

“Faith Over Fear”

By McKade Marshall

We are living in a time of uncertainty and even confusion. The feeling of not having control over situations you can't do anything about can make you feel helpless. *The good news today is God has everything under His divine control.* Not long ago, after the COVID-19 pandemic broke out worldwide (and every store in the country ran out of toilet paper!), the Lord showed me a vision while I was lying in bed trying to go to sleep. In the vision, the Lord showed me sitting there in the palm of His hand. His hand was obviously very big for someone almost 6 feet tall to just sit in. Then the Lord spoke and said, “McKade, I have you in the palm of my hand.” As I continued to watch what the Lord was showing me on the movie-screen of my mind, He began to pick up different people I knew one at a time and place them in the palm of His hand.

First, He picked up my roommate and put him in the palm of His hand. Then, He picked up my parents and different family members. He picked up my boss and put her in His hand. As the vision went on, He placed different political leaders from the United States and around the world in His hand. There was no one too small or too great that could not fit in His hand. The vision was so soothing, as I had been a bit over-concerned and fearful myself about the devastating virus that was traveling rapidly around the world wreaking havoc. That night I fell asleep with a new sense of peace and calmness that only God's ministering Spirit could provide.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) tells us, “Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” This vision of God holding anyone and everyone in the palm of His hand, which symbolized His complete control over all things, did not help me to necessarily understand why a global pandemic was happening or why the world was swirling into a global economic recession from businesses being mandated by authorities to shut down. However, it did give me peace.

The divine revelation caused me to have faith over fear.

When Jesus came into the world, He came to offer peace. He came to offer life, and life in abundance. Not once did He say we would never have troubles. Actually, the opposite is true. He warned us that times would become difficult but that we would rise above these troubles through our faith. *Jesus tells His disciples in John 16:33 (NLT), “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* As followers of Jesus Christ, we are destined to overcome this world. We are destined to prosper and succeed in what God has called us to do! (see Jeremiah 29:11) There is a definitive promise and commanded blessing on you the moment you receive Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life.

With so many things to worry about in a world full of problems, God tells us to take our worrisome thoughts and turn them into prayers. One reason God sometimes allows problems into our lives is so He can receive great glory when He shows up and turns things around. After all, God is the greatest Deliverer of all time! God is God for a reason. His power knows no boundaries. His grace has no limits. He can save whomever He chooses, and His ears are wide open to the cries of His children at all times. There are millions upon millions of angels, far too many to count, that are standing before the Lord ready to respond to His commands and carry out His will.

If you are struggling with fear, or you know someone who is, today is your day to be set free!

Magnify your faith and not your fear. Often faith is believing the opposite of what the facts may say. The facts may say your loved one will never turn their life around and start serving the Lord. The facts may say your health will never be as

good as it once was. The facts may say you are unemployed and will never have a good job again. However, when we turn the facts around by consciously choosing faith over fear and declare what God says, then in the unseen spiritual realm things begin to shift. Angels on divine assignments from the Lord are released from the Kingdom of Heaven to go to work in ways we cannot see.

These angels are powerful, and they always fulfill whatever God commands them to do. While we do not pray to angels, as we pray directly to God our Father In Heaven, these angels were created to minister to and serve us (see Hebrews 1:14). Friend, you are a child of God. **As God's child, you are by far the most important person on God's agenda.** While the Lord is holding the universe in place, causing the earth to orbit around the sun at just the right angle, and overseeing all of creation, His number one priority is you! All of creation was created for us to enjoy (see 1 Timothy 6:17). Knowing how much the Father loves us should give us peace that is far beyond the sorrows of this world.

Every battle we face in life is spiritual. There are spiritual forces constantly at work that we cannot see with the physical eye. We can see the effects of these spiritual forces, and therefore we are able to sometimes identify exactly what these spirits are. One of these spirits that is at work in the world is the spirit of fear. The spirit of fear is not of God. As one of God's children redeemed by the blood of Christ, you have been given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit casts out all fear (1 John 4:18). *The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV), "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* In other words, fear is a spirit that has to go. When you come into agreement with what God says, you are choosing faith over fear.

