

bible declaration

FEAR LESS-VS-FEARLESS

Black Bart was a professional thief whose name struck fear as he terrorized the Wells Fargo stage line. From San Francisco to New York, his name became synonymous with the danger of the frontier. Between 1875 and 1883, he robbed 29 different stagecoach crews. Amazingly, Black Bart did it all without firing a shot. Because he wore a hood, no victim ever saw his face. He never took a hostage and was never trailed by a sheriff. Instead, Black Bart would later say from prison he did not need to fire a shot; all he had to do was to use fear to paralyze his victims. "Fear, the face of the unknown, was my weapon of choice, my weapon of intimidation." One of Satan's greatest weapons is fear.

2 Chronicles 20:1-3 nlt

¹After this, the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites^[a] declared war on Jehoshaphat. ²Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army from Edom^[b] is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea.^[c] They are already at Hazazon-tamar."

³Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the LORD for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting.

⁴So people from all the towns of Judah came to Jerusalem to seek the LORD's help.

2 chronicles 20:12-13

¹²Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

¹³All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD .

Psalm 46 was composed in response to a terrifying event in the life of Jehoshaphat. **2 Chronicles 20** says he was a good king, a godly king. One day, his troops saw the dust clouds of three mighty armies marching toward Judah. The Moabites, the Ammonites and the Meunites, had made a treaty to attack and plunder their nation.

Jehoshaphat was understandably afraid. His tiny, ill-equipped army could no way defeat such a force of strength; so, he prayed, pouring his heart out to God. In response, God sent a message. Listen, King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says to you; “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours but the Lord’s.”

Upon hearing this, Jehoshaphat led the people in a worship service. The next day, he and his army went out to meet their enemy with the choir leading the way still singing God’s praises. As they crested the hill and looked down on the enemy camp, all they saw were dead bodies. In the night, God had confused the enemy soldiers so much they had attacked each other and not one warrior in that vast army had remained alive. This inspired Jehoshaphat’s music minister to write the 46th Psalm.

SCRIPTURE

God says, in verse 10, when fear raises its ugly head, you and I must: Be still. As the armies of all those “ites” came his way, Jehoshaphat heard God say, “Relax; lay down your arms. Put the army at the end of the column with the choir singing my praises in the front because the battle is not yours to fight; it is mine.” Be still and know that I am God. Verse one reveals three things we can know about our God which causes fear to be less.

HE IS...ACCESSIBLE

God is our refuge. We are granted access to the love, care, and concern of the Holy God. The word refuge appears three times in **Psalm 46**: in verse 1, 7, and 11.

God knew of the need for deliverance from the “ites” and allowed access to His salvation. In the same manner, God knew of your need for deliverance from the penalty, power, and presence of sin in your life so

He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believed in him would not perish but have everlasting life. You have a direct, unhindered access to the Holy God as you place your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

if you feel oppressed, weary, or afraid; if you are grieving, anxious, disappointed, lonely, or heartbroken, then hear

Psalm 9:9. The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Jehoshaphat accessed the shelter of God as he prayed. All you need to enter this refuge is to ask.

Psalm 62:8 says, Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Fear is less when you are sheltered within the presence of God. Are you needing the shelter of God? First, come to faith in Christ as your Savior. Second, seek Him with all of your heart.

HE IS ... ABLE

God is our refuge and strength.

Psalm 27:1 says, The Lord is my light and my salvation Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life...of whom shall I be afraid?

As Jehoshaphat accessed the shelter of God, he experienced God was able to do what he could not: defeat the "ites" without firing a shot.

Many times, when a trial comes, we attempt to carry the burden on our own shoulders when we should heed the instruction of **Psalm 46** and rely on the power of the Spirit of God. Jesus said, My power is made perfect in weakness. In **2 Corinthians 12**, Paul said, Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties for when I am weak, then I am strong.

The moment you see the armies of fear coming over the horizon, run to your refuge. In the presence of God, your weakness becomes strength. You will hear the Lord say, Do not be afraid or discouraged; for the battle is not yours but the Lord's. Our God is able to accomplish what you deem to be impossible.

HE IS AVAILABLE

Our God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. God does not promise to remove suffering from our lives; but, He does promise His presence in the midst of our suffering. God is an “everywhere-present God.” There is no place where He is not; He is always available.

History was made in 1996 by the Dallas Cowboys when one of their players, Deion Sanders, played both defense and offense. On one play, during the third game of the season, Deion blitzed a run and stopped the running back behind the line of scrimmage. When Dallas got the ball back, he caught a long pass from quarterback Troy Aikman.

The announcers declared, “He’s all over the field friends! He’s everywhere!”

Deion was not really everywhere. If you left your seat to buy a hot dog, he would not have been working the concession stand. If you had to get out of the stadium early, Deion would not have been directing the traffic.

But, God IS everywhere. Wherever you are, God is. Whatever crisis you are facing, God is near. He is right there with you. He does not leave or turn his focus elsewhere when times get tough. He is always available. God promises, Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. No matter what circumstances may indicate, we can know our God will not leave us to the mercy of those circumstances. We can be still because God does not leave us on our own when life goes in the ditch.

We can withstand anything if we know God is with us. The Psalmist reminds us no crisis is too big for God. The earth could give way, the mountains could fall into the sea, and even that would not cause us fear because God is with us. Our God is an ever-present help.

closing

God yearns for you to experience His love. He wants to be your refuge and strength. He wants you to experience the peace of His constant presence. But, He will not force it on you; it is your decision. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin and come into your life because you are placing your faith in Him as Savior.

God may be calling you to commit yourself to trusting Him more. Fear has either taken a strong hold on your life, or it is boiling beneath the surface ready to explode when circumstances become trying and tough. But, fear is not of God. Paul told Timothy, For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and a sound mind. (**2 Timothy 1:7**)
The Bible says, in **1 John 4:18**, There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,

final word

we are always using God to fix a situation

a means to an end

but what if we allowed God to not just fix the situation , but to fix us

fix us where we FEAR LESS

se we want to be fearless but God is asking us to fear less everyday