

# BE NOT DISMAYED

## Christian Character in Action: Lesson 36

28 October 2022

**Dismay:** to deprive of that strength or firmness of mind which constitutes courage. To dismay is to discourage; to dishearten; to sink or depress the spirits or resolution. Hence, to affright or terrify.

**As a noun:** a fall or loss of courage; sinking of the spirits; depression; dejection; yielding to fear; that loss of firmness which is affected by fear or terror. It is fear impressed or terror felt.

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**Deuteronomy 31:8** God was sending the Israelites into the Land of Promise which was filled with many dangers and many enemies. But God commanded them not to be dismayed. Why? Because He said He would go before them, He would be with them, He would not fail them, and He would not forsake them.

- The reason we get dismayed is we forget Who is with us (Heb. 13:5).
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**Joshua 1:5-9** Just before the battle of Jericho, God promised the Israelites that He would be with them.

- God commanded them to **be strong and of a good courage** (vs 6) and **very courageous** (vs 7) and of **good courage** (vs 9).
  - God commanded them to **be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed**. Why? **The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest**.
  - Lacking faith in God's promise, they sent spies to Jericho to see what they were facing.
    - They had sent spies into Canaan before (Numbers 13) and their report (giants in the land) caused the people to be dismayed.
    - They should have meditated on God's words instead of the evil reports of the spies.
  - They trusted the Lord and conquered the city of Jericho.
  - After that, they trusted themselves (Josh 7:3) and went to battle against Ai, suffering a terrible defeat (7:5) because of disobedience among the people..
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**Joshua 8:1-2** After dealing with the sin of Achan, God spoke to Joshua before sending the people to battle against Ai the second time. He commanded Joshua to **"Fear not, neither be thou dismayed."** God promised them a victory.

- When we attempt to do something for God in our own strength, we will fail. Many times, our successes in ministry can cause us to become self-confident and we begin to do things without God. Those efforts will be ineffective and vain. We always need God's help.
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**1 Samuel 17:11, 32-37** A Giant named Goliath caused Saul and all Israel to be dismayed (vs 11). David told them, **"Let no man's heart fail"** (DON'T be dismayed). David was not confident in his OWN ability to defeat Goliath. His confidence was in God who had given him victories before.

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**1 Chronicles 22:11** When David was instructing his son Solomon concerning the building of the Temple, he told him, **“Be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.”**

- Any time we are preparing to undertake something new (starting a marriage, a family, a business, etc.), and we don't know all the details about it, the Lord wants us to not be dismayed, and to just follow His instructions. The Bible has instructions for whatever we may face in life.

**1 Chronicles 28:20** David again charges Solomon to not be dismayed. God will not abandon you.

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**2 Chronicles 20:14-15** The Spirit of the Lord spoke to the congregation of Israel and said, **“Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.”**

- If the battle is mine, I need to be prepared. I need to know how strong my enemy is and prepare my army based on that information.
- But if the battle is the Lord's, I just need to trust Him and believe His promises.
- THE LORD HAS GIVEN US PROMISES CONCERNING HIS CHURCH:
  - The Lord will build His Church (Mt. 16:18).
  - The Lord will bring us with Him, and we shall **“ever be with the Lord”** (1 Thess 4:14-17).
    - That means we don't have to count all our enemy forces. We just need to make certain our hearts don't lose courage and that we believe the promises of God.
    - If we'll do that, we won't be dismayed when facing our enemies and challenges.

**Vs 17 “set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you... fear not, nor be dismayed”**

- To the Christian: Put on the whole armour of God, **“and having done all, to stand.”** (Eph 6:13).
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**2 Chronicles 32:6-8** **“Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed...with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.**

- The media will cause us unrest (be afraid!). The word of the Lord causes rest (be not afraid).
  - As long as you keep looking at the enemies (my problems, my circumstances, my difficulties, my illness, my financial situation), you will become dismayed.
    - Don't forget that God is with you (Heb 13:5); you've got no reason to be dismayed.
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**Isaiah 41:10** **“Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God.”**

- Yes, there are enemies, but look to God.
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**Jeremiah 10:1-2** **“be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.”**

- The heathen invent things to be afraid of. We are commanded not to be dismayed at them (superstitions, religions, theories, dogmas, signs).
  - The people who trust God are not shaken by the most gigantic events in the history of the universe.
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Keep yourself occupied with God to maintain courage.