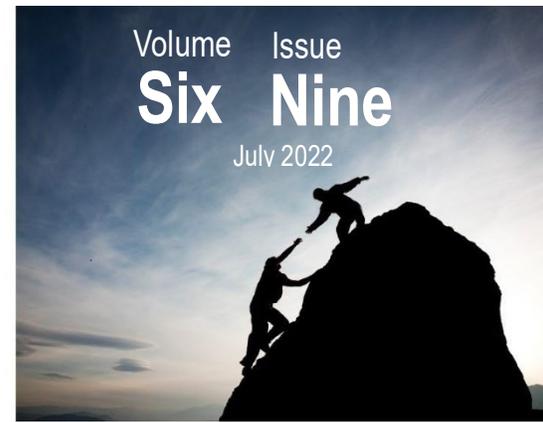


food for thought >>>

*The Lord Almighty has a day in store  
for all the proud and lofty,  
for all that is exalted  
(and they will be humbled),  
~Isiah 2:12*



*Proverbs 27:17 As Iron Sharpens Iron, So One Person Sharpens Another*

# The Growth Journal



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There is no illusion  
greater than Fear.

-Lao Tzu

**"When Trouble Comes"**

**When troubles arrive,  
as they come for you  
go to God first ...  
and ask Him what to do.**

**For He is our helper,  
on whom we can rely on  
for divine guidance  
to use and apply.**

**When troubles create,  
pressure from within  
before anxiety and fear  
can even set in.**

**Run into the High Tower,  
God will meet you there  
to relieve you from  
all your worry and care.**

**When troubles approach  
as they pursue you ...  
make sure you ask God  
what He'd have you to do!**

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# The Doctrine of Angels

by Alywin Mitchell



The Bible, the inerrant, infallible Word of God, teaches the existence of angels. The study of angels can be called the doctrine of *angelology*. Angels are created spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence but without physical bodies. They cannot usually be seen by us unless God gives us a special ability to see them.

Angels have not always existed; they like everything else in this universe are part of the universe God created. They did not evolve into being, so their number, once completed at creation, was forever set. God, of course, knows their number, but they are shown to men as uncountable. They must be considered a company of beings and not a race. The Hebrew word for angles is “*mal`ach*,” and it simply means “an agent” or “messenger”.

Scripture uses other names for angels such as “sons of God” (Job 1: 6; 2:1), “holy ones” (Psalms 89:5, 7) “thrones,” “rulers,” and “authorities” (Colossians 1:16).

## The Cherubim

The cherubim are the angels most often mentioned in Scripture, even mentioned as early as Genesis 3:24 *“After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

## The Seraphim

These **six**-winged angels who sing God’s praises without ceasing are only mentioned once in the Bible in Isaiah 6:1-3, where they continually worship the Lord and call to one another, *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”* Their name is interpreted to mean *“The burning Ones*

## The Living Creatures

In Ezekiel 1:5-12, Ezekiel saw in a vision *“four living creatures”* that were around the throne of God. We also find similar living creatures in the Book of Revelation. Though their characteristics are similar, they are not exactly the same. There is simply not enough information to make any definite conclusions about these heavenly creatures.

## Rank and Order Among the Angels

Michael is called an “archangel” in Jude 9. In Daniel 10:13 he is called “One of the chief princes”. His title indicates rule or authority over other angels. In Daniel 10:13 he also appears to be the leader of the angelic army. He is the only angel that has a specific name and the title of archangel in the Bible. The angel Gabriel has a name but nowhere in the Bibles is he mentioned as an archangel. He is mentioned in Daniel 8:16 and 9:21 as a messenger who comes from God to speak to Daniel and God’s messenger to Zechariah and Mary in Luke 1. No other angels mentioned in the Bible have names given to them.

Even though the scriptures don’t give us a figure as to how many angels God created, we know the number is huge. It is emphasized in Revelation 5:11-14, *“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand.”*

Even though scripture clearly tells us that God sends angels for our protection, there is no convincing defense for the idea of individual “guarding angles” in the Word of God.

## The Doctrine of Angels cont.

Even though scripture clearly tells us that God sends angels for our protection, there is no convincing defense for the idea of individual “guarding angles” in the Word of God.

Just as the Sadducees in Jesus’ day said that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit (Acts 23:8), consequently many people in our day deny the reality of anything they cannot see. But Biblical teaching on the existence of angels is a constant reminder to us that there is an unseen spiritual domain that is very real.

