

Faith Is Action

June 2017 • USPS 184720 • Volume 56 • Number 6

In This Issue:

**PSALM 34:
FACING & ERASING FEAR**



FACING & ERASING FEAR

SHARON HARDY KNOTTS

I was having a very tough week. Such heaviness was on me that Wednesday and Thursday, I thought to myself: *There's no way I can preach Sunday morning—I can't even think straight, much less get a message together!* I was so burdened that Thursday, by 2:30 that afternoon I could take it no more. I sat in my living room and cried out to God, *"I need your help!"* About 3 o'clock, I laid down on my bed to watch the 700 Club, which is my afternoon routine. A few minutes into the show, the phone rang; it was Jamie Lash, the hostess of the *Jewish Jewels* TV program. She said, *"Sharon, you have been so heavy on my heart, I thought I would call you."* I thanked her for obeying the Spirit of God at a time when I really needed encouragement. Jamie is quite busy as you can imagine, and we don't talk all the time. I

don't want to lead you to think that we talk all the time, because we don't. It seems to be at strategic points that God puts us in touch. Her call ministered to me and I felt the heaviness leave.

The License Plate

The next day, Friday, I knew I had to get my thoughts together for Sunday's service. My mind was so distracted, and I didn't have time to craft a new message. I went to my box of voluminous notes, and it was as if I was saying, *"Eeny, meeny, miney moe.... Okay, Psalm 27— this is a good one.—Hmmm—Psalm 34, this is a good one too!"* I went back and forth.

Finally, I pulled them both out of the box. I worked on one for a while; then switched to the other. There were points in both that spoke to me.

When we went to church that night, I still had not decided which to preach. On the way home, we were stopped at a red light, and I had been looking around at the sights a few minutes before I actually stopped to look at the car in front of us, a white sedan. When my eyes rested on its license plate, I did a double take! It said PSLM34.

“Benny, do you see that license plate?” I exclaimed excitedly to my husband. I could tell he didn’t get it. *“It says Psalm 34!”* Then I explained my earlier dilemma about whether to preach on Psalm 27 or Psalm 34. Incredibly—out of two and a half million registered license plates in the state of Maryland, *only one can say Psalm 34*—and we had stopped behind *that one* on the same day I had deliberated whether to preach it!

When I stepped in the pulpit on Sunday, with Psalm 34 notes in hand, the power of God was so palpable, I felt like I was going to implode as we sang: *“You are God alone! From before time began, You are on your throne! You are God alone! Unshakable! Unchangeable! Unstoppable! That’s who You are!”* At the top of my lungs the praises rolled out of my spirit: *“I trust in You! I will not be afraid! I will not be dismayed!”* It was intense. It was a Holy Ghost Implosion!

I had not slept well the night before, so I was actually weak in my body. But when I stepped into that power vortex, I was infused with strength. I was trembling, but not

with weakness—but with the supernatural anointing of God’s manifest Presence! Only God knows how much I needed it. Only He knew the stress that was in my body, mind, emotions, and spirit. Many were touched by His anointing in that service, *but if anyone desperately needed it, it was me!*

(I was treated for breast cancer last year. Go to our website to learn more of my testimony: www.sound-offaith.org)

Backstory of Psalm 34

“And David arose and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

“Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?”

“David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam...” (1Sam. 21:10-15, 22:1).

What was happening here? Why was David pretending to be insane? We know the history of Saul and David: David was hunted down like an animal by Saul, who was demonically paranoid with jealousy of David. In his rage, he vowed to kill him, which he tried no less than 21 times to do. David was forced to flee to the wilderness, on the run from one place to another, with about 600 men who had joined him. David had gone to the priest at Nob who gave him bread and the sword with which he had slain Goliath that had been kept there. It happened that one of Saul's servants was there, who went to Saul and told him where David was. Once again, David was on the run, and in his desperation, he fled to *Gath—Goliath's hometown!* He sought refuge from Achish, *King of the Philistines—Israel's archenemy!*

David overheard the advisors to King Achish saying, "*Are you going to let this David come here? Are you going to trust him? We all know who he is—the giant slayer! He killed our champion! You can't befriend him!*" When David overheard this, fear jumped on him. Now he was not only afraid of Saul trying to kill him—but of Achish's men killing him!

