

Daily Devotional, July 1, 2020 Giving It to God

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Standing thirty feet above me, the young girl, Becky, was seized with fear. The Ropes Course at Confirmation camp was one of the highlights of the week for many campers, and this particular camper came ready as all the others, to conquer the course. However, fear crept in at thirty feet and immobilized her. It didn't matter that she was securely fastened to a harness, or that she was wearing a helmet, or that many others had successfully gone before her. All she knew is that she was balancing twenty feet above the ground on a heavy cable that was no heavier than a thin kite string in her eyes. Her legs locked up, her muscles began to shake, and she kept repeating the words, “I can't do this, I can't do this.”

Fear has incredible power over us. It can overtake us and stop us dead in our tracks, both in the body and in the mind. When fear overtakes us our blood vessels constrict, our heart rate increases, our eyes dilate, breathing becomes shallow and our senses become enhanced. But, when we give fear permission to overtake us, it often causes us to stop short of allowing something truly amazing to expand our life experience.

Looking back up at the young camper standing on the platform, she had made it to the final challenge: the zip line. On the platform, fear began creeping back in. The only way down now was to jump; but everything in her body screamed the opposite. With words of encouragement from the rope course's leaders, fellow campers, and adult sponsors, she finally closed her eyes and jumped! It was an exhilarating moment. She flew down the zip line screaming, tense, exhausted, challenged, yet, victorious! Her fellow campers excitedly jumping up and down embraced her at the bottom.

Scripture is full of examples of individuals and groups of people who had to face tremendous obstacles. In the Bible passage that we opened with, Joshua was leading the people of God across the Jordan River. Moses, his mentor, was gone, not allowed by God to enter into the promised land, and now Joshua would take over the leadership of the Israelites. His fear was justified. Remember that when the Israelites first approached the land of Canaan forty years previous, only Joshua and Caleb were convinced that God would lead them to overthrow and occupy this land that was flowing with milk and honey.

It was the fear of the other ten spies that turned the rest of the Israelites away in fear and led them to wander an additional forty years, waiting for an entire generation to die off before they would have the nerve to try again. Fear sent them packing, not trusting these two courageous men, nor trusting in the word and the promise of their God.

What fear do you need to conquer today? What challenge leaves you standing on the platform, not trusting that God is there to grab you on the way down? You may find that something amazing is waiting on the other side if you would only let go.

How many times have you heard the expression—Let Go and Let God? Letting go is a daily, moment-by-moment choice. Like every discipline in life, we must learn to surrender and [give it to God](#). The enemy seeks every new day to cloud our mind with worries, doubts, and fears, wanting there to be *no room left* for God in our lives. Surrendering to God becomes a lifestyle of daily [giving it all to Him](#). However, control is the hardest thing to give up because without it we feel vulnerable.

But we do not need to worry. God is already in control. We need to recognize God's authority and move over to let God lead. God is the Creator of the Universe so we can trust Him with each day. [Letting go is scary at first](#), but the freedom we receive in our mind and hearts will be worth it.

How are you *giving it to God* in your daily life? Are you fully surrendering to Him each day? Each day is a gift, and we miss the gift when we allow our minds to dwell on all the unknowns. Trust God with your future so you can focus on today. Trying to control the future is like trying to control the wind. Contentment in today will prevent our eyes from wandering off to tomorrow. Trust God. Do not be afraid!

Prayer: Lord, there is so much ahead of me that I can't foresee, so much I wish I could control but can't. My fear keeps me from stepping out and handing my life over to you in faith. I hold all the unknowns, questions, desires, and longings out to You. I want to trust You, but I acknowledge that I need help with that sometimes. Help me to trust You with whatever lies ahead, and thank You that I can be anchored in faith when I am bound to You. In Your name, Jesus, I pray, Amen.