We are not to seek angels. Even though angels appeared to people at various times in scripture, people never sought after those appearances, and Scripture gives us no authorization to seek for the appearance of angels to us.

We are absolutely not to worship angels. In Revelation 19:10 an angel warns John not to worship him, *“Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

Furthermore, we are categorically not to pray to angels. We are to pray only to God, who alone is omnipotent and omniscient, who can answer and hear our prayers. Only God is worthy to be prayed to; who is himself the commander of all angelic forces. There is no place or situation in scripture of anyone praying to any specific angel or requesting angels for help.

Angels are not omnipresent, omnipotent, or omniscient.

Angels were created to glorify and worship God and never tire of worshipping Him.

Angels were created by God, and angels obey God’s commands, not ours.

Angels were created to live for eternity.

There is always an inclination in people to seek out the miraculous or supernatural, for something that will lift them out of the mundane and pain of life, even for just a moment, but we need to be very cautious when we go beyond Scripture.

The emptiness of man’s heart along with the hopelessness of his desires and worldly pursuits has caused growth in his interest in the mystical, the supernatural, and the spiritual. The tragedy is that our culture continues to pursue these things independently of God’s revelation, the Bible, the inerrant, infallible Word of God.

The belief in Satan, demons, and angels is more and more commonplace today and used as a substitute for an intimate relationship with God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This predisposition is because of the rise of occult experiences and the uselessness of life without God.

Only eternity will reveal the ministry that angels have provided to believers, the heirs of salvation, and how the angels have kept charge over us.

*“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice,*

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!” Revelation 5:11-12*

I struggle with anxiety, the uncontrollable fear or worry about events or circumstances. At best, I'm hesitant to complete a task or go to an event, but it doesn't affect my daily life. At worst, I'm nauseous and I can't sleep until that event or circumstance takes place.

I've had anxiety since I was a teenager, but I have only recently started facing it. I started therapy, which has helped considerably. Talking about what I'm afraid of and why I'm afraid of it, has been the first step to recovering. I am able to separate the good fear from the bad fear. Bad fear is when I overthink an event or circumstance and I'm afraid of something I shouldn't be. The good fear is when a circumstance needs to be dealt with or changed because it doesn't align with God's promises. For example, I am often afraid of what other people think of me, something I can't control. That fear is a bad fear. Being afraid of being late for work is a good fear; it makes me take the steps that I need to be on time.

The next step is figuring out how to get rid of the fear that is unwarranted. How have I started to do that? Talk therapy, quiet time with God, listening to the rain, and journaling.

Quiet time with God helps because I can focus on God and only God, not on what is causing me stress. The act of focusing on the big picture and the end goal helps me not sweat the "small" stuff.

My quiet time consists of reading through the Bible. I have been doing the Bible in a year plan on my Bible app. I have also been looking up verses about who I am in Christ. These verses not only help me determine what a Christian is but are also helping me change my sense of self-worth.

I also listen to the sound of heavy rain pouring. I have a white noise app that plays all sorts of strange sounds for hours and hours, but I always go back to the heavy rain pouring noise. For a long time, I have considered rain as a blessing from God, a sign that he loves me and has great things planned for me.

I have thought this for two reasons. First, I come from a family of farmers, and rain at a certain time of year could make or break us. Second, an old story goes two farmers asked God for rain, but only one prepared his field for it; who do you think got rain?

Rain is a symbol of God's faithfulness. That's why I love the sound of rain. The heavier, the better. When I hear the rain, I slow down and become less anxious. It's a gift from God, that I have that release.

Journaling is also a big help. Writing down my thoughts, even if they don't make any sense, gives me an outlet and a way to talk to God that is more concrete. When I pray, I often get lost in my own thoughts and start thinking about anything else. Writing down what I want to say to God helps me stay on track.

I write down my fears, the good and the bad. It's nothing fancy like highlighting the good or putting the bad fears in a certain column, but an honest conversation about how I'm feeling about what's going on in my life right now.

Often my version of journaling is writing articles like these. It not only helps to get out the feelings of the moments, but it also helps to organize those thoughts into explanations. When I write an article, it helps me work through my feelings and come to a conclusion about myself. It often gives me tools for motivation. For example, the more I write about anxiety the less scary it gets, the more I understand it, and the more I understand myself.

