

GOD is greater than > fear

Genesis 26

❖ My battle with fear

- When I control _____ my own life and circumstances.
Genesis 26:7-11
- When I cover up _____ and lie about who I am in fear of other's reactions.
Genesis 26:7-11, Genesis 12:10-13

❖ My victory over fear

When my faith in God and His Word are greater than my fear of man and circumstances, then my faith in God will...

- Renew _____ His promises to me. Genesis 26:3-4
Matthew 28:19, 20; Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Ephesians 2:17-22; Romans 15:5-7
What promises of God's Word are you trusting in?
- Remind _____ me of His faithfulness in the past. Genesis 26:5
Genesis 22
Write about God's faithfulness in your life, or a friend's experience.
- Resolve _____ conflicts with others. Genesis 26:19-22
What conflicts do you need to trust God's help to resolve?
- Reveal _____ God's blessing in my life to others. Genesis 26:12-14, 28, 29
I Corinthians 2:1-5; II Corinthians 12:9
How are others seeing God's blessing in your life?
- Reaffirm _____ my thankful worship to my Lord. Genesis 26:23-25
Is your worship today in response to God faithful blessing in your life?

Digging Deeper

Isaac feared the people in this land because of the beauty of his wife. He was afraid that they would harm him. Note how this parallels his father in Genesis 12:10-13 and Genesis 20. Compare how Abimelech discovered that Sarah was Abraham's wife and Rebekah was Isaac's wife. Was one more miraculous than the other? Can God use what appears to be coincidences on some occasions and direct intervention on other occasions? Is He in control in all things?

There were a number of factors that added to Isaac's fear in Genesis 25:7. You may relate to these same factors:

--Control: He was trying to control his own situation. But, he knew the King would have greater control. When we lose confidences in controlling our lives, we live in fear.

--Trust: He was trusting in his own ability at this point. He could not trust the King which created more fear. When we learn to trust God, fear subsides.

--Newness: He is relatively new to this area, does not know what to expect. New circumstances, people, issues can create more fear.

--Choice: He is fearful because of the choices that others may make against him. We live in greater fear when we must rely on the choices of others, and sometime of God.

--Dread: He is living in dread of these people he thinks hate him. We often dread things that are not likely to come true, but the fear feels strong.

Even the great apostle Paul lived in some fear. Read I Corinthians 2:1-5. Read Acts 19:9, 10 which offers some reassurance from God while in Corinth. What did he learn from his time of weakness, fear and trembling? Compare this with II Corinthians 12:9.

God gave Isaac this great promise of Genesis 25:2-5 to reassure him. This is a reaffirmation of the Abrahamic promise first recorded in Genesis 12. This land belongs to the Jewish people. God wants to constantly reassure us with His Word so we do not live in fear. God has given to us some spiritual promises that line up with the promises found in Genesis 24:2-5. Find those similar promises to us in Matthew 28:19, 20; Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Ephesians 2:17-22; Romans 15:5-7, from the front of the outline.

Learn from Philippians 4:6-8. We are not to be anxious (vs. 6) but to focus our minds on God's truth (vs. 8). Note the contrast below:

God's Truth to dwell on

What is true in me
Honorable character
Right commands to trust
Pure, clean
Lovely, agreeable, pleasant
Good repute

Human thoughts

False, Posing life
Unworthy view of self
Uncertain feelings
Impure thoughts
Critical spirit
Judgmental

Satan's thoughts

Lies, Hypocrisy
Anger, Depression
Anxiety, Worry
Unforgiving, Revenge
Conflict in relationship
Hateful word, action



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