

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's fingers are visible gripping the edges. The background is a dark red surface with various mathematical equations and symbols written in white chalk or paint, including $a-b=c$, $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{32}{11} (\sqrt{\frac{a-b}{d}})^4 (a-d)^n$, $S'' = \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{v}$, and $b + a$.

FAITH > FEAR

31 DAYS OF FAITH USING GOD'S EQUATION

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OVERVIEW OF FORMAT

- **SCRIPTURE** Daily Bible readings will come from the NIV translation. Each will be shortened to 1 to 4 Bible verses in order to help you get through your readings.
- **SAY WHAT?** Translations of the scripture into simple sentences to help you focus on the key point(s).
- **BREAKDOWN** The devotion for the day that relates the scripture to everyday life to foster growth for you as a student.
- **LIVE IT OUT** Practical instruction of what you can do today to fulfill the scripture and purpose covered in each individual devotional.
- **PRAYER** Short prayer for you to ask for God's help with the instruction of the day.
- **REFLECTION** Journaling space to write down what the day's passage means to you, and/or how it has impacted you.

WHY FAITH GREATER THAN FEAR?

Fear is something that everyone deals with in life. Whether you are young or old, single or married, live at home with your parents or just moved out, there are bound to be some moments of fear. Having moments of fear isn't the problem; however, the problem comes in when you allow those moments of fear to control your life and then you have a "spirit" of fear. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us the spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline." The word "timidity" here is the Greek word *δειλία* "deilia" which is translated as fearfulness or cowardice. This means that while we might face moments of fear throughout our lives, we can't allow this to make us cowards. We have to trust God and have more faith in God than we have fear in the world.

It is like the equation we learned in school using the greater than ">" sign. Whatever is on the open side of the greater than sign is larger than anything else. This is God's equation. I believe God wants us to make sure that our faith is always on the open side.

When our faith is larger, or greater, it keeps us anchored and steady, even during rough and difficult times. It is my prayer that as you read and work through this devotional that you will be encouraged in your faith to overcome ALL of your fears. This devotional is written like our other ones. Each day you will have the "Scripture," which is simply the scripture for the day. The "Say What?" is the scripture explained in a few lines, and the "Breakdown" is the actual devotion for the day. Then we have the "Live it out" which will be a few lines to help you act on this scripture today. The "Prayer" is next and is simply the daily prayer, followed by the "Reflection." This is the section in each day for you to write your notes and thoughts for the day. The reflection is key for you to treat this devotional like a journal to track your thoughts and come back to it later. Ok let's get started with day 1 and section 1 (Past) on this journey that we will take together on the road to *Faith Greater Than Fear: 31 Day of Faith Using God's Equation*.



PAST INTRODUCTION

All of us have a past. Some moments in our past are great and others are not so great. Your past was meant to teach you and grow you to move forward but it wasn't meant for you to stay there. If you liked the 6th grade so much that you wanted to stay there an extra year that wouldn't be good or acceptable. So then why would you want to live in your past or allow your past fears to haunt you? The truth is that many of us do not move forward in life and in God because we are worried or concerned about our past mistakes or issues.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died on the cross for our past, but most importantly for our future. In the next few days of this devotional as you read through, pray through and work through the scriptures, I want to encourage you to also begin to forgive yourself for your past and then move forward. At the end of these few days you will find questions for you to answer in a group with your youth pastor/leader or alone that will help you deal with your past fears and to move forward in focusing on having faith in God.

DAY 3

SCRIPTURE:

"PEACE IS WHAT I LEAVE WITH YOU; IT IS MY OWN PEACE THAT I GIVE YOU. I DO NOT GIVE IT AS THE WORLD DOES. DO NOT BE WORRIED AND UPSET; DO NOT BE AFRAID."

JOHN 14:27

SAY WHAT? God's Peace is what you will always have with you because God doesn't take it away like the world does. What God gives stays.

BREAKDOWN: When is the last time you would say you have experienced real peace? Go ahead and think about it or write it down. I will wait ☺. I remember my last moment of real peace came the other week when my daughter Karis, my wife and I were all in the house on the couch playing "the tickle fest." This is a game my wife and I play with my daughter where we tickle her until she can't take it any more and in turn she, our 2-year-old, tries to tickle us back. It was in this moment that I felt God's peace and honestly God's joy in my life as well. For me this was a moment where nothing else mattered outside of the love and joy of the two people that God has given to me as family. No bills, no work deadlines, no sermon, no books to write. Just us and a bunch of laughing out loud. This moment for me relates to the scripture although it isn't like in this moment I didn't have bills that were due or I didn't have a project I needed to work on. Instead my focus was on enjoying the moment in peace with my family. Even as a student, you have moments of peace that God has given to you. Your job is to make sure that you live in those moments and that you don't allow the enemy to come in with worry and fear.

The enemy wants to rob you of your moments of peace in order to keep you as far away from God and God's peace as possible, but

you can't allow this to happen. Our scripture for today says that God gives us this peace, which belongs to God. God has the ownership of it, and God is not like the world that gives and takes away. If God gives it to us it is ours to keep. The scripture goes on to say that because of God's peace that was given to us, we don't need to worry, be upset or be afraid. We can't worry because God has our past and our future. We can't be upset because whatever the world takes away God can give back in triples. Just ask Job. Lastly, we can't be afraid because with God there is truthfully nothing to fear.

LIVE IT OUT: Today do something that gives you God's peace. Maybe it's reading a book or going outside and looking at nature. Maybe it's playing a sport or watching your favorite movie. Do something where you are allowed to block out all of the other issues of life and focus on the peace that only comes from God.

PRAYER: Lord, today help me to find my peaceful place. God, allow me to not only find it but to stay in it for a good amount of time. Jesus, don't allow the enemy to come into my peaceful moment and try to take anything; instead Lord, help me to remove all worry, feels of being upset and all fear so that I can embrace Your peace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

REFLECTION:

Fear is something that everyone deals with in life. Whether you are young or old, single or married, live at home with your parents or just moved out, there are bound to be moments of fear. Having moments of fear isn't the problem. The problem comes when you allow those moments of fear to control your life, causing you to have a "spirit" of fear. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us the spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline." The word "timidity" here is the Greek word "deilia" which is translated as fearfulness or cowardice. This means that even when we face moments of fear throughout our lives, we can't allow this to make us cowards. We have to trust God and have greater faith in God than we have of fear in the world.

This 31-day devotional is designed to help you live by God's equation for our life. God has created us to have greater faith in Him than fear in the world.

Each day you will have the "Scripture" for the day, the "Say what" where the scripture is explained in a few lines, and the "Breakdown" which is the actual devotion for the day. Then you have to "Live it out." This is designed to help you act on the scripture today. The "Prayer" is next and it's intended for you to pray daily, followed by the "Reflection." This is the section in each day where you write your notes and thoughts. The Reflection is key for you to treat this devotional like a journal to track your thoughts and come back to it later.

OK. LET'S GET STARTED WITH DAY 1 ON THIS JOURNEY THAT WE WILL TAKE TOGETHER ON THE ROAD TO HAVING MORE FAITH, GREATER FAITH THAN WE HAVE OF FEAR, USING GOD'S EQUATION.



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