One of the big lessons I've learned is that I didn't need to worry about what other people thought of me. The person sitting next to me at lunch doesn't determine my worth or value. Only God determines that. So why would I worry about what they think of me?

It took me six months of therapy to be able to say that. Only God determines my worth. And hours of quiet time with God to actually believe it in my heart. Some days I still don't believe it. A big part of my anxiety is the need to perform to feel worthy of love and acceptance. In my twisted heart accomplishments equal worth.

That's why I'm so anxious about everything. If I'm not perfect, I'm not valuable. It's a terrible, twisted way to live, but that has been my reality for 10+ years. Undoing that thought pattern has been the biggest challenge of my life.

The fear of success has always been around. We see it in the book of Deuteronomy in the 1st chapter. The children of Israel were fearful to go after the promise that God had given them after seeing God part the Red Sea; after God fed them manna in the wilderness and dropped quail down from heaven when they cried out for meat. God led them with a cloud by day and fire by night. God never left them. If the cloud stayed over the camp for 3 days, then they stayed put for 3 days. The promise is **"I will never leave you nor forsake you"** *Hebrews 13:5*.

But when God gets them to the promised land and tells them to go in and possess the land that he promised Abraham...that he promised Isaac...that he had promised Jacob... why were the children of Israel afraid to walk into their promised land? Just like some of us who are afraid to walk into our promised land, is it that we lack faith/trust in God or do we want to be in control of our own lives, or both? Hmmm... I am not sure!

I myself have struggled with the fear of success, not realizing that's what it was! However, I have come to learn that when I shrink back from my breakthroughs it's because of allowing the spirit of fear to get in my way. Which causes me to be disobedient and miss God's timing of his good promise to me. That is fear of success!

"Praise Be To God" when He brings it back around, God is faithful and he will give us chance after chance...on and on. Why, because **"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it"**. *2 Thess. 5:24*.

Do what? Get us to our destiny!



My brothers and sisters we must learn to be still as long as needed (***wait on the leading of the cloud and the fire***). The Holy Spirit is our cloud and our fire in this dispensation. We must make sure that we get the full understanding and timing and that God gave us the assignment and not we ourselves. We know that there is nothing new under the sun, so the same things that the children of Israel struggled with we may struggle with unless we learn from their mistakes. I thank God for the weapon of "Repentance"! *Psalm 119:15 says, "I will meditate in thy precepts, and have Respect unto thy ways"*. If Aretha Franklin can get respect and she is the creature, I know I can give God the Creator **Respect** and obey, (follow) his ways. Remember **"God did not give us the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind"** (*2 Tim. 1:7*).

Blessings,  
Marshelle



Recently a whirlwind of events happened. Some good, some not so good. It amazes me how a person can feel on top of the world, and everything is going our way, then one incident appears to destroy it all. One incident can incite fear and shatter trust. Incidents can define us, or they can become challenges to overcome. Ultimately, we have a choice how we view the situation and path forward. We were not in control of what happened, but we are in control of how we react and the decisions we make based on the circumstances.

When we were born, we didn't have a choice who our parents were or what the environment was around us. We learned behaviors and characteristics from situations and people as we grew. We didn't know the difference between right or wrong, happiness or unhappiness, faith, or fear. As we grew and had experiences, we began to distinguish between these things. Throughout our lifetime, growing and learning never ceases if we are open and receptive to change.

Sometimes we make good decisions and put ourselves in positive circumstances. Sometimes we put our trust in the wrong people and we find out the hard way our trust was misplaced. Sometimes we discover people aren't bad or not deserving but they made a mistake, and they broke our trust. When trust is broken, fear of repeated behavior is common.

Relationships are hard. People let us down. The great thing about God is, he never leaves us, never forsakes us, and never breaks our trust. God will always provide what we need when we need it. Often when challenging circumstances occur, we turn away from God instead of toward him.

John 1:10-13 "He was in a world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

It doesn't matter what race, color, creed or of the environment into which we are born, God accepts us for who we are, right where we are, fear and all. Sometimes what we need in our lives is right in front of us, but we can't see it because we let our limited knowledge and understanding influence our steps and path forward. We base our decisions on what we see, past experiences and have heard about other's experiences instead of trusting God and believing he is working out everything for good.

Revelations 3:20 – "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him and he with me."