I tell you, fear can drive a person to do irrational things. Fear can drive you to do foolish things. In his fear, David thought, *I will pretend to be insane.* He began slobbering and foaming at the mouth, letting his spit run down into his beard. He went to the doors, scratching and banging

on them, acting like he was out of his mind. *You talk about going low! You talk about sinking into utter despair! You talk about fear doing a number on you!* This was David, Israel's mighty champion, the giant-slayer, the lion-and-bear-slayer! Fear was on him so great that he thought if he pretended to be a madman, they might have pity on him. This just breaks my heart, but I understand it, because I know what fear can do to a person.

David's ploy worked. Achish said, "*Get this guy out of here! Obviously, he's crazy! Why did you bring him before me?*" They saw him as harmless and let him go. Then David ran and hid in the cave of Adullam. A cave can be a metaphor for a very dark place of despair where you don't see a way out of your troubles. And it was in that cave experience, literally and metaphorically, that David wrote two Psalms: 34 and 56. As we go through the verses of *Psalm 34*, keep in mind how low David had sunk in despair, and how great his fears had become. Keep in mind also, that while we do not face physical enemies on a physical battlefield, against human armies, we do face enemies on a spiritual battlefield, who hate us just as much as his enemies hated David. We also have a battlefield in *our hearts and minds* we have to overcome, *where the enemy is fear.*

Praise in the Cave

"I will bless the LORD at all

times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together” (vv.1-3).

We are familiar with these verses, because we hear them quoted a lot, but they will mean more to us if we consider the experience in which David wrote them. He said, *“I’m going to bless the Lord at all times— I’m going to bless him in this cave— I’m going to bless him in this place of great distress! I am besieged by fear, and the only thing that I know to do to keep fear from totally destroying me, is to keep praising God.”*

This is the message of Philippians 4:6-7: *“Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Paul said that when you are anxious—fretful and fearful; in the midst of your situation, take it to God in prayer and supplication. In Greek, *supplication* is a strong prayer that is specific. Then, don’t forget *to put a stamp of thanksgiving on your envelope of prayer!*

You are not thanking God because you love what you’re going through, because you are in the cave of Adullam, because Saul is trying to kill you here, and the Philistines are trying to kill you there. No—you are thanking Him for the victory about to

come. When you do, a supernatural, Heaven-sent peace will come upon you. It is not man-manufactured; you can’t conjure it up on your own, but it comes directly from God. He gives you the peace that passes human understanding, that bypasses your brain, your intellect, your rationality, your *what-if’s* and *supposes* that only gender more fear and anxiety.

In the midst of all that, the peace of God shall keep—*guard* your heart. *Guard* is a military term and refers to a sentinel—specifically, a soldier who stands at an entry point, at the gate, and controls who can enter. If you go nearby here to Fort Meade, you cannot just drive your car onto the base. You have to stop at the gates where there are soldiers with weapons. If they tell you to halt, and you don’t, and go through the barricade, they will shoot. They’re not going to let you go further onto the base. It is the same way with our hearts. The peace of God is the sentinel at the door of your heart and mind, and when fears come, Peace says, “You may not enter.”

My Story

In May 2016, reminders for my annual mammogram started coming in the mail, but I was so busy, I kept putting off making a phone call for an appointment. After two months and a letter stating it was my last reminder, I finally called for an appointment in July. A few days after my mammogram, I received a letter saying I needed to come in for a sonogram. I

had never had a breast sonogram before, but I didn't think much of it. I reasoned it was because the 3-D looked different than the digital ones I had before.

That day, July 29, when the technician was done with the imaging, I was left alone in the dark room. After a while, I realized something was amiss. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, she returned with the doctor, who said: *"There is something suspicious on your sonogram."* Then she stressed: *"It is very small, about the size of half a fingertip,"* as she put out her finger to demonstrate. *"We need to do a biopsy."* She asked me if I had any questions. I told her that I wasn't expecting this, and I couldn't think of anything else to say at the time. In spite of the frightening news, I was not alarmed in my spirit. I felt a modicum of concern, but I was not fearful. As I dressed to leave, a deep sense of peace emanated from my soul, and I made the decision then to maintain that peace no matter what was coming.

My husband Benny was in the waiting room, and I told him the news. His face showed his surprise. It was the week before our annual Campmeeting. They wanted to schedule the biopsy for that week, but I told Benny that I would not do it until after Campmeeting. I was scheduled to minister three times, and I knew I could not do both.

