

THE FEAR THAT FREEZES US

I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

- Psalm 34:4

During the reign of King Jehoshaphat, a major threat arose: his enemies were approaching, and they were set on war. In 2 Chronicles 20, we find that the king's first response to this fearful moment was prayer. After gathering the people together, the king led them before God asking for his guidance, protection and power. At the end of his prayer, he spoke these words of faith to the Lord, *"We are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."* (2 Chronicles 20:12). In the midst of great fear, Jehoshaphat knew he had a greater God.

We must face our fears just as Jehoshaphat did. We depend upon God to equip us with power; *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7). We also face fear knowing God is with us; *"For he himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"* (Hebrews 13:5b-6).

After the prayer offered by King Jehoshaphat, God gave his response through one of men present in the assembly: *"Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's'"* (2 Chronicles 20:15).

We will face hardships, loss, and fearful situations, but when storms brew or enemies arise, we must remember that Christ is present, he is in control and the battle belongs ultimately to him. Don't allow your

Prayer prompt: What is your greatest fear at this moment? Are there specific fears that continue to resurface regularly? Is there any low-grade, but constant fear circulating in the back of your mind daily? Bring your fears to God in prayer and trust that the battle is his.

The fear of man lays a snare but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

- Proverbs 29:25

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

- Isaiah 43:1b-2

If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear. His eye is upon us, his arm over us, his ear open to our prayer - his grace sufficient, his promise unchangeable.

- John Newton