## Relationship Fear cont.

God wants to be a part of our lives and guide our decisions. Opening the door, instead of putting up walls when incidents happen, allows for God's will and lessons to be fulfilled. For the slaves of Egypt, God provided manna when they were wandering in the desert for 40 years. God will provide for those who have faith in him and are obedient to his teaching and word.

Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith, it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Our journey with God is personal. The more faith we have in God, the more gifts we recognize as we move forward on our path. Relationships take constant time and attention. The more effort put into the relationship with God, the more blessings we are given. God can change any circumstance, person's hearts and remove fear. When we get away from single-minded thinking and looking from our own perspective, clarity of God's will become evident.

1 John 4:18-19 “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whatever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.”



We all experience the gut-wrenching feelings of anxiety and the fight or flight reaction at times. Fear can cause us to shut down, put up walls, lash out, act irrational, quit eating, physically become sick and a lot of other physical reactions.

When fear starts to creep in, I think of the Zac Williams song, “Fear is a Liar”. If you haven't heard the song, I highly recommend looking it up and listening. The main lyrics are as follow: “Fear, he is a liar. He will take your breath, stop you in your steps. Fear he is a liar, he will rob your rest, steal your happiness. Cast your fear in the fire, cause fear he is a liar.”

May God bless you all. The next time you start to feel fear, remember all the resources you have at your disposal from reading the bible to listening to inspirational music. May God give you peace and refuge from the fear.

Looking back on life and sometimes wondering does anybody really care about what I'm going through, I always found myself asking, "why am I so afraid?"

Fear at times always was a problem for me. As a kid growing up in the inner city, there were plenty of moments where I was scared and afraid and unsure if I would be kept safe. I remember in the early years of my elementary schooling and one day coming home along with my brother and sister and my aunt, and as we approached our house, we noticed the garage door open and the front door barely opened. My parents were at work so we knew they weren't there. Before we knew it, the inevitable happen, we were robbed. Immediately I was afraid as an 8-year-old because I did not know what had been taken from our house. I was scared to go to sleep at night because I didn't know if the robbers would come back to our house again. My dad reassured all of us that we were going to be okay, even if we were missing a lot of our possessions.

I also remember a time in my life when I didn't know if I was going to be taken care of. For a kid that grew up in a two-parent home, that probably shouldn't have been a concern. But when the inevitable happens, your mother gets sick in your early teen years, that ugly word, fear, entered my thoughts and laid hold of my entire teenage years. I always wondered, "God did I do something wrong to make my mother sick?" Many times as a young teen I was afraid that God would take my mother away and I would not know how to live life. Well God did take my mother away at an early age. But God still was with me, and my father, and my brother and sister.

Then came an even more devastating moment in my life when I found myself in deep trouble with the law. Now fear really grappled my soul and my entire physical being. I feared that my life was ruined because I messed up. I feared that no one would love me again if they ever knew what I had done wrong. I feared that nothing good could come out of the mess that I had made in life.

You see, fear and anxiety had lived through most of my childhood and a good portion of my young adult years. The reason: for a period of time I did not trust God or believe that God would take care of me. I didn't believe or trust that God could keep my family safe and our home safe while I was living in the inner city. I didn't believe that God would take care of me as a young girl or understood as a young woman what it was like to live her life without a very important role model.

Yes fear caused me to fear relationships because I didn't know if this guy or that guy would understand things that I may never have been taught because of losing an important role model at such an early age.

But as I grew in my faith in Jesus, once I became a Christian at the age of 19, I realize that God was with me all the time. That God understood how afraid I was. Was my family going to be safe? Was our home going to be safe? Would I make a good girlfriend or a good wife someday? Would I ever be able to start over again after making a mess of things in my life and getting a criminal record?

It's so easy to let anxiety and fear keep us from becoming the men and women God had created us to be. Psalms 139 clearly states that God knew the days that we were going to live before we were even born. God knew that my family's house would be robbed. God knew that my mother would get sick and die on our family at an early time in my life. God knew that I would make a mistake and cause me to get caught up in the criminal justice system for a period of time.

God also says in his word to trust him even when we can't see the big picture and were too afraid to know what the answer and outcome will be.

