



May 2010

Dear Friend,

Every one of us deals with fear, regardless of our age, gender or nationality. It is a powerful force Satan uses against us in an attempt to paralyze and keep us from moving forward to receive the will of God for our lives.

The more attention we give to fear, the more power it has to influence and control our lives. Job 3:25, *“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.”* The more we think about fear, the more opportunity we give fear to take control of our lives.

The best antidote I have found for fear is faith. Although you and I can't do anything to keep the enemy from bringing thoughts of fear against us, we can choose what we are going to think about. Through our faith and the words we speak, we can overcome satan's attacks.

Many years ago, my outlook on life was extremely negative. I had the mindset that if I don't expect anything good to happen, then I wouldn't be disappointed when it didn't happen. I thought by thinking this way, I was protecting myself from being disappointed, but the truth was I was miserable.

When I first began to seriously study God's Word, the Lord showed me I had many deep-rooted fears in my life. One day, while I was getting ready to go to church, God suddenly made me aware of a strong feeling of fear overshadowing me. It was a vague feeling something bad was going to happen to me that day. Within moments God revealed to me I had lived with this feeling for most of my life.

I asked Him, “What is this?” The Holy Spirit answered, “It's evil forebodings.” Webster's II New College Dictionary defines the word foreboding as “a sense of impending misfortune or evil.”

Now until this time, I had never heard of anything like this. However, the Lord confirmed this in my heart by leading me to proverbs 15:15. It says, *“All the days of*

*the desponding and afflicted are made evil [by anxious thoughts and forebodings], but he who has a glad heart has a continual feast [regardless of circumstances].”*

As God revealed this to me, I began to realize Satan had been playing the same recording in my ears all my life, “Something bad is going to happen to you.” The more I meditated on his message, the more it became embedded in my thinking and my speaking. I received, believed and spoke thoughts of fear. As a result, I was in agreement with the enemy.

Just as fear is a force that draws the will of Satan into our lives, faith is a force that draws the will of God into our lives. In order for my fearful mindset to be broken, my thinking needed to be renewed. God wanted to free me, but in order for me to receive His freedom, I needed to have faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “...without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to (God)...”

Once I recognized fear was active in my life, I had to decide to stand against it. I purposely began to refuse Satan’s fears and choose to have faith in God’s Word. Even though it made no sense to my mind and I had no emotional feeling to back it up, I began to believe God for good things to happen.

God honored my faith and helped me to develop a positive perspective, but it seemed as though something was still missing. I went back to God and said, “I did what you told me. I stopped thinking and speaking fearful and negative thoughts, but I don’t see much change in my life.”

His response was, “You have stopped thinking and saying the wrong things, but you haven’t started saying the right things.” The Lord showed me it is not enough to stop doing the wrong things, we need to start doing the right things. In this case, the right thing was to start speaking the promises of God.

The key to keeping the devil off our back is to act in faith instead of react in fear. I believe one of the greatest weapons you and I have as believers is our mouth. Scripture gives us examples of the power of the spoken word. When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert, the Scripture says he defeated Satan by speaking the word (see Luke 4:1-13).

In Genesis we find God spoke and created the world and everything in it. Romans 4:17 says, we serve a God Who “*calleth those things which be not as though they were.*” With this in mind, I made a list of about one hundred confessions, all based on God’s Word, I felt God wanted me to start saying. Two or three times a day, I would speak them over my life.

When God first called me, He put in my heart I would have a worldwide teaching ministry. One of the things I began to say out loud was, “I get speaking engagements every day of my life, by mail, phone and in person.” At the time I

began saying this, I hadn't had one speaking engagement. Now I receive hundreds of invitations every year.

Once my mind and mouth started getting into agreement with God's will, God began to do mighty things in my life. The more I received, believed and spoke God's Word against the devil's deceptive lies, the less satan was able to manipulate and control me. Soon I began to see radical changes in virtually every area of my life. I believe God wants to see His people set free from fear to live a life full of expectancy.

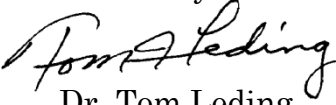
Scripture tells us His eyes search the earth looking to bless all who are looking to be blessed. Isaiah 30:18 says, *"And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]!"*

I want to encourage you to open your heart to God and ask Him to show you where you may have fear in your life. Although fear will try to attack you, it doesn't make you a coward. Fear only becomes a problem when we receive it and let it control our lives instead of standing against it and confronting it with the truth of God's Word.

The next time fear attacks, don't say, "I'm afraid...I'm afraid...", instead, you can say, "I believe God had a good plan for my life! Through Christ I am more than a conqueror!" (See Lamentations 3:25, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:37). By aggressively standing against Satan's fears, we can shut the door on his plan for our lives and open the door to God's blessings.

You don't have to be afraid of fear. Learn to stand up to fear and send it running the other way!

Your Prayer Partner,



Dr. Tom Leding