

A BIBLICAL STUDY ON FEAR
LESSON TWELVE: GOD IS WITH ME

by Sandy Harber

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10

The verses in this lesson continue the theme: God is present (that is, He is here with me). There are many verses that assure us that God is present with us all the time. Many are linked to the command "fear not." The point is that when God is with you, you have nothing to fear.

Isaiah 41:10 begins with the command "fear thou not." On what basis does God expect you to be fearless? On this basis: God is with you. The Creator of the universe has your back. If you are still afraid, that shows a lack of trust in God. Somehow you believe that God Himself is not powerful enough to protect you from your circumstances. Or, perhaps you believe He is powerful enough but you doubt He is willing to use that power on your behalf and rescue you. How about this thinking: I know God can deliver me from this situation but I'm afraid (fear!) He won't do it the way I want it done? If this is your thinking, then you believe that you are wiser than God. You have set your will before His.

Command number two: "be not dismayed." The Hebrew word translated "dismayed" here is different than the word used in Joshua 1:9 (in lesson 11). This word means "to gaze about for help; be nonplussed; be bewildered." In other words, you have no idea what to do! You don't know where to turn. You're scared into inaction, frozen in place by fear. But this reaction is entirely preventable. Why? Because: 1) He is your God; 2) He will strengthen you; 3) He will help you; and, 4) He will uphold you.

First and foremost, He is your God. He is your own personal God. This shows that you have a relationship. Isn't that amazing? The eternal Trinity wants a relationship with you. God the Father is your Heavenly Father. You have been adopted into His family (Romans 8:15). God the Son is your Savior and you are His bride and a member of His church (Ephesians 5:22-33). God the Holy Spirit is your Comforter and Teacher (John 14:26). He literally indwells your body (I Corinthians 6:19).

Your personal God has promised to strengthen you. That means He is going to fortify you, give you courage. He is helping you to "fear not." He's giving you the opposite of fear: courage. He has also promised to help you. The Hebrew word "help" means "to surround; protect." God will surround you with His protection. Finally, He has promised to uphold you. The Hebrew word for "uphold" means "to sustain; keep fast." God will hold onto you tightly and sustain you. What's more, He's going to do it with His right hand - the place of authority and power. The right hand of His righteousness. The Hebrew word for "righteousness" means "to be right; that which is altogether just." This righteousness is specifically God's Own righteousness. This is the all-knowing God's righteousness. This is the justice of the Judge of this world (Acts 17:31).

So when fear strikes, take refuge in Isaiah 41:10. Put His commands and promises together like this: My personal God, with Whom I have a relationship, will be with me. He will give me courage, surround me with His protection, hold me tightly and sustain me with the power and authority of His just and righteous nature.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 43:2