

Much Afraid

Today we are going to lay the ground work a little for our upcoming study of Hinds Feet On High Places because not everyone is familiar with this book and we want to move forward with all of us on the same page.

As we begin this book, you will quickly see and identify with the main character... Much Afraid is her name... And it really wasn't until recently I realized I too was much afraid and actually, I have been so much afraid about certain things I was in total denial, not wanting to even look into that part of me – because I was too afraid to do so. Who is so afraid to admit they are afraid? Well, me for one and we really cannot be delivered from anything we are not willing to admit – so I am ready, if you are.

After I finally admitted to myself and confessed the fear I've been clinging to – to the Lord, He started showing me how all of His creation has an element of fear within them. I know many would never admit this and that's okay... I buried too for a very, very long time. But actions speak louder than words and now He opened my eyes to how fear drives us all... I can see it in us all.

Some are fearful to die or how they will die, others are fearful to be caught in sin to the point they cleave to the Law, many are fearful to be caught off guard so they watch continually for signs, some are fearful to be unprepared in some natural way so they hoard things, lots of people are fearful of homelessness, losing access to vices they use to stay balanced, a loss of finances or even having one more loss of a loved one, a pet or even internet access or losing control of situations, people or things they have in their daily lives.

Regardless of the precipitator... the end result is, we are all existing here – much afraid. First off, there is only one thing that casts away fear – God's love... nothing else, even though we dominate through control to the best of our ability to cling to that which overrides fear by preparation – it is only His love that piece by piece, brick by brick removes fear from our lives. I wish I could tell you today, I have been set free totally from fear, but that would be a lie. What I can tell you is that, together, in this study we will face fear together with Jesus while seeking His perfect love to infuse us completely and help us to sort out what does and does not matter in that fear has no ability to influence us or provoke us to action like it did before.

He didn't create us fearful... we learned it. If you are human, you must overcome the stumbling block of fear to learn of His love again. The only real fear we are supposed to have is a reverential fear of the Lord, because He is so mighty, powerful and able to command that which we cannot in His righteous judgments.

The more aware we become to the effects of evil on Earth... our eyes are opened and it is so easy to lose your innocence and become much afraid... We do not fear so much what the enemy can do to us, but rather other humans under the enemy's influence. Or at least that is the case for me. Which I realize many of you have other fear based thoughts racing through your minds periodically.

In all this, the Lord was showing me... it is not so much that fear will not come, it is what we do with it when comes knocking on the doorposts of our hearts. You will see in this allegory of Hinds Feet On High Places that all it takes is a willing vessel who sees how very much afraid she is... for the Lord to go to work, to mold and fashion her in His love unto complete deliverance so she can walk again and yes, she is wounded inwardly and outwardly and since the Lord does a complete work, inside and out... she rises to walk again, on her own with Jesus.

Hinds Feet On High Places is an allegory written by Hannah Hurnard in 1955. In order to get the message, it very much resembles the parables Jesus spoke in... and just like in Jesus's day, I know some will lose interest or not get this at all... Which is perfectly fine. But for those of you who are being honest with yourself and with the Lord, He will open your spiritual eyes to fully receive what the Holy Spirit is saying. This book has withstood the test of time and the testing of the Spirit.

Pain and fear are not always a bad thing... because when you are a child of God and you suffer affliction – you run directly into the Lord's arms for saving, comfort, peace, healing, love... Our Lord often cultivates an intimate relationship with us through pain and suffering... Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Without needing comfort, how would we know Him as The One Who Comforts? We wouldn't. We might KNOW about Him through the reading of His Word and the testimony of others... but to KNOW HIM one must walk out this process of intimacy. And to know Him is to love Him... its relationship based, not knowledge based.

What I love most about this allegory is... It takes you where you currently are in your process of growing spiritually and grows you even more. Just like Jesus meets us where we are, so does this book – so everyone fits in no matter where you are right now today, in the end you will be closer to Jesus and trusting Him more as you walk this path of redemption.

Here's an Overview –

It is the story of a young woman named Much Afraid, and her journey away from her Fearing family and into the High Places of the Shepherd, guided by her two companions Sorrow and Suffering. It is an allegory of a Christian devotional life from salvation through maturity. It aims to show how a Christian is transformed from unbeliever to immature believer to mature believer, who walks daily with God as easily on the High Places of Joy in the spirit as in the daily life of mundane and often humiliating tasks that may cause Christians to lose perspective.

The book takes its title from [Habakkuk](#) 3:19, "The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places."

The story begins at the Valley of Humiliation with Much Afraid, being beset by the unwanted advances of her cousin, Craven Fear, who wishes to marry her. Much Afraid is ugly from all outward appearances, walking on club feet, sporting gnarled, deformed hands, and speaking from a crooked mouth that seems to have been made so by a stroke or the like.

