

On Fear vs. Faith

Some Psalms on Fear and Faith

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



Psalm 27

27 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the defense of my life;
Whom shall I dread?

2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh,
My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though a host encamp against me,

My heart will not fear;
Though war arise against me,
In spite of this I shall be confident.

4 One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord
And to meditate in His temple.

5 For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle;
In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;
He will lift me up on a rock.

6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,
And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice,
And be gracious to me and answer me.

8 When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You,
"Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."

9 Do not hide Your face from me,
Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
You have been my help;
Do not abandon me nor forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
But the Lord will take me up.

11 Teach me Your way, O Lord,
And lead me in a level path
Because of my foes.

12 Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,
For false witnesses have risen against me,
And such as breathe out violence.

13 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord
In the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the Lord.



Psalm 34

1 I will bless the Lord at all times:
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord:
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened:
and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him,
and delivereth them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good:
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

9 O fear the Lord, ye his saints:
for there is no want to them that fear him.

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger:
but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
12 What man is he that desireth life,
and loveth many days, that he may see good?
13 Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips from speaking guile.
14
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open unto their cry.
16 The face of the Lord is against them that do evil,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth,
and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;
and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous:
but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.
20 He keepeth all his bones:
not one of them is broken.
21 Evil shall slay the wicked:
and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
22 The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants:
and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.



Psalm 46

46 God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

3 Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The holy dwelling places of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

6 The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;
He raised His voice, the earth melted.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has wrought desolations in the earth.

9 He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.

10 "Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.



Psalm 118

118 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

2 Oh let Israel say,
"His lovingkindness is everlasting."

3 Oh let the house of Aaron say,
"His lovingkindness is everlasting."

4 Oh let those who fear the Lord say,
"His lovingkindness is everlasting."

5 From my distress I called upon the Lord;
The Lord answered me and set me in a large place.

6 The Lord is for me; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?

7 The Lord is for me among those who help me;
Therefore I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me.

8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
Than to trust in man.

9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
Than to trust in princes.

10 All nations surrounded me;
In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.

11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me;
In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.

12 They surrounded me like bees;
They were extinguished as a fire of thorns;
In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.

13 You pushed me violently so that I was falling,
But the Lord helped me.

14 The Lord is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.

15 The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;
The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

17 I will not die, but live,
And tell of the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has disciplined me severely,
But He has not given me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness;
I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord;
The righteous will enter through it.

21 I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me,
And You have become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief corner stone.

23 This is the Lord's doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day which the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 O Lord, do save, we beseech You;
O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God, and He has given us light;
Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

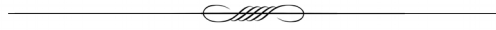
28 You are my God, and I give thanks to You;
You are my God, I extol You.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.



Some Verses on Fear and Faith

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."



Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."



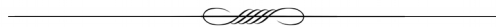
Joel 2:21

Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the Lord has done great things.



Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,



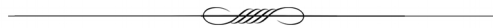
Matthew 10: 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.



Matthew 14:22 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. 23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was

evening, He was there alone. 24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"



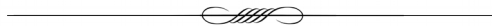
Luke 7:2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die. 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him; 5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue." 6 Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; 7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." 10 When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.



Hebrews 11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. 4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.



James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



The Exodus as an Example of Fear vs. Faith

God begins to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, but Pharaoh and his whole army chase after them.

Exodus 14:10 As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. 14 The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent."

Exodus 14:31 When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Exodus 20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."

God lead the people out of slavery in Egypt and they followed God through the desert for many years even though it is a relatively short journey from Egypt to Israel,. During that time, God taught them to trust him and instructed them many times not to fear. The Hebrews relied on God totally for food and water, because there was none in the desert. Manna fell from heaven for them to eat. God instructed Moses to strike a rock with his staff to provide water, when there was none. When they finally reached Israel, God told Moses to send scouts into the land, so Moses sent 12 of them. They spied out the land for 40 days, checking the fortifications and the land. When they returned, 11 of the scouts said that there were giants in the land and they should not go. But Caleb said they should trust God and the giants would fall to them. The people listened to the 11, and

not to Moses, Aaron and Caleb. God grew angry when the people wanted to appoint a leader and return to their slavery in Egypt.

Numbers 14: 11 The Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? 12 I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.”

13 But Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your strength You brought up this people from their midst, 14 and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, O Lord, are in the midst of this people, for You, O Lord, are seen eye to eye, while Your cloud stands over them; and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 Now if You slay this people as one man, then the nations who have heard of Your fame will say, 16 ‘Because the Lord could not bring this people into the land which He promised them by oath, therefore He slaughtered them in the wilderness.’ 17 But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, 18 ‘The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.’ 19 Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”

20 So the Lord said, “I have pardoned them according to your word; 21 but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. 22 Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, 23 shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. 24 But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.”

So fear -- not trusting in God -- kept them from receiving the good things God had planned for them. They wandered in the desert for 40 years, until all of that generation died except those who trusted God. Then God lead their children into the land.