wants you to believe Him for big things—radical things—things you haven’t even thought about?

There are places God wants to take you—beyond what you have known. And the *only* way to get there is by believing, in spite of how amazing it may seem or how much resistance the enemy sends your way.

You and I must be aware that the enemy wants to keep us from fulfilling God's plans for our lives. I believe that one of the main ways he tries to keep you and me from accomplishing great things for God is by attacking us with spirits of fear and doubt.

A Spiritual Battle

We all face battles with doubt, unbelief and fear throughout our lives. One of the first things we need to learn in order to walk in victory is that the battle is a *spiritual* one. This is important because if we attempt to fight fear in the flesh, we will end up giving in to guilt, condemnation and discouragement.

Satan works very hard to rob us of our faith because he knows that if he can take our faith, he can take our ability to receive from God. How does he do it? By sending bad reports, questions and doubts about the things God has said in an effort to destroy our trust in the Lord. Let’s look at some examples in the Bible to see how we can position ourselves to resist the devil’s attacks.

Abraham—Giving Praise and Glory to God

There is a good reason why God’s Word calls Abraham our “father” in the faith. Like an obedient child imitates his natural father, you and I should strive to become like our spiritual father, Abraham, in believing God. Romans 4:19,20 says, *He did not weaken in faith when he considered the [utter] impotence of his own body...or...the barrenness of Sarah’s [deadened] womb. No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God.*

When the Lord told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby, they were both well beyond childbearing years. *After considering* their physical limitations, Abraham still chose to believe what God had spoken to him in his heart. He did not give in to fear or doubt regardless of what he thought in his mind or saw with his eyes. Neither did he have to *figure out* how it would happen; he simply **gave praise and glory to God**. The Bible says that he was empowered, or grew strong, as he worshipped. He was

empowered for what? To see the word of the Lord come to pass in his life!

We are in danger of missing God's best for our lives when we focus on natural circumstances that fill us with doubt and fear. Focusing on our own circumstances and abilities causes us to doubt the things God has said to us. But if we imitate Abraham and focus on God's faithfulness, giving Him praise and glory, we will see the word He has spoken to us become reality.

Jairus—Ignores the Enemy's Report

Another good example of faith in the face of overwhelming natural circumstances is Jairus. In Mark 5:22-43 we read the story of Jairus. When he came to ask Jesus to heal his daughter, the *first thing* he did was prostrate himself on the ground at Jesus' feet. Like Abraham, he humbled himself and worshipped. When the enemy sees us humbled before God, he knows he's in trouble. As we forsake fear and doubt and look to the Lord, Satan trembles because he knows that God *will* move on our behalf.

Jesus went with Jairus, but on the way to his house, someone came and told him that his daughter had already died. Look how Jesus responded to this bad news in verse 36: *Overhearing but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to... [Jairus], Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing.* When we are "on our way" to do what God has called us to do, the enemy will make sure that we also "overhear" his evil report. He will send spirits of fear and unbelief to try and convince us to give up on God's purpose for our lives. But we must respond by resisting fear and choosing to keep on believing what God has said to us.

Years ago, when God first called me to do what I'm doing now, I made the mistake of telling a lot of people in my church about it. One day a lady came up to me and said, "Somebody told me that you think you are going to have one of the largest ministries ever headed up by a woman. Some of us were talking about it, and to be honest, we just don't think that is possible for someone with a personality like yours."

The truth is, when God called me to do this, it did seem pretty ridiculous with my personality. Because of all the abuse in my past, I had a lot of problems. But when God speaks something to you and puts faith in your heart, you can believe for things that may look crazy to other people. If I had listened to the evil report the enemy sent my way *then*, chances are I would not be fulfilling God's purpose for my life *now*.

Jesus—Winning the Battle

We know that Jesus is a high priest who can identify with our weaknesses. Even though He was without sin, He experienced the same type of trials and temptations that we face. Therefore, I believe that He too had to battle with doubt and fear. In Mark 5:39,40 when Jesus arrived at Jairus' house, He said, ... *Why do you make an uproar and weep? The little girl is not dead but is sleeping. And they laughed and jeered at Him....* Because Jesus was human like us, when the people laughed at Him, He probably had to resist spirits of fear and unbelief.

Again, when Jesus stood outside of Lazarus' tomb and even His good friends Mary and

Martha didn't fully understand that He was the Messiah, chances are He had to resist doubt and unbelief to see Lazarus raised from the dead (see John 11:39). And when He was suffering on the cross, crying out to His Father, "Why have you forsaken me?" He was more than likely battling with doubt and fear (see Matthew 27:46). This was a battle He had to win in order to finish the work He came to do.