The Good Shepherd is tender and gentle with Much Afraid, especially in the beginning. However, His many sudden departures may strike the reader as bizarre, given the human penchant to expect kindly souls to never do anything that may be interpreted as rude or as hurtful in any way. Yet, though the Shepherd leaves in a moment, He returns the same way at the first furtive cry of the forlorn little protagonist. "Come, Shepherd, for I am much afraid!"

When Much Afraid pleads that she would love to be able to dance upon the high places as do the sure-footed deer, the Shepherd commends her for this desire. In order to accomplish this, he offers to "plant the seed of love" into her heart. At first sight of the long, black hawthorn-looking seed, she shrieks in fear. Soon, she relents, and after the initial intense pain, she senses that something is indeed different in her, though she still looks the same, for now.

Just when the reader thinks that Much Afraid is about to reach the High Places, the path turns downward towards a seemingly endless desert. There is incident with an extremely high cliff that must be ascended by a steep, slippery and very narrow zig-zagging track, with the help of her two companions, Sorrow and Suffering. Then days are spent in a forest that is shrouded in a thick cloud of fog. During this time Much Afraid is sequestered with her two friends in a log cabin. The finality is an unexpected twist that comes as Much Afraid despairs of ever reaching the High Places.

And I'll leave the rest of the story to unfold as we go over it together, but I promise you, you will not be disappointed because just like Much Afraid walks her life with much constraint, only to be delivered and changed each time she cries out to Jesus – so are we.

I encourage you to take notes, read chapters yourself even though I will read them on air and seek the Lord to reveal to you the commonalities you have with Much Afraid. Focus on how far you have come at His hand, where you are today and where you have yet to go leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus.

Again... just like Much Afraid... it is not so much where you are, but where you end up and that you are growing in Him that matters most.

The Lord's plans for you life are good, when we place our trust in Him as author and finisher of us – the burden of perfection or acts to portray something we are not melt away and we stop comparing ourselves to one another. The truth is... you are loved, you are being heard and tended too – because His banner over you is His steadfast love.

This allegory was born out of a verse in Habakkuk 3, like I just mentioned. I encourage you all to read this whole chapter though because it reflects a prayer the prophet Habakkuk had in his heart. As I was reading the chapter today a few verses really stuck out to me that I want to share with you all. When you read it, your personal verses may be different than mine, which is perfectly okay.

Mine were as follows – side note, I am paraphrasing here to make it my prayer to Him:

Oh Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid. In Your wrath, please remember mercy because when You come so Holy before us on Earth, Your glory covers the Heavens and the Earth to the point both are full of Your praise. The brightness of Your arrival ushers in the light as You stand and measure the Earth and Your ways are permanent, everlasting.

In affliction, all the inhabitants of the land tremble and we question... Are You displeased Lord? Are You angry to bring Your wrath? Yet we trust that even Your trampling of us underfoot brings salvation. You bend Your bow to expose our nakedness before You and even the sun and moon stand still in their habitation before You.

You march through the lands in indignation, while threshing the heathen in Your perfect anger. You go before us always for the salvation of your people, the anointed while wounding the minds of the wicked, who move about as whirlwinds to scatter me while rejoicing to devour the poor in spirit secretly.

Today I please with You Lord for mercy in that I might find rest in You during the days of trouble. My hearts is with You Lord and I will always rejoice in You as I joy in the God of my salvation. You Lord God are my strength and You make my feet like hinds feet and with You I am equipped to walk upon high places. Amen. Praise the Lord!

Like I said... I encourage each of you to read Habakkuk 3 – highlight what the Lord shows you and make this chapter your own and write your own prayer to pour your heart out to Him.

Lastly, some of you contacted me for a book which I ordered right away and sent to you. If you cannot afford your own, I am happy to get you one, just please email me.

Jesus never leaves us where He finds us... He is doing a mighty work in us all, including pouring His love into us, healing us, making us whole so that we no longer are moved by fear, but respond to it by the spirit of victory granted unto all those who believe and know Him. It is only through surrender we are truly free and victorious, it is in our weakness, we are made strong.

2 Corinthians 9 –

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest

upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

And why you might ask? It is because... when we are truly at a weakened state... we no longer rely on self or others for anything... Only Him because His grace is sufficient to uphold us in ways we cannot uphold ourselves or others.

These days especially, we need the power of Jesus to rest upon us like no other time in our lives, don't we? We are learning to thank Him and praise Him now in these storms because without them, we may know authentically know Him and love Him like we do. Thank You Lord.