## *Why Am I So Afraid? cont.*

In Psalms 34:4-5 it says, "I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy." The psalmist says that if we just look to the Lord and talk to him, and tell him our fears, God will answer us. When you are afraid and scared of what lies ahead of you, one of the best medicines to take is to pray to God. Tell God you're scared, he already knows. Let God know what you are afraid could or will happen. That does not mean that God will change the circumstances of your situation, but he does care enough that he wants you to tell him that you're afraid so he can tell you, I'm not leaving you.

Even if you have faced a death in the family or you know that you're about to face death or a loss of a relationship or a loss of possessions, or even don't know what the future holds, look to God and look to his word, the Bible, to show you what he thinks of your fearful moments. God is not going to be angry with you if you are scared or afraid. Our God is not that kind of God. And besides, he already knows you're afraid.

What several scriptures point out is God has promised that even when you are afraid or anxious, He has got your back, and He has your best interest at heart. That doesn't mean that life and the times that we live in now and in the future, may get better. But if you have God in your heart and you allow Jesus to rule your days, then whatever happens in life, you do not have to face it with fear and anxiety, but hope that our God will see you through it.

Psalms 23:4 in the New Living Translation states, "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid for you are close beside me." Yes, even in your scariest moments, imagine that your Jesus is walking right side by side with you.

One of the things that I have begun to do and I challenge each of you is to pray scripture when fear and anxiety creep into your soul. Each night before I fall asleep, I claim Psalms 91 and Psalms 121 for my life, not only for that night, but for that next day. It is refreshing and peaceful to know as Psalms 91:1-4 states, "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.... He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him."

Can you say that you trust God when you are afraid? If not, then maybe this is a good time for you and God to start having a conversation about what you're afraid of. Tell him everything and let him show you what he can do to take that fear and anxiety and turn it into peace and contentment. Our God stated in his word, "I will never leave you; I will never forsake you." Do you believe that?

If not, then this is also a good time to learn what God says in his word about fear. Psalms 46: 1-10, says, "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea..... Be still, and know that I am God."

Find yourself anxious? Be still and get to know the God who created you.

Psalms 56 3-4 clearly echoes, "But 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 mere men do to me?"

Words to Grow By  
By Linda Lewis

### Faith over Fear!

Did you know...  
**YOU** block **YOUR** Dream(s)  
When **YOU** allow **YOUR** fear  
To grow bigger than **YOUR** faith?

**Martin Luther King, Jr.** said,  
**YOU** have to take the first step in faith.  
**YOU** don't have to see the whole  
staircase,  
**Just take the first step.**

**God** said,  
*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication,  
with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God; and the peace of  
God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and minds through  
Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV*

**God** also said,  
*Be strong and of good  
courage, **do not fear** nor be afraid of  
them; for the LORD your God, He is the  
One who goes with you. He will **not** leave  
you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 11:6*

Women Empowering Women By  
By Linda Lewis

Wonderful  
Optimistic  
Marvelous  
Amazing  
Noble

That is who **YOU** are!  
**YOU** might not have it all together,  
But have peace knowing **YOU** are God's  
Treasure.  
**YOU ARE**  
Fearfully and Wonderfully Made!  
*Psalms 139:14*

## You Say . . . God Says . . .

### You Say:

"It's impossible"  
"I'm too tired"  
"Nobody loves me"  
"I can't go on"  
"I can't figure it out"  
"I can't do it"  
"I'm not able"  
"It's not worth it"  
"I can't forgive myself"  
"I'm afraid"  
"I'm always worried"  
"I'm not smart enough"  
"I feel all alone"  
"I can't manage"

### God says:

"All things are possible"  
"I will give you rest"  
"I love you"  
"My grace is sufficient"  
"I will direct your steps"  
"You can do all things"  
"I am able"  
"It will be worth it"  
"I forgive you"  
"I have not given you fear"  
"Cast all your cares on Me"  
"I will give you wisdom"  
"I will never leave you"  
"I will supply all your needs"

### Bible Verses:

Luke 18:27  
Matthew 11:28-30  
John 3:16  
II Corinthians 12:9  
Proverbs 3:5-6  
Philippians 4:13  
II Corinthians 9:8  
Romans 8:28  
Romans 8:1  
II Timothy 1:7  
I Peter 5:7  
I Corinthians 1:30  
Hebrews 13:5  
Philippians 4:19