Right before God called me to begin my writing ministry a few years ago, He showed me that faith is not based upon feelings. Our emotions and feelings can be tossed to and fro by the circumstances of life. Some days I wake up in the morning humming and singing. I feel great, and life is good. However, some mornings I wake up on the wrong side of the bed. I have never been a morning person, so I usually have to start the day off by thanking God I was even able to drag myself out of bed to start the coffee pot! I began to see a major shift in my life and in my ministry when one day I heard God say in my spirit, "Don't go by what you feel. Go by what you know."

Don't live by how you feel. Go by what you know God says.

When I wake up in the morning, I feel like rolling back over and snoozing. However, I know if I don't get up - and I allow how I feel to overrule what I should do - then I won't go to work. If I don't go to work, I won't get a paycheck. If I don't get a paycheck, I can't pay my bills. In the same way, your faith is not based upon your feelings. While feelings are valid, they are not necessarily the truth. God's Word is the truth. **Psalms 119:160 (NIV) tells us, "All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal."** When you begin the day reading the Bible and feeding your spirit the Word of God, your faith is made stronger. As faith grows, it kicks out fear, terror, and anything else that does not line up with the Word.

Fear creates panic. Faith creates peace. The whole world is looking for peace, and yet it seems to primarily operate in fear and panic. You are not of this world. *One of the final prayers Jesus prayed over us before He went to the Cross is found in John 17:15-18 (NLT), which says, "I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth. Just as You sent Me into the world, I am sending them into the world."* Brothers and sisters, Jesus has already commissioned you to go into the world and preach the gospel. You have a calling and a destiny to fulfill that has already been mapped out for you by the Creator of the universe.

The Lord has divine assignments for you to fulfill. He has people lined up for you to meet that will catapult you to a whole new level of victory and success. As long as you keep your eyes on Christ, God is going to get you where you need to be. Following Jesus is not for the faint of heart. God has called all of us to greatness. Throughout the Scriptures God tells His people "do not be afraid" and "fear not". The Lord knows the things He has called us to do require bravery. One of my favorite Scriptures is Isaiah 41:10 (NASB), where the prophet Isaiah declares, "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Right now God is upholding you with His strong arm.

Just like the vision I had of God holding me in His hand, He is holding you. I believe God is releasing the faith you need to live your life from a place of strength and courage. You have gifts and talents the Lord has woven into the fabric of your DNA. Recently I was sitting at a restaurant eating, when I began to overhear loud music in another room. As I heard the music play, the beats were creative and powerful. However, when the musician began to sing, the lyrics that followed the beats were so negative and toxic. Nothing about the words were wholesome, and they certainly did not glorify God. The music began to feel so dark, to the point of feeling demonic. The music itself was very polished and creative, but the problem was the message it was sending.

As I began to think about how talented these musicians were that created and produced these powerful songs, it began to grieve me that these individuals were so talented but were using their talents the wrong way. All of the talent they had could be used for God and His Kingdom, but their music was doing the exact opposite. I have a friend who is very musical, and his talent on the piano could be rivaled by only a select few. His gifting has clearly been given to him by the Lord. Unlike the example of the musicians creating unwholesome music, my friend has chosen to use his musical talents to glorify God. He has written and produced many songs over the years, and he recently wrote a Christian musical by ear about the seven churches talked about in the book of Revelation. Every time I listen to him sing the Holy Spirit stirs in me, and the anointed music my friend plays creates an atmosphere of what only Heaven must be like.

You get to choose how you are going to use your God-given gifts.

The Lord has given everyone a free will. We all get to choose whether or not we are going to submit our lives to God and His Word. The good news is God never gives up on us. He is always pursuing us, always calling us to come and be with Him. The best way to discover what your gifts are and how God wants to use them is by first coming to Him. We all have different talents: cooking, writing, caretaking, public speaking, singing, dancing, painting, drawing, physical strength, athleticism, and the list goes on. These talents are from God. As you grow in Christ, these talents are going to start becoming evident in how God intends to use them. In the Bible, King David was a marksman. He could sling a stone and take out an intruding lion or bear from a long way off. Queen Esther was a courageous woman. She used her beauty and elegance to persuade the king of Persia to save the lives of God's people in his kingdom. The Apostle Paul was very intelligent and had great knowledge of the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament. God used Paul's knowledge and intellect as a former Pharisee to preach the gospel to the entire world.