At home, I checked my online messages, and on Facebook there was a message from a lady who had

never contacted me before. I don't know everyone who is a friend on my page, and I didn't know her. But her cheerful animated message included these verses: *"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it... May the Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you, and **give you peace.**"* Again, I took hold of that peace. I could not have manufactured this peace on my own. It was God's gift to me at a startling, scary moment, and I claimed it.

Boast in God's Bigness

David said, *"My soul shall make her boast in the Lord."* Boasting on God inspires your faith. In my opinion, *I think it also inspires God.*

When someone boasts on us, we really want to live up to it then, don't we? When someone says, "So-and-so does such a great job with this," then you really want to do a good job. The smart thing for us to do with our children, when they are deserving, is to brag on them. Tell your child that he is the best at whatever it may be, and that kid will stand on his head to try harder. When we boast on God, we inspire Him too.

"O magnify the Lord with me..." To magnify the Lord is to *make God big*. And by comparison, our troubles are little. If you take God out of the equation, maybe what you are facing is huge; even a life-and-death situation. You don't even know what your future will be. But when you magnify God, then by comparison, your trou-

ble becomes small and finite, *because God is infinite*. When we *magnify* God, we *minimize* our troubles.

Claim the Name!

David knew Saul had spies looking for him, and eventually somebody was going to find him, or Achish would find out he was just pretending to be insane. But he said, *“I’m going to magnify the Lord and exalt his name.”* This was a huge part of my breakthrough—to give God His due by exalting His name, and I mean specifically. Almost every morning, when I worship the Lord and sing, I go through the *Jehovah names* like in the song *Because of Who You Are, I Give You Glory*. The chorus says: *Jehovah-Jireh, my provider. Jehovah-Nissi, my victory. Jehovah-Shalom, my Prince of Peace*. I have added a few verses: *Jehovah-Rapha, my healer. Jehovah-Rohi, my shepherd. Jehovah-Shammah, You are with me. Jehovah-Tsidkenu, my righteousness*. I exalt His name! I claim not only the name, but the power and authority of who He is in His name, and He will always honor His name!

Face Fear First

“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles” (vv.4-6).

This is powerful! When he sought the Lord, David did not have on his nice church clothes and dancing shoes, going to Tabernacle—He was holed up in the cave of Adullam with fears playing with his mind and emotions. *Sought*, the past tense of *seek*, is not casual; it is focused with intent, and to seek after God, you don’t have to be in church. Most of the time, when we really seek God, we are at home in our bedrooms or wherever our prayer space is. Jesus said, *“When you pray in secret, God will reward you openly”* (Mt.6:6). Sometimes we seek the Lord in tears at home and when we get to church, He pours out His Spirit and strengthens us. Isaiah 55:6: *“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is yet near.”* God said, *“Call unto me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things you know not”* (Jer.33:3).

David said, *“He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”* Notice *fears* is plural: Fear drove him into the wilderness; fear made him pretend to be insane; then fear drove him to a cave to hide. Yet, in that state of mind, he did not give up. He cried out to God, *because fear is the first enemy that must be faced and erased*. If God just delivers you out of your trouble, the spirit of fear can return and try to talk you out of it. Have you ever had the Lord touch you, but then the devil tried to talk you out of it, before you even got out of the church!

The first enemy to be faced is

fear, because fear will neutralize faith. “God has given to every one of us the measure of faith” (Rom.12:3), and He doesn’t give out junk faith. He only gives “good and perfect gifts,” and the faith He gave us is good faith, but it can be rendered inefficient, inoperative, if we allow fear to neutralize it. It is like fear paralyzes it, and the devil will even lie to us and say that we have lost our faith. You don’t lose your faith, but you must get rid of the fear, because faith must be unmixed to work.

Fear did not come from God. Fear was the first negative emotion man felt in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve sinned, fear made them run and hide, and when God came walking in the Garden and called, “Where are you?”—Adam said, “I was afraid, and I hid myself” (Gen.3:8-10). Fear came from Satan: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2Tim.1:7). If it didn’t come from God, it had to come from Satan, and he may try to put a double whammy on you by telling you that you’re losing your mind. Your emotions are already in turmoil from fear, and when he says that you’re losing your mind, you are like a wave tossed on the sea. When this attack comes, you need to declare that verse in the power and love of your sound mind.