# Happy Independence Day!

## 4th of July Word Search

A F E A S T I W D M P A P I C N I C S L  
L D X B O O M B E W H I T E D S I G B L  
A B X U B A T T L E F I E L D A C B T I  
N A Y F F A D V I Y N U S E D A R A P R  
O N I L N G J H C X S M O D E E R F B G  
I G A T W N D E I C E L E B R A T I O N  
T G H D T I E F O K R Y T R E B I L U Y  
O E L A R R C I U M K E L A E Z A L B A  
M X A M E E O R S W S C I T O I R T A P  
E V L E S H R E X K A N A T I O N A L R  
U Y P R S T A C Y C Z E A L X Q Q J A S  
U R Y I E A T R U U S D R O C K E T S K  
H O E C D G I A E L C N N F O J K V L R  
B T S A G P O C U T Q E O H M X K R J O  
L S D I Z Y N K L O N P O I U R Q P F W  
A I X P I Z S E B P D E R H S Q T G A E  
S H N N G Q F R B G J D R Q I O G N S R  
T C R O W D S S Y Q K N J T C X L I P I  
O L D B A C K Y A R D I Y E Q O V P J F  
K J U P H J L W F E S T I V A L Q M X A  
A Y C A R C O M E D T Z Z A V H Z A N E  
O P A R M E D A C L A V A C A B L C P U



ABLAZE	CROWDS	FEAST	FREEDOM
ANTHEM	DECORATIONS	FLAG	INDEPENDENCE
BACKYARD	BANG		GRILL
BLAST	BOOM	AMERICA	HISTORY
GATHERING	BATTLEFIELD	FIRECRACKERS	LIBERTY
RED	CAMPING	ROCKETS	NATIONAL
WHITE	DELICIOUS	EXPLOSIONS	PARADES
BLUE	DESSERT	MUSIC	PATRIOTIC
CAVALCADE	DEMOCRACY	PICNICS	FIREWORKS
CELEBRATION	EMOTIONAL	POTLUCK	FESTIVAL

# closing words...

## Fear of the Unknown

Deuteronomy 31:8 “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”



Lonnie Johnson  
GMI Executive Director

For me, the worse fear was the fear of the unknown. Not knowing what was around the corner or over the hill scared me. What if it were more than I could handle? What if I wasn't ready? What if I was not smart enough or strong enough? There were times I would intentionally sabotage a situation so that I could experience my failure on the front end instead of waiting to fail down the road. I know, I know, that sounds crazy. But it was my reality. Have you ever experienced anything like that?

It wasn't until I got saved that I came into the knowledge that we didn't have anything to fear. There was a scripture that gave me confidence to face some of my fears. **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:7** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.* I had the **power** to overcome my fear. That power was the Holy Spirit. I now know that this feeling was of a spirit that did not come from the Lord, so you know where it has to come from. I refused to let the enemy steal from me by keeping me in fear. I started to speak this scripture over my life, over my fears, over situations that the devil would tell me that I was going to fail at or that I was no good at. And situation by situation, I would start to achieve things that I once thought I could not. I had a couple of things happen that created a criminal record. The devil would tell me that I shouldn't even waste my time applying for certain jobs that required a background check. Once I got my "Holy Spirit" confidence going, I applied for a job that I may not have applied for before. I got the job and now I am one of the chief executives after 22 years.

Now if you recall I said 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:7 gave me confidence to overcome some of my fears. There were still some bigger things that I still hesitate about. Things like walking in my calling, believing that the anointing God has on my life could sow miraculous things. I would not operate in my full potential as a man of God. It was not until I looked at our key scripture above, **Deuteronomy 31:8** *“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*, that I was able to overcome some bigger fears. This scripture is about when Joshua was to take over Moses' job and lead the people of Israel into the promised land. He was going to take over the responsibility of about 2.5 million people that were entering a land where there were giants and many other **unknown** things. Everyone had depended on Moses to get them all the way there and by God's decree Moses would not enter in. So that was passed on to Joshua. If that don't make you question yourself in the mirror, I don't know what will. Joshua trusted God and the rest is history. I too took that advice. I said to myself if God goes ahead of me, and if he is all powerful, and nothing is impossible with him, then how can I lose? This even newer confidence pushed me into prison ministry to share the gospel with those that others have written off. It gave me the boldness to become a missionary and travel to other countries where most people don't have any medical resources, to pray over them to be healed and see them healed. Yep, fear has no place in my life anymore except for reverent fear of God.

What will you NOT be afraid of anymore?

  
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