Over the past few months God has blessed my ministry tremendously. MLM Publishing, the business God put on my heart to start in 2014 in order to share the gospel, has grown exponentially. Throughout this process of growing, I have had to choose faith over fear many times. Was I fearful when I first began to write? Yes. Was I a little afraid the first time I sat behind a camera and shared a Christian message with an audience of people I did not personally know? Absolutely. However, each time I have sat down to write a book or to speak in front of a camera or to preach in front of a group of people it has become a little easier. God has grown the talent He put in me at birth to write and speak publicly. Am I perfect at it? Not at all, and yet God continues to grow the ministry He has called me to steward.

Likewise, I believe this spring God is causing the gifts and talents in you to begin to come forth.

As you encounter any fear or insecurities you may have, I believe God is going to give you the grace and the faith to override those fears. You are going to take a step of faith and start the business God put in your heart. You are going to stretch and see new doors open in your relationships, your health, and your finances. It all starts by spending time with God every day. Turn on some good praise music. Read a passage of Scripture and allow God to speak to your heart through the written Word. Pray continually. Talk to God like you would your best friend. Listen to a minister online or visit a church nearby. The Lord loves you so much! His desire is that you would abound and prosper in all that you do as you seek His kingdom first.

One reason MLM Publishing has grown so dramatically in the last six months is because of donors. Men and women from all over the world have given online and by mail. *All of these funds given have been used to promote ads online targeting people in all 50 states across the United States, and now people in Canada, Australia, and Israel.* From the beginning over 5 years ago, I have always declared MLM Publishing would be a global business and a global ministry - that one day the books, videos, newsletters, and other media produced - would touch souls in every single country of the world. Today that declaration is being fulfilled. Men and women in all 50 states of the USA are receiving weekly gospel videos via email and

seasonal newsletters in the mail. I currently have email subscribers in Cape Verde, Australia, Japan, Pakistan, the Emirates, and Canada. By faith I'm still calling in all 195 countries of the world, and I invite you to join me through prayer and giving in this divine quest to reach more souls with the message of salvation and God's goodness.

If you know someone that is not signed up to receive these newsletters, or you are not signed up, I encourage you to go to mlmpublishing.org, or my personal website mckademarshall.com, and submit your information there. Also, I email hundreds of subscribers a weekly gospel message every Sunday evening called "Word of the Week". If you or someone you know that might be interested is not subscribed, please make sure to add your email addresses as well. I do not want you to miss out on these encouraging, faith-filled weekly messages.

I declare this spring you are choosing faith over fear. As you take a step of faith and pursue what God has put in your heart to do, doors are going to open. The right people are going to come across your path. The anointing and the hand of God on you is going to propel you to new levels of victory and success. For every disappointment, God has arranged a triumph. For every failure, God has prepared a success. You are going to new heights and are going to become all God has created you to be. With the Lord's help, there is nothing you cannot achieve! I love you, and I am praying for you.

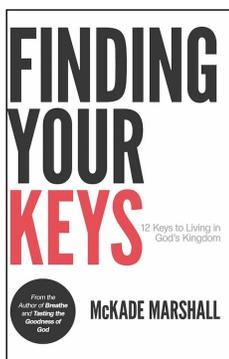
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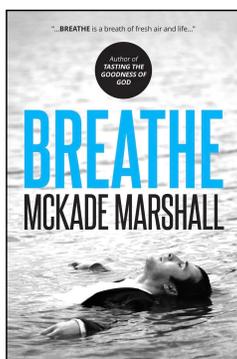
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P.S. Donations to MLM Publishing can be made online or by check (mail to: PO Box 5762, Abilene TX 79608). All proceeds from one-time and monthly recurring donations will go towards promoting weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters. Even small amounts can make a large impact! For example, on average, for about \$2 spent on a lead ad, a person from any part of the country now signs up to receive weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters after seeing a "lead ad". For perspective, just \$10 dollars can change the lives of 5 people, plus whoever they share with, for years to come! Your gift makes an eternal impact!



AUTHORITY



DREAM



DEVOTION

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