Love + Faith – Fear

John said: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;

for fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love” (1Jn.4:18). The one who is full of fear does not have a mature love walk. If your love walk is not where it should be, your faith won’t work. Galatians 5:6 says, “But faith works by love.” Satan will have little success against us with fear when we are soundly rooted in the knowledge that *God loves us*. If God loves me, He is for me, and if He is for me, He is more than all that can come against me (Ref. Rom.8:31-39). It may be that you have to work on your spiritual love life, in order for your faith to stand up against the spirit of fear. As long as we have fear, we can’t have peace, because “fear has torment.” You can be physically fine, but so tormented in your soul, heart, mind, and thoughts, that you almost can’t function or make decisions. This torment comes from a spirit of fear, causing you to be *double minded*, and the devil has a field day with your thoughts: *What if—what if...* I have learned not to walk through that door! I shut the door! I am not going in the room that has “*What ifs?*” on the door! They are suppositional, conjectural, hypothetical, and speculative, and the devil is not in charge of my life. *My life and times are in God’s hands.*

Job said, “*I was afraid, and the thing I greatly feared has come upon me*” (Job 3:25). If he greatly feared, this tells me he had a problem with chronic fear. Now we should not be too hard on Job, because unlike us,

he didn't have the 66 books of the Bible, because Job was the first book written in the Bible. He didn't have all the faith preachers on radio and television, and all the CDs, books, and plethora of teachings we can avail ourselves to. He didn't have the healing covenant we have, but the fact is, what he greatly feared came upon him.

Psalm 56

Let's go to Psalm 56 which David also wrote from that cave: *"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me"* (vv.3-4). David admitted he was battling with fear. He said, *"When I am afraid,"* because fear is a human emotion we all will face. Sometimes fear is for our benefit; to keep us from doing something that may harm us. It's good to be afraid of rattlesnakes; it's good to be afraid of jumping off a pier if you can't swim. There are some fears we teach our little ones. We are trying to tell our grandson Brayden, who is a year old, not to touch the pellet stove in our living room. Right now in warm weather, we are not using it, so it's just cold ceramic. When he goes to touch it, we say, *"No! It's hot,"* because it will be a few weeks. Some fears are for our protection, but when they become out of balance, they become *phobias* that the enemy seeks to use. But David said, *"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."*

Ever been there? You try to avoid saying the words, *I am afraid*, because you don't want to give life to them by speaking them, but you know you are afraid. That is when to say, *"Nevertheless, I trust in You."*

In Psalm 34, he exalted and magnified the *name of God*, but here he said, *"I will praise his word."* The best antidote for fear is *His Word!* Somewhere in the midst of his soul-searching and seeking God, David got a word from Heaven. He proclaimed: *"I put my trust in God, and I will not fear what flesh can do to me—I'm not going to be afraid of man."* We know he meant it in a literal sense, regarding Saul and his armies, and the Philistine armies, but we can take it for our enemies too. They might not be enemies on a military battlefield, but enemies on the job, in the neighborhood, in the family, or those who actually intend to do us physical harm. Such people might come up against us in life, but even so, we all face the powers of darkness. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual wickedness in the heavens"* (Eph.6:12).

Delivered From Trouble

Once he had faced and erased his fears, David testified, *"This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and delivered him out of all of his troubles."* By *poor man*, he was not talking about his bank account or

how much money was in his wallet; it had to do with the predicament he was in. He was in a place of helplessness. He saw himself as poor, in that he had no resources of his own by which to bring about a victory over his enemies. He had 600 men hanging out with him who were loyal to him. They weren't some wimpy guys; they were rough and tough, but they could not hold back the armies of Saul or the Philistines without divine intervention and supernatural help. David said, *"I am poor—I am at the end of myself."* If you have ever been at the end of your resources, you know you need God's help. Sometimes God allows us to get there, because until we do, we may think we can figure it out on our own. We think, *I'll do it this way*, and when it doesn't work out, we go to Plan B. If that doesn't work, we try Plan C. But once we come to the place where we have done all we can do, like David, we cry to the Lord.

