

JF

FAITH OVER FEAR

a 14-Day Journey



Introduction

I'm praying that over the coming days you will experience a more personal faith, find greater hope in Jesus, and receive a supernatural empowering to overcome every adversity you face. God loves you, and He desires to heal you and give you hope!

You can also join me online and through television to receive further spiritual encouragement when you need it. Discover more at jentezenfranklin.org. I'm praying for you and expectant for what God's going to do in the next two weeks.

God bless you!
Jentezen Franklin

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15:13, NLT

Day 1

Your Faith Decree

I want to begin this journey together with a strong word of encouragement for you. I want you to join me in declaring a decree of faith in the very face of whatever fear you might be battling right now. Because, while I recognize we're living at a volatile, chaotic time in history, while I might not know the exact circumstances you're facing today, I do know the God who does.

So, right where you are as you read this, I urge you to open your heart. Get in a posture to receive this from the heavenly Father who is for you, who loves you, who is *with* you. Say this out loud:

The mountains are moving. Obstacles are moving. Debt is moving. The disease is moving. Cancer is moving. Bad reports are moving. The hand of God is upon me, upon

my children, and upon my children's children.

Things are changing for me. Addictions are breaking. Bondages are breaking. Doors of opportunity are opening. Provision is coming.

I decree healing power over me and my household from Jehovah Rapha—the Lord who takes away disease.

I decree Mark 10:27 (NKJV), *“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”*

For He has not given me a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). My faith is being activated in the very atmosphere I'm in right now.

Would you receive that word today? Will you believe it? God has done His part. He sent His only begotten Son for your salvation, healing, acceptance, freedom, and victory. Now you can do your part.

Today, by faith, receive the good things He has for you!

Day 2

Make It Personal

I've determined there are three types of faith in our world today.

First, there's the person whose faith is in a God who's "out there somewhere." They don't take the Bible literally or even seriously. They assume there are multiple ways to get to God. They have what I call an **abstract faith**.

Then there are people whose faith is a bit more structured. They have a Christian wedding. They go to church at Easter and Christmastime. They might even dedicate their kids to God in church. They'll talk about how they were raised in religion and still believe what their pastors preached. But nothing about their connection to God is personal. They have a **ceremonial faith**.

But then there's something I call **transferrable faith**. This is the faith you want. It's the faith you need—both for life and for eternity. It's what Paul was describing in 2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV):

... when I call to remembrance **the genuine faith** that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Notice what the Apostle Paul is showing us here. He's saying that the faith he sees in Timothy is real. It's sincere and authentic. And it was *transferred* to him from his grandmother and mother.

You can't have an abstract or merely ceremonial relationship with God and transfer it to your children. You can't have a lukewarm relationship with Jesus and pass on divine passion to the people around you.

According to this verse, the only genuine faith that can be transferred is a faith that's *personal*.

To be transferrable and endure every circumstance life brings, faith has to be personal. The question is: *What kind of faith do you have?*

The fact that you've downloaded these devotionals reveals that you are a person of transferrable faith. And I'm praying for your passion to grow, your purpose to increase, and your faith to be stirred up to change the world around you for the glory of God.

Day 3

God's Word for Your Worry

Do you ever worry? If your answer to that question is, "Yes," then the specific thing you tend to worry about probably just popped into your mind.

If that's the case, I believe what I'm about to share is going to help you in a very real and powerful way.

One of the many damaging things about worry is that it tends to strip us of confidence. Instead of focusing on the greatness of our God and the perfection of our Savior, we find ourselves focused on the details of our problems. We focus on the situation, the evidence, the tangible reasons we have to worry. Then we let those circumstances drive our decisions and pervade our thoughts.

If you struggle with this, I want you to know there's no shame in it. It's a very common thing. Battling worry doesn't make you weak; it makes you human. But you don't have to live with it. And a key to overcoming worry and anxiety is receiving this simple yet profound promise today:

The King's got it.

