

VICTORY OVER INTIMIDATION & FEAR

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

*Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit (pneuma, demonic) of fear (intimidation), but of power (dunamis) and of love (agape) and of a sound mind (self-control, discipline).
2 Timothy 1:6-7*

INTIMIDATION

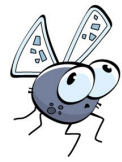
1. Intimidation occurs when you feel a person or a situation you are dealing with is stronger, bigger and more powerful than you. Intimidation always evokes a sense of inferiority. Other characteristics include: to fill with fear, to coerce or inhibit by threats; to browbeat, bulldoze or frighten into submission; a leveling of any spirit of opposition by creating a paralyzing and immobilizing fear or panic.
2. Even great characters in the Bible such as the prophet Elijah struggled with intimidation and fear at times.
 - A. When Israel had been controlled by Queen Jezebel and her 850 prophets, Elijah challenged them "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." (1 Kings 18:20-40)
 - B. Yet, after a glorious explosion of God's power resulting in Israel's deliverance, he is struck by such a demonic fear of Jezebel that he flees and hides! However, it is in this time of deep depression brought about by fear and intimidation that God strengthens him and reveals to him what the future holds.
 - C. The war between the spirit of Elijah and the spirit of Jezebel is an ancient war. This conflict represents the call to repentance and return to God (Elijah) and the spirit of control and witchcraft whose aim is to hinder and defeat the work of repentance (Jezebel). This conflict can even be seen in the struggle for John the Baptist's life in Mark 6:14-29.
 - The judgment against Jezebel in 1 Kings 19:1-10 and carried out in 2 Kings 9:30-37
3. God has NOT given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind!

DAVID'S VICTORY OVER THE GIANT, GOLIATH - 1 Samuel 17:1-54

1. This story reveals the opposing perspectives held by Israel and by David in the battle against the giant, Goliath, a perspective based on God's Word rather than on what we see.
 - A. Goliath lowered Israel from the position of God's Chosen People (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 14:2; 1 Peter 2:9-10) to an army following a man!
 - B. Goliath established the rules for Israel. When Israel listened to



- Goliath's threats the result was paralyzing fear and they hid from him.
- C. Because David was not affected by Goliath's intimidation, he revealed this fear in his brothers' hearts.
 - D. When David was insulted by his brothers, he answers them with truth and turns away. When King Saul belittled him with a reality check, David entreated him as his superior with confidence. As David tells his story, faith is birthed again in Saul's heart and he lays the fate of Israel in David's hands!
 - E. Goliath was the real enemy and David used the Word of God and acted upon a faith based not on his own ability but on God's power. David spoke from a perspective of victory before the battle (confessing and acting upon God's Word) and ran to confront the giant.
 - F. When David slew Goliath, Israel immediately had a different perspective which motivated them to rise up and defeat their enemy.
2. It seems as if we attempt to fight the devil in the same way we "shoo away a fly." Our enemy is not intimidated by us, he fears the Word of God. As Jesus overcame the devil in the wilderness we, too, can have victory over Satan's persistent, intimidating lies!



SATAN'S STRATEGY

1. One of Satan's strategies to defeat us is to produce fear and timidity in us so that we are paralyzed. So great is this tactic that the entire nation of Israel could not go in to possess the Promised Land because of the negative influence of 10 (of the 12) spies. Their reason for disobedience? Paralyzing fear, "...we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:33)
2. **Fear and intimidation will keep us from possessing God's Promises given to us!**
3. How *do* we overcome fear and other great emotional barriers? What are the spiritual weapons we can use that will really bring us victory against all the power of enemy?

HOW JESUS CONQUERED IN THE SPIRIT ~ MATTHEW 4:1-11 (Also Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1-14)

1. Many of God's people fight our common enemy, the devil, in the same way we "shoo away a fly." We tell him to leave but with little or no real lasting results. **Our enemy is not intimidated by us, he fears the Word of God!**
2. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness area between Jericho & Jerusalem. After a 40-day fast, when Jesus was physically at His weakest, Satan came to tempt Him. Jesus' ONLY resource was the Word of God (Scripture). Three times Jesus said, "It is written," a powerful key in victory over the devil!
3. Against Satan's first attack Jesus used Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man shall not live by bread (earthly "food") alone but by every Word (Rhema) that proceeds from the mouth of God." The enemy attempted to cause Jesus to act in His own power rather than wholly depend on His Father.
 - Rhema is a specific word at a specific time for a specific situation. In contrast, Logos means the entire written Word of God, including the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.
4. Satan's second attack was to cause Jesus to test the validity of God's Word. This He countered with Deuteronomy 6:16, "You shall not tempt (test) the LORD, your God."

5. In response to Satan's third and final attack to submit and worship him, Jesus used Deuteronomy 6:13, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve."
6. **Jesus never quoted Scripture as a "spiritual formula" but as a principle upon which He basis His actions. In each attack, Scripture was used in the correct context.**

USING GOD'S WORD & WALKING IN VICTORY

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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,...*

1. When lies come from our enemy we are to tear them down as we read in 2 Corinthians 10:4-6. This "casting down" is, in reality, lowering, demolishing and placing God's Word over the lies of the enemy as well as our own thoughts, fears, etc.
2. The devil's plan to intimidate and bring fear will continue *until we decide to fight!* We must convince him! Here are a few examples of superimposing God's Word over Satan's lies:
 - Spiritual birth ~ When our adversary tells us we haven't been born again...
I can quote John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:...*
 - Fear ~ When the enemy strikes us with fear and intimidation...
I can quote 2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit (pneuma, demonic) of fear (intimidation, 1 John 4:17), but of power (dunamis) and of love (agape) and of a sound mind (self-control, discipline).*
 - Provision ~ When we experience a job loss and Satan tells us that God will not provide...
I can say that my Heavenly Father knows that I need all these things. So I will seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to me. Therefore I do not worry about tomorrow,... (Matthew 6:31-34)
 - Forgiveness ~ When Satan tempts us to sin and then tells us that God cannot forgive us...
I can quote 1 John 1:9 *If (I) confess (admit my own) sins, He is faithful and just to forgive (me of my) sins and to cleanse (me) from ALL unrighteousness.*
 - Relationships ~ When our adversary stirs up strife and we experience unjust treatment...
I can boldly say that I will not be overcome by evil, but will overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). I will bless those who mistreat me because I am a child of my Heavenly Father (Matthew 5:44-45).
 - Faith ~ When Satan accuses us of not having enough faith...
I can quote 2 Timothy 2:13 *...if we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown himself.*

CHALLENGE

Identify the areas/lies Satan most commonly uses against you and find Scriptures that SPECIFICALLY address that. Write those Scriptures down and use them EACH TIME an attack comes. You WILL begin to overpower the adversary! We are more than conquerors through Him (Romans 8:31-39)!