

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Deuteronomy 31:6*

*By Jennifer Brown*

Most mornings find me trying to navigate an obstacle course in the dark. It happens when I have to get out of bed without stepping on my nine-year-old son sprawled out on the floor next to my bed.

Fear is what drives him there in the middle of the night. He has an active mind and imagines all sorts of things that might happen. And no matter how much his dad and I reassure him of his safety, when the darkness of night hits, his fear overcomes our reassurances and he abandons his warm, soft bed for our cold, hard floor.

Because we know things our son doesn't know, this makes no sense to my husband and I. We know we are taking care of everything and that he is safe. We are there and he has nothing to fear. We are not going to abandon him and we will always take care of him.

Sometimes to him it might seem like we aren't taking care of him. Sometimes we let him make poor decisions and suffer the consequences so he will learn and grow. Other times, in our wisdom, we take things away from him. We do not give him everything he wants, but we certainly provide everything he needs. We do not enjoy taking things away or watching him suffer, but when we see how he is growing and learning, our hearts soar. When we see him display gratitude to us, we have the satisfaction of a job well done. And when we see him experience genuine joy, we delight.

Do you see where this is headed?

Think for a moment... What do you fear?

Don't just read on; take a moment to think about this. What do you fear?

God knows all about it. And, because He knows things we don't know, our fear makes no sense to God. He has told us and shown us time and again that He is taking care of everything. He has told us He is our refuge; we are safe. He has told us that He is with us even when we walk through the darkest of valleys; we have nothing to fear. He has told us He is our ever-present help in times of trouble; He is not going to abandon us. He has told us that He will comfort us as a mother comforts her children; He will always take care of us.

Sometimes it might seem like He isn't taking care of us. Sometimes He lets us make poor decisions and suffer the consequences so we will learn and grow. Other times, in His wisdom, He takes things away from us. He does not give him everything we want, but He certainly provides everything we need. He does not enjoy taking things away or watching us suffer, but when He sees how we grow and learn, His heart soars. When He sees us display gratitude, He has satisfaction. And when He sees us experience genuine joy, He delights.

Where does fear drive you? What things do you imagine that might happen? Where do you let your fear overcome God's reassurances?

It makes no more sense for us to fear than it does for my son to sleep on my bedroom floor. Yet all too often we, like my son, choose the cold, hard floor of fear over the soft, warm bed of trusting God.

Today, choose to abandon your fears. Be strong and courageous and trust in the Lord. Turn your fears into prayers and your worries into trust.