Whatever your worry is today, just bring it to Him. You don't have to carry it. In fact, you were never meant to carry it. The great King of the universe is on the job. He works the midnight shift. He loves you. He cares about you. And He's moving and working on your behalf.

Today, let go of your worry and give it to your God. The King's got it.

*Cast your burden on the LORD,
and He shall sustain you; He shall
never permit the righteous to be moved.*

PSALM 55:22, NKJV

Day 4

Even When You Can't See God

*But Jesus replied, "My Father is
always working, and so am I."*

JOHN 5:17, NLT

There will come seasons in this life when God won't be easily seen.

I think of the book of Esther. Not one time is the name of God mentioned. And yet His fingerprints are unmistakably evident throughout the story. In a situation that seemed hopeless and inevitably disastrous, God made a way for His people.

The reality is, even when you can't see God, He's still working.

Even when you can't feel Him,
even when the enemy is plotting,
even when the night is dark,
even when it seems like there's no way
out of the situation and God's silent,
even when His name can't be
found in the crisis...

You will find His fingerprints unmistakably
evident throughout your story.

God is faithful. And “... *we walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:7, NKJV). If you don't *feel* faith or victory, keep declaring it anyway. If Heaven is silent, keep shouting His Word.

Don't ignore what you feel, but let your mind be continually renewed by the truth that God is with you and for you. For when your God speaks, mountains move, seas open, and demons tremble.

The enemy's plot against your life and destiny in God cannot and will not succeed. No weapon formed against you can prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

God is fighting for you, and He will bring you the victory!

Day 5

Your King Is Awake

*He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.*

PSALM 121:3, NKJV

Did you know that God never sleeps?

It's true. Your King Jesus has been walking up and down the floor you've been pacing even more than you. He's planning your victory more than the devil's plotting your defeat.

Your King isn't asleep. He's active. He has a plan. And He's for you.

Perhaps your family had a heated argument recently, maybe even last night, and unkind, cruel words were spoken.

Perhaps you're walking through a medical situation. You dread going back to the hospital. The "C" word—cancer—is tormenting you. The possibility of disease is keeping you up at night. The problem is real, and you're filled with fear.

Perhaps you're agonizing over a child or grandchild who's made some foolish decisions.

Perhaps your situation is not something external, like finances or work-related, but internal—an addiction, depression, or an unrelenting chorus of negative thoughts and paralyzing lies.

Perhaps you find yourself wondering,
Where is God?

Jesus said, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28, NKJV).

If you're experiencing grief, if there's pain in your heart, if there's a heaviness on your spirit, if there's struggle in your life, God cares about it. He wants

to exchange your worry for rest. And He won't fall asleep on you. You can trust Him.

The God who keeps you will not slumber.

Day 6

You Have an Anchor

We will all face storms in life. After all, it's a stormy world. At times, every one of us can find ourselves overwhelmed by driving winds of difficulty, drowning in hurt and hopelessness. And yet it's into this reality I believe Jesus wants to speak "Peace" today. He wants you to be still. To know He is God. To have an anchor for your soul.

Hebrews 6:18–19 (NKJV) encourages us,

... that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil...

Think about it. The smallest form of faith is hope. Yet what God is showing us is that when we take our hope and throw it beyond the veil, it gets transformed into an anchor that takes hold of Jesus—our High Priest, provider, healer, and deliverer of our souls.

In the midst of the storm, you can automatically move from a place of instability to steadfastness. How? Because you have an anchor. An anchor that failure can't move. Temptation can't defeat. Disappointments can't shift. Dashed dreams can't harm. Discouragement can't release.

You might feel the storm. But you've got an anchor. You have a hope, both sure and steadfast. And His name is Jesus!

Day 7

What to Do in the Storm

Over the next couple of days, I want to give you some practical keys to help you weather every storm you encounter. Here's the first one...

Brace your mind with the Word of God.

Meditate on scriptures continually. Memorize them. Declare them out loud when you go to sleep and when you wake up. Here are a few that personally encourage me...

... who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed (1 Peter 2:24, NKJV).

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Revelation 12:11, NKJV).

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5, NKJV).

