

IF GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE, WHY DREAD...

Dread is a word that you often hear in conversations. I dread going to work today because.... Or I dread going home tonight because... or I dread getting up in the morning because... and the list goes on and on. Why do we dread the hard times—the trials—the challenges that come into our lives? They are part of our Christian growth. If you never face trials, you will never have to exercise your faith.

We often dread facing a new day because we know it will be a hard day with our busy schedules and the “juggling” we must do. The “juggling” process not only affects us, but others in our life as well. Be aware that when dread enters into your life and walks side by side with you, joy leaves. Dread sets you up for a miserable day. It leads you into negative thinking and expecting the worst. We need to turn that around. Be excited when you face new tests. Close the door to the mindset of dread. Decide early to enjoy every challenge that faces you each day, knowing that God will be with you to make your path straight and to prosper you in everything you set out to accomplish. If you remember that *God is on your side* and you choose to walk side by side with God and not dread, you will see light on your path rather than doom and gloom darkness. You will be victorious. Positive thinking and right choices will turn your day around.

Some Christians even dread life itself. If you dread life and fear people (it doesn't matter what the circumstances may be.), you are not trusting the Lord to save you and keep you. You'll not walk in positive self-esteem which is God's heart and desire for your life. Instead, in awe and reverence, dread displeasing God, but don't fear anything else. Romans 8:31 – *If God is for you, then who can be against you?* Speak it over and over along with Romans 8:37 – *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* Daily speak God's truths. Don't walk in Satan's lies of dread.

My husband Joe quoted over and over Philippians 4:13. It was his favorite scripture and he believed it with all his heart. He would say, *Katie, it doesn't matter how things look like right now, I am going to see this situation through God's eyes and I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. You'll see!* Another way of saying this scripture is—I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me—I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me, [that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency] (Amplified New Testament). Another “God truth” to stand upon.

Dread is a relative of fear! The devil comes along and tempts us with dread to get us to confess fear instead of faith. But 1 John 4:18 (ANT) says *there is no fear in love* –dread does not exist; but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love—is not yet grown in love's complete perfection. Therefore, we see that God's love, when we exercise it chases fear

right out the door; I for one, love ousting the devil out of the door; out of my life and firmly slamming the door behind him! I want to be the kind of Christian that when my feet hit the floor each morning the devil says *OH NO! RUN! SHE'S UP!* I don't want fear coming back into my house.

Psalm 51:10 says *create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right, steadfast spirit within me.* As this was David's cry unto God, so let it be ours as well. With a clean heart and a right spirit, we can move in self-confidence. A clean heart and a right spirit will reveal a positive self-esteem. A healthy self-esteem comes when you are willing to make changes. We set ourselves up either for misery or for joy by the mindset that we yield to each day. Mindsets are the pattern in which we operate. If we choose positive mindsets then God will guide us and we will see situations turn around and falls into place.

You will never reach your destiny by thinking negative thoughts. Right thinking help you choose right actions. Sowing the right action into your day will form new habits. And as you begin to operate in those new habits, you will change in your character; become more Christlike. As your character changes, you will move into the destiny that God has planned for you.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:5 *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* Remember, our bodies are the temple of God and we are soldiers; our assignments is to protect the house (temple) and refuse entrance to trashy, negative thoughts...tell the enemy that this heart belongs to God and he is not getting in!

Read, memorize and speak often Philippians 4:8- (ANT) *For the rest brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things—fix your minds on them.*

Negative people don't enjoy life! Positive people do! Having a positive attitude is one of the key principles to godly happiness. I have shared with you that we act on what we believe—what we think, so if you want a positive life, begin thinking positive thoughts. This is not always easy to do. It will take work on your part, but as you partner up with God, it is possible to achieve right thinking. Decide to make the changes necessary to walk as a positive person.

Don't let discouragement or depression rob you of God's blessings. God's strength is always made perfect in your weaknesses. Don't apologize for your shortcomings; instead, watch for God's presence to fill your void. Be the best that you can possible be, and enjoy the glory God receives through your testimony. Positive energy breeds positive power.

Be ready. Philippians 4:13 promises that Christ will empower you for anything you must face. This means that He will make you ready for anything and equal to all challenges by infusing you with inner strength. God will never put you in a position to do something without giving you the strength and the ability to do it. Believe what His Word says and God will equip you that you may carry out His will.

Psalm 25:12, 13 says *Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth.* To enjoy your life, start following the God-given desires of your heart instead of the desires of your flesh. You may need to mature in faith before you can tell the difference between your flesh and Spirit-led desires. Work at building up your faith—daily fellowship with the Lord—reading the Word and prayer!

Joyce Meyers teaches that one way to tell if you are following a desire of your flesh is that when you step out to do it, you will lose your peace and face a struggle. If it is not of God, you will feel like you are pushing a dead horse uphill. If it is a God-given desire of the Spirit, it will work like a well-oiled machine. It will flow, with what she calls a *Holy ease*.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. When you have a positive attitude and right fellowship with God, you are able to love the people who treat you right and love the ones who don't just because you can. Believe everything happens for a reason and avoid self-pity like the plague. God never said life would be easy. He just promised it would be worth it. Positive thinking can and will change your life.

I believe that every detail concerning our success as Christians were all worked out from the very beginning, and we need to turn those negative lies into positive truths as we pray and receive God's truth of who we are in Christ. Our lives can truly be balanced in Him. Choose to be transformed into a positive person and remember your destiny is in Him for *God is on your side*.