

## LESSON NINE – WILLING SPIRIT, WEAK FLESH

### WALKING FREE FROM INTIMIDATION

Walking free from intimidation has nothing to do with being an extrovert. Some of the most outgoing people have battled intimidation.

Being able to be intimidated has nothing to do with how anointed you are either. Many powerful ministers struggle with intimidation.

You can be outgoing, strong, bold, and even anointed, and still fight intimidation. Possessing a spirit of timidity has nothing to do with a deficiency in personality, physical strength, or anointing.

### WILLING SPIRIT, WEAK FLESH

While Jesus battled to lose his life, the disciples avoided the fight by sleeping.

[Mat 26:40-41 NKJV] 40 *Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."*

There was Peter, this man of boldness, sleeping instead of praying.

Our spirits, our hearts, may be willing, but our flesh will always seek to protect itself. Consequently, if our flesh is not crucified, we will give it what it wants.

The root of fear and intimidation is the love of self. When we love ourselves, or our lives more than we love Christ, we struggle to do anything that pushes us out of our comfort zones. That feeling of stepping out and being bold can be challenging.

### ANALOGY GOD GAVE SIS. KAMI ABOUT, “CAUTIOUSNESS”

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*“Being overly-cautious causes one to become too internally focused. Anxious. Fear-filled. These believers evaluate risks based on the amount of potential pain and suffering, rather than on the will of God. The will of God becomes secondary to the will of self.” (Kami Giwa, 2022).*

The root of fear and intimidation is the love of self. When we love our wills more than we love God’s, we struggle to do the very thing God asks us, to lay down our lives.

Perfect (mature, complete, finished) love casts out fear and gives us boldness. Boldness born of love breaks the grip of intimidation. Imperfect love or self-love opens the door to intimidation.

[1Jo 4:17-18 NKJV] *17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

Fear and intimidation are magnified as we focus on ourselves. Torment cries, “*What about me? What will happen to me?*” Jesus said, “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life.*”

When we truly lay down our lives out of love for Jesus, we will no longer care what happens to us because we know we are committed to his care. We do not need to worry because our lives are no longer our own, but his. He purchased us; therefore, whatever happens to us is his concern only. We just love and obey. **Fear should no longer torment us because a dead person can’t be tormented.**

### **THAT SAME POWER IS IN YOU!**

When we look at Peter in the Book of Acts, it is hard to believe he is the same man who cowered and denied Christ before servants. After the infilling of the Holy Spirit, he boldly and fearlessly proclaimed Jesus as Lord and Messiah throughout Jerusalem.

Refer to Acts 4:1-31:

- The boldness of Peter and John caused the council to be amazed, and they could say nothing against the work of God.
- These men were masters of control, so they resorted to intimidation.
- Peter stands bold in the face of intimidation. He does not back up and cower but lunges forward.
- These men asked God for more of the very thing that got them into trouble. They knew that preaching the gospel would put their lives at risk. But they continued to preach, and God was faithful to perform great miracles!

You have that power in you! That same power is in you!

The way to conquer intimidation is to lose your life. Don’t draw back, but dare to believe. Ask him to fill your heart with love – His love, the kind that never withdraws. Ask him for His grace to overcome the obstacles you face. Ask him for the courage to go into those hard places. Pray to be on the cutting edge of what He is doing on the earth. Don’t ask for ease of life, instead ask for one that glorifies Him.