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV).

What does meditating on those scriptures and declaring them accomplish? It braces your mind. It helps you to focus on God’s Word in the midst of your circumstances.

One of my favorite scriptures is Job 8:7 (NCV). It says, *“Where you began will seem unimportant, because your future will be so successful.”*

When I’m in the middle of a storm, I don’t often feel the reality of that promise. I don’t think to myself, “What I’m going through is, in the big scheme of things, small and unimportant. My future will still be

successful.” But it’s true, nonetheless. That’s why bracing your mind with God’s Word is so powerful! It reminds you of what’s true. It reminds you that no matter what you face, God still has a good plan and high purpose.

So stand in faith today. The message of the Christian faith isn’t about being a victim, staying stuck in depression, or living in despair. The message of the Cross is victory! And you have an anchor that’s sure and steadfast. His name is Jesus. And He’s taking you to places of perpetual victory (1 Corinthians 15:57)!

Day 8

Lighten the Load

In Acts 27, we find the Apostle Paul as a prisoner headed for Rome. On the way, the ship he's aboard gets caught up in a storm. The captain fears a shipwreck is inevitable. The sailors are filled with fear. In desperation and a last-bid effort to survive and stay afloat, they begin throwing cargo overboard.

With their own hands, they lighten their load
(Acts 27:19).

I wonder, how often do our lives get so filled with “stuff” that it takes a storm to help us reassess our priorities? To realize what can be thrown overboard?

The author of Hebrews put it like this, *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with*

endurance the race that is set before us..."
(12:1, NKJV).

Here are three things you can let go of today to lighten your load...

1. Insufficiency.

The enemy will always try to tell you that you're not enough and you don't *have* enough. But you've got a more-than-enough God (Ephesians 3:20). And He can take you to places you've never dreamed of. In Him, you are sufficient!

2. Insecurity.

Insecurity is the nagging thought that says, "I can't do this." But you can. The Almighty God is with you. And, in Him, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

3. Insignificance.

Insignificance is the lie telling you nobody needs you. But I believe God wants you to throw that lie off today so you can be who He's called you to be. You're needed, and God created you for a purpose!

Remember, your anchor is Jesus. The boat doesn't keep itself safe in the storm; the anchor does. That's where the responsibility rests, and that's where you can put your trust today.

Day 9

The Power of Purpose

Can you imagine what it was like for Jesus?

He had lived a perfect life. He loved. He served. He healed. In every way and in everything He did, He was the Word incarnate. The very Son of God. And yet the people He came to save rejected Him. Persecuted Him. And ultimately, they sentenced Him to the most horrific death a person could experience—crucifixion.

Now, while Jesus was fully God, He was also fully human. That means He experienced the same feelings and sensations you and I feel. He felt the pain, the emotion, the torture in a very real way. Scripture even shows us that, before He presented Himself to the authorities, He prayed...

“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39, NKJV).

Yet He endured—the shame, the pain, the cross. He endured it all for me and you. And Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) reveals precisely how He was able to do that:

... Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith... for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What enabled Jesus to make it through His greatest trial on the cross? It was what He remained focused on: His purpose. He kept His eyes fixed on the joy of what awaited Him on the other side of the crucifixion.

The same is true for us. No matter how difficult our circumstances are, we can make the conscious decision to declare, “God put me here. God called me. He is for me, not against me. There’s a divine call on my life, and no trial will stop me!”

Like Jesus, we can keep our eyes fixed on the joy set before us.

Day 10

Courage Up

As Joshua was about to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land after the death of Moses, God told him—four times—*“Be strong and of good courage.”*

This was clearly an important message for Joshua to hear. Here’s why: Joshua was well aware that entering the Promised Land would mean fighting some battles. It wasn’t going to be an easy conquest. There were giants in the land. There were enemies. Fierce resistance. But before Joshua took one step as the Israelites’ new leader, God wanted to give him a personal word of encouragement and reassurance:

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9, NKJV).

I believe God wants to speak that same word to you today.

Be strong. Be of good courage. I'm with you.