You and I have to win this same battle in order to finish the work the Father has called us to do. If we are determined to fulfill the purposes of God for our lives, we must resist giving in to fear and push through even if we have to *do it afraid*. When Jesus was on the cross, Satan taunted Him saying, *If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross* (Matthew 27:40). But Jesus had determined that He would do what God asked of Him no matter what the cost. Once we know that God has asked us to do something, then we too must determine to do it—no matter what the cost. Like Jesus, we must resist the spirit of doubt, fear and the accusations the enemy sends our way.

If we let him, the enemy will bring doubt and fear into every area of our lives. Many times I have struggled with thoughts that I should be a better, "more normal" grandmother...I *should* spend more time taking my grandchildren to the zoo or out to McDonalds or have them all over to spend the night. But I am not a normal grandmother, and though I love my grandchildren very much, I am not able to do those things on a regular basis.

Now, that doesn't mean I don't need to spend time with my grandchildren. It just means that I know what God has called me to do and I can't live in fear that my grandkids will not love me if I don't do those things all the time. It would hinder the call of God on my life. That, in turn, would affect the lives of millions of other people because I would not be available to minister in the way He has called me to do.

Caleb and Joshua—Choosing Faith over Fear

When Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land of Canaan, only two of them came back with a good report—full of faith. They were Joshua and Caleb. The Israelites had faith *until* they heard the negative report from the other ten spies about giants in the Promised Land. And you will have faith too when you are in a great worship service, a conference or experiencing a heavenly encounter in your prayer closet.

In order to walk out the things God has spoken, you will need to *ignore* the bad reports that come your way, *focus* on God alone, and *keep on keeping on* with what He told you to do. When nothing seems to make sense, just keep putting one foot in front of the other as you *give praise and glory to God*. He will guide you each step of the way. Don't hang out with people who discourage you or laugh at the vision God has given you for your life. Make friends with people, like Caleb and Joshua, who will *encourage* you with a good report and *remind* you of God's faithfulness.

Remember, when you choose to forsake doubt and fear to step out in faith, it doesn't mean you will have all the answers. Neither does it mean that you won't make mistakes. What it does mean, is that as you choose to honor God, even if it means doing it afraid,

His Spirit of boldness will rise up in you. It won't always be easy, but God will always be with you. And you will never be sorry that you stepped out in faith and laid hold of all the promises He has for you!🙏

Testimony: Wendi O. Peru, IN

“I had no fear, no doubt and no unbelief in what i faced that day.”

On March 10, 2006, while working on my computer at home, I listened to your music on the Blood to feed my spirit. About halfway through the CD, our twenty-year-old daughter came running into the house, screaming at the top of her lungs, “Mom, help, Mom!” I jumped up and ran to her to find out what was wrong. Our ninety-one-year-old grandmother, who lives about three homes away from us, was having a stroke. I ran there as fast as I could.

My sister-in-law grabbed me and said, “Wendi, pray for Granny now!” With everyone around me crying, I had this inner strength rise up within me. Knowing it was God, I began to pray. I had no fear but a determination rose up within me...no emotion but power from God. I started confessing the Word during this prayer for Granny's healing, and I knew she would be healed.

We spent more than five hours at the hospital. Granny looked as if there was damage to her mouth from the stroke. Her words were slurred, and she was having a hard time understanding. I left her in the emergency room and said, “Lord, this doesn't line up with what I prayed for, but I can't be moved by what my eyes have seen. I will trust You, Jesus.” As soon as I said it from my heart to the Lord, a deep peace and assurance came over me that He wasn't through yet.

For the next few hours I waited, not in fear but in peace. Five and a half hours later, Granny was released from the hospital with no slurred speech or soreness—completely restored to health as if the stroke never happened! She says she knows the Lord healed her.

That music was the perfect choice to include in my day because I had no fear, no doubt and no unbelief in what I faced that day. Instead, I had a determination to reach the throne of God and trust in the blood of the Lamb!

Now our whole family is confessing the miracle we witnessed that day. The Lord spoke to me saying, “That is why it seemed as if you weren't seeing Me move. I had to know I would get all the credit for healing from a family who may not have otherwise seen Me move. Now they know it was Me.”

God is so good! My spirit was fed and I was equipped for something I didn't even know I would face that day. Thank you, Joyce!