

2023



# SMALL FOXES OF FEAR

SMALL FOXES SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

As we focus on the small thing, what is little becomes bigger. God is zooming in on areas of your life that require your attention.

*Song of Songs 2:15 NIV - Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.*

- If it gets into a harvest it can ruin what you have been working on
- Foxes may appear innocent but are crafty clever animals
- Some things God wants to bloom
- Some things will destroy you harvest

Today we deal with the small fox of fear. Fear stops and blocks you from moving forward in the plan of God.

**FALSE**

**EVIDENCE**

**APPEARING**

**REAL**

**FEAR:**

- Fear often masks itself in carefulness.
- Fear can also be the root of stress. Fear is faith turned inside out.
- Fear is a feeling

One of the most basic human conditions. It is programmed into the nervous system and works like instinct.

*Proverbs 19:23 NIV - The **fear of the Lord** leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.*

- Fearing God is a good thing
- Good fear is a healthy reverence
- Healthy fear gives life, rest, and contentment
- When you fear of the Lord your can enjoy my life

*What is an example of healthy fear?*

*2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

- Fear is neutral

- Fear and the spirit of fear are not the same thing
- The spirit of fear does not come from God
- Identify and discern where the fear is coming from

*What is the difference between healthy fear and the spirit of fear?*

## I BREAK ANY UNHEALTHY AGREEMENTS I MADE WITH FEAR.

If you don't deal with the spirit of fear you will mismanage what God has given you. Let's look at someone who didn't properly manage fear and how it impacted their life in 1 Samuel 11 and 13.

## THIS WILL BE YOUR RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

### SAUL'S HISTORY

- Defeated an Army - 1 Samuel 11
- Saul's acknowledgement I. 11:13 that it was God that delivered them
- An Anointed King Chosen by God
- Saul, the man who had been crowned just a few chapters as Israel's first (human) king. [ 1 Samuel 11:7-15]

### FEAR WILL CAUSE YOU TO FORGET

*1 Samuel 13:5-7 NIV - [5] The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. [6] When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. [7] Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.*

- Anyone messing with you is also messing with your God
- God knows how to handle your enemies
- If you're not careful you'll retreat when fear comes
- You have to feel fear and decide to move forward in the things call you to do
- We know we consult God before we enter battle
- Once you get God to be where you are, greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world
- You cannot forget

- Fear makes you forget what you know by what you see
- Tell what you see what you know until you see what you know

*What are you seeing that is making you forget what you know?*

## FEEL THE FEAR AND MOVE FORWARD: IF YOU'RE NOT FACING YOUR FEARS, YOU'RE FACING THE WRONG WAY.

### FEAR WILL CAUSE YOU TO FORCE IT

1 Samuel 13:8-10 NIV - [8] He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. [9] So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. [10] Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

- In this season you can't afford to do the right thing the wrong way; don't panic
- Learn to put a time limit on your emotional fear
- God's timing is perfect and is not your timing
- Learn to wait and trust God; don't let fear force you to react
- Seek the Lord first so you know how to respond
- It's not if you wait it's how you wait
- God always want you to respond to a situation, not react

*Recall a time in your life when you panicked and move ahead of God's timing, what was the situation? What did you do? What was the end result?*

## DON'T ALLOW PEOPLE TO PRESSURE YOU TO BECOME IMPATIENT.

### FEAR WILL CAUSE YOU TO REACT, NOT RESPOND.

### FEAR WILL CAUSE YOU TO FORFEIT

1 Samuel 13:11-12 NIV - [11] "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, [12] I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

- It's not that God didn't want it for you, but you forfeited it
- I saw, I thought, I felt

- Regulate your feelings
- This is a formula for failure
- Learn to master your feelings, because feelings have to be filtered
- If feelings are not filtered you can mess up your kingdom
- One act of disobedience will cost you your promise

*What has fear caused you to forfeit?*

1 Samuel 13:13-14 NIV - [13] "**You have done a foolish thing,**" Samuel said. "**You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.** [14] **But now your kingdom will not endure:** the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, **because you have not kept the Lord's command.**"

- Fear will cause you to forfeit God's plan for you
- If God didn't say it don't you agree with it
- You should be fearless
- Your feelings are real, but you must check your feelings with your faith

*How do you handle your feelings of fear? What are you most fearful of?*

## FLIP IT

### TURN YOUR FEAR INTO FAITH!

**FORSAKING**

**ALL**

**I**

**TRUST**

**HIM**

In Psalms 56:11 it says " in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?"

## TRUST:

*A dealing based on repeated reality.*

- Tell your fears what your faith said
- A fear faced is a fear erased

*What area of your life do you need to increase your trust in God?*

## **CANCEL FEAR WITH FAITH**

*Isaiah 41:10 NLT - Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

*Psalms 27:1 NIV - The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?*

- Don't act like you're not worried, turn your worry into worship
- Cast your cares on the Lord
- You can't cancel out a thought with a thought, you cancel it with the Word of God

## **FAITH FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE**

*2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV - And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

## **QUESTION**

*What are some ways you can turn your fears into faith?*

## **DECLARATION**

*I have faith for the unknown, not fear of the unknown because I know who holds tomorrow.*

## **PRAYER**

*Lord, I am grateful that You have not given me the spirit of fear. You have graced me with power, love, and a sound mind. I will not operate in fear. I will be cognizant of what I know and will allow it to be my guide. I will honor your timing and patiently for Your hand to move in my life, in Jesus' name, Amen!*