

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS

PRECEPT

ISAIAH 12:2

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

PSALM 34:4

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

PROMISE

If you have been praying for something for a really long time, be comforted with the fact that the Lord answers our prayers. His answer gives us peace, courage, and security. A lot of times, we want to hear God's answer right away which leads us to lose our trust in God. The longer it takes, the harder it is for us to trust Him. Fear comes in and disrupts our hearts and minds from believing in Him. What are those fears? Debts, bills, relationships, the future, etc. Truth be told, we can't say that we trust Him but fear is still evident in our lives. We have to believe that nothing is impossible with God and that He is a way maker. He is the owner of all things and everything comes from Him. He will surely provide for all our needs according to His riches and glory. So why are we afraid?

FEAR HINDERS OUR PERSONAL GROWTH. We can learn this from the life of the twelve spies that Moses sent to Canaan, the promise land. In Numbers 13, Moses sent these spies that are leaders of each tribe of Israel. The goal of the spies is to do surveillance to see what the land is like; whether they have weak or strong enemies, if the towns are unwallled or fortified, is the soil fertile or poor, etc. Lastly, they were asked to bring home a fruit of the land as evidence of how flourishing the promised land is. After forty days, the twelve spies had accomplished their mission and they reported to Moses & the elders of Israel. They gave the account to Moses that confirms it is flowing with milk and honey (Numbers 13:37). Despite the proof, ten out of twelve spies focused on the negative things they've seen in the land. They uttered these words in Numbers 14:2-3, *"If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"* They refused to believe God despite the confirmation because of their fears.

FEAR DISPLEASES GOD. The Bible says that we cannot please God without faith. The Lord showed that the promise land is real and that it's flowing with milk and honey. Yet again, fear won in their hearts and chose to grumble against Him. Let us not make the same mistake of complaining against Him despite all the goodness and faithfulness in the past that He has shown us. Let go of the fear and surrender the things that displeases Him.

FEAR COMES WITH A CONSEQUENCE. Numbers 14:32-35 says, *"³² But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. ³³ Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you. ³⁵ I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die."* They wandered for 40 years and suffered all because they disobeyed God.

FEAR IS THE ABSENCE OF OUR TRUST IN GOD. Isaiah 12:2 says, *"I will trust and not be afraid."* If we let our fears overcome our faith in God, it will destroy us. He promises that when we seek Him, He will deliver us from all our fears (Psalm 34:4).

PRACTICE

1. Current Fears. What do you fear and how does it affect the way you live? Does it lead to anger, worry, anxiety, or attempts to control others?

2. Courage in the Midst of Fear. Is there something God has commanded from his Word that you are fearful to do? Why are you fearful? What truth about God gives you courage in the midst of fear?

PRAYER

I. Family

- Thank God for all of our family members and for His love that binds us together.

II. Growth

- May we seek growth in all aspects of our lives. Ultimately, seek God earnestly.

III. Provision

- Let's come to God humbly, asking for His help & trusting in His abundant provision.

IV. Unity

- Pray that we will support one another as we work together for God's Kingdom.

V. World

- Let's lift up the world to Christ, asking for His peace, healing, unity, and guidance.

VI. Lost

- Pray that we will lead the lost to God's light, salvation, and transforming power.

VII. Mental Health

- Let's ask for God's healing touch to those who are in need of it.