This was not a cry of fear—God had delivered him from his fear—it was a cry of desperation: *"Lord, my eyes are on you; I'm looking unto the hills from whence comes my help. My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not suffer my foot to be moved. He will watch over me; He doesn't slumber; He doesn't sleep. He will protect my going out and my coming in; my sitting down and my rising up"* (See Ps.121, 139). God heard him, and this time He delivered him *out of all of his troubles.*" Troubles! Job said,

"Man that is born of a woman is of a few days and many troubles" (5:7, 14:1). This means *everybody!*

David said in Psalm 34:19, *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous..."* We could say that many are the *troubles* of the righteous—many are the *tribulations* of the righteous—*"but the Lord delivers them out of them all."* He didn't say that we wouldn't have troubles; in fact, we will have *many troubles*, but when we cry out to Him, our God will deliver us *out of them all.*

In case someone thinks this is a teaching relative only to the Old Testament, Jesus said in John 16:33: *"In this world, you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* He said, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace.... Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* (Jn.14:27). Yes, we will have troubles and tribulations, but there's no affliction, tribulation, or trouble that God cannot bring us out of it.

In verse 7, David revealed one way God delivers us: *"The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear him, and delivers them."* To be encamped round about literally means to be encircled—360°. From north to south, to east to west—God's got us covered 360°. And He's got us covered 24/7—no matter what time of day or night it is. Who is he

speaking of? *Those who fear the Lord.* But this is a different kind of fear. We have been talking about bad fear, the *phobia* Satan brings on us, but this fear is different. In today's language, we would say *reverence, respect for God and His awesomeness.* Those who understand who God is, are in fear of Him, because He so awesome, holy, and majestic. If He just sent an angel to appear to us, we would probably turn into Jell-O. In the Bible, the first thing an angel always says is: *"Fear not!"* The human body does not know how to respond to the supernatural power of God, so we become afraid. Imagine how it would react if we saw God! We could never do that, unless God put some layers between us, like He did with Moses.

When Moses asked God to see His glory, God's response basically was: *"Moses, if I let you see Me in My glory, you would turn to ashes, and I'm not done with you yet; I still have a few things to check off my bucket list for you, so I tell you what I am going to do: I will stick you in this cleft of the rock, and when I walk by, I'll put my hand over you, and let you see me from the back"* (Ex.33:17-23). We have reverential fear of God, because of *who He is.*

Angels on Demand

God's angels are not wimpy! Psalms 103:20 says *"His angels excel in strength."* This means their strength is greater than Satan's angels. They are stronger, and *"they*

hearken to the voice of his commands." When God commands, they immediately obey. Sometimes they rescue us in the nick of time; perhaps at an intersection, when in another split-second, we would have had a head-on collision, but the angel of the Lord intervened at the exact time. Many times that we are not even aware of, we have been rescued from danger, because God commanded His angels.

David said in Psalm 104:4, *"He makes his ministers—His angels a flaming fire."* I once read a story about missionaries to Mexico who had been pulled over by some bad guys who were ready to kill them. But they quickly changed their minds and took off. Later the story came out that they saw giant men with flaming swords (They didn't know they were angels).

Psalm 91:11 says, *"God gives His angels charge over us."* To charge somebody is to give him an assignment. God assigns angels to each of us, sending them forth on our behalf for protection and rescue. Doesn't it make you feel good to know God has *angels on assignment?* He gives them charge over us, *"to keep us in all of our ways. They shall bear us up in their own hands, lest we should dash our foot against the stone"* (vv.11-12). Hebrews 1:14 confirms: *"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"*

Angel Power Magnified

Let's look at one of God's ordinary angels: We are not given his name. He's not Gabriel or Michael, but this one angel was so powerful, he slew an army of 185,000 men at one time. During the reign of King Hezekiah, one of Judah's good kings, King Sennacherib of Assyria, Israel's arch enemy, planned to invade Israel. He was a monstrous egotist and full of himself. He went marching through countries, stripping the land and destroying people. Then he would take their "gods"—their statues of wood and stone, throw them into the fire, and mock them, saying, *"Your god didn't save you, did he? He couldn't save you out of my hand! Do you know who I am? I am Sennacherib, King of Assyria, and no god can deliver out of my hand!"* And up to that point, it was true.

This Sennacherib wrote a letter to Hezekiah, spelling out in detail what he planned to do in Jerusalem when he and his army arrived. He boasted what he had done in every other nation he invaded, and threatened to do the same to them. He taunted: *"Don't be deceived into thinking that your God, Jehovah, can deliver you. No god can deliver out of my hand."* If an evil person is full of pride, his boasting gets bigger and "badder," and his words become more and more dangerous. Just let them go, and they will hang themselves. He wrote: *"Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena*

and Ivah? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? Who among all the gods of these countries have delivered their countries out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" (2Kgs.18:33-35).

He had this all written down, but he actually spoke it to the servants of Hezekiah, and they answered him not a word. Then he gave them the letter to deliver to Hezekiah, which they did, and read it to him. When Hezekiah heard those words, he rent off his robes, put sackcloth and ashes on his head, and went into the house of the Lord to pray. He did not say, *"O woe is me! We are done for! We are in big trouble—What are we going to do now?"*

Please understand: The sackcloth and ashes was not a sign of defeat! It was to show *humility before God*. He was saying, *"Lord, I'm humbling myself before you, because I cannot save my people. Israel's armies cannot deliver the people out of the hand of Sennacherib."*

He did not fall apart or have a melt-down, even though the situation was grave. He could not deny the threats and taunts Sennacherib had made—they were true. He sent his servants to Isaiah, the prophet of God, to tell him what Sennacherib had said, and in his answer to Hezekiah, the first thing Isaiah said was: *"Thus saith the Lord, Be not afraid of the words which you have heard!"* The first thing we must do when we

are facing a formidable foe or bad report, is to use our faith to erase fear.

Isaiah said, *“Don’t be afraid of these words with which the king of Assyria has blasphemed me.”* Notice, he was speaking in the first person—he was speaking as God. The Assyrian king had blasphemed God, and He did not take it kindly: *“Behold, I will send a blast upon him...”* I love this! God said: *“I will blast him!”* We need God to come today and blast some devils! We need Him to blast some demons! To blast some sicknesses and diseases! We need God to blast against His enemies who are persecuting His children!

God just cut to the chase. It was like He couldn’t even think of a word, except *blast him*. God was so incensed, He didn’t speak soft instructions: *“Don’t be afraid... I will raise up the Army, and they will all get in their formations, and will march around seven times, blowing trumpets...”* No! He was having none of that! There was a time for marching seven days; there was a time for blowing shofars, but this was the time to blast the devil! God said to Hezekiah, *“I’ve got this! Trust me!.... He shall hear a rumor, and shall return to his own land, and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land”* (19:7).

You’ve Got Mail!

Sennacherib was in the middle of destroying another country when he sent word to Hezekiah that when he

was done there, he was coming for Jerusalem. You need to understand—the enemy is relentless. This was the second time Sennacherib was sending messengers to repeat his taunts and threats, and this time he added six more nations he had conquered to the list! He boasted: *“Their gods didn’t help them, and your God is not going to help you.”* I love what Hezekiah did next! He had already received a word of the Lord from Isaiah, so there was no need to go back to him. Instead, Hezekiah took that letter and went back into the house of the Lord, laid it down on the altar, and said, *“Lord, You’ve got mail! This letter is not for me! God, this letter is for You!”* (Sometimes we need to go on HOL, *Heaven on Line*, and say, *“God, You’ve got mail!”*)

Hezekiah prayed: *“Do you hear what this wicked king has said? This reproach isn’t on me. He has reproached You, the living God. Do you see how he boasts that he destroyed all those nations and casts their gods into the fire?”*—I like what he remarked here—*“It is true, because they were not gods anyway, but dumb idols of wood and stone made by man’s hands. Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you only are God”* (vv.14-19).

That very night God sent *one angel* through the Assyrian camp, and he smote 185,000 men. The next morning, the land was filled with dead corpses, but Sennacherib had

escaped. What happened when he got back home? *Two of his own sons slew him with a sword, just like God had said.*

Hezekiah the Psalmist

David was not the only person who wrote the Psalms. He wrote the majority, but he was not the only psalmist. Moses and Asaph wrote some, and also Hezekiah. We will finish our message on facing fear with two verses from Psalm 112. There is no author given for this psalm. While we can't be sure who wrote it, *I want to suppose that Hezekiah may have written it*, especially verses 7 & 8: *“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.”*

Even if Hezekiah didn't write it, it still is a good commentary of his actions in the face of great fears. He showed us what to do when evil tidings come and fear hits us in the face like a strong wind. Go to the house of God, and say, *“Lord, You've got mail! How are You going to answer this? What should I do, because my eyes are on You!”* Then don't let go of the unsurpassable peace of God in your heart, regardless of the negative sights and sounds around you.