An act of courage can be forgiving a friend who let you down. A courageous deed could be gently loving your spouse in the midst of a financial crisis. Courage could mean refusing to let cancer or disease steal your smile. Courage could be required to choose to focus on your purpose instead of your pain. Courage could look like rejoicing in the promise of your destiny, rather than dwelling on the reality of your dilemma.

Today, *be of good courage*. Don't quit. Don't give up. Despite the fear, stand in faith. *For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!*

Day 11

Worship Your Way Out (and In)

In Psalm 100:4 (KJV) we're encouraged, *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."*

In other words, the way to enter into God's presence—the *address* of God's residence—is **worship**.

Whether you're on a mountaintop or in a valley, struggling through a storm or living at ease, the gateway to God's address is the same: **Worship**.

Worship isn't about what God's done or what He's allowed us to go through. Yes, we can praise Him for that. We can give Him thanks. But at its heart, worship is about who God is. And when we worship,

when we enter into God's presence, we can't help but be changed.

I can't even number the many times worship has brought me out of a trial, out of hopelessness, or out of fear. That's why I want to encourage you to take some time to get alone today and just *worship*, because...

Worship is where the answers will come. Worship is where the victory will break through. Worship is where the fear will flee. Worship is where you'll find the way out of your problem and into God's presence!

Day 12

Don't Forsake the Church

As you know, going to church has looked different lately.

Because of physical distancing, most churches have been forced to take their services online. I recognize it's a very different experience for all of us. (Trust me, it's been strange for me too—preaching to a largely empty sanctuary!) Perhaps it's been a struggle for you to keep your faith up and your spirit engaged in this unusual season. If so, I want to encourage you, now more than ever...

Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going... Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding

worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on... (Hebrews 10:23–25, MSG).

Growing up, staying connected to church saved my life. And, though I didn't realize it at the time, my parents' commitment to the church was the determining factor.

So, if you're a parent or grandparent, set the example for your family, even if you're in a different home than they are. If you're single, be intentional about staying connected. The fact is, most of us are feeling isolated. So now is the time to make your faith personal and aggressive.

In this life, it's all too easy to drift. Like driving a car, we can get distracted and, before we know it, we find ourselves driving in the wrong lane, headed in a direction we never wanted or intended.

But staying connected to the church pulls you back. Just when you feel yourself drifting toward depression, fear, or temptation, the Word of God spoken to you from God's house can give you the faith and hope you need to stay the course.

Day 13

Look How Far You've Come

Have you ever felt like giving up? Throwing in the towel? Maybe you've been tempted to throw up your hands when:

- you didn't have answers
- there weren't logical explanations
- everything seemed to be going wrong
- the harder you strived, the more ground you lost

Throughout the Old Testament, we see the Israelites getting discouraged and wanting to give up. Time and time again, they would compare their enemies to themselves instead of their God.

Maybe you can relate to that.

It's essential to realize the size of your God is revealed by the size of the thing it takes to discourage you. If your "big" problem can move you to despair, then you've underestimated how truly big and powerful is the God who called you and made you His own.

Discouragement is often born when we start comparing ourselves with others or with the size of the challenges in front of us. But let me share a spiritual strategy for combatting discouragement:

Remember where you came from.

Look how far you've come. Think back to how much God's blessed you, how good He's been, how many times He brought you through in the past.

We're on day 13 of this devotional download, and you're still on this journey with me. That means God's not finished with you yet. He wants to grow your faith and mature you in steadfast patience.

The Bible said as long as the earth exists, there will be seed, time, and harvest (Genesis 8:22). There's the promise, but then there's the waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. Like a woman who's

pregnant—there's a due date.

This is why Scripture encourages us in Galatians 6:9 (NKJV), *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

Many people are trying to get fruit in the season before it's due. But it was when the fullness of time had come that God sent forth His Son. When the day of Pentecost had fully come, God poured out His Spirit.

You can't force something to happen out of season. But you can remain faithful in the waiting. You can choose not to “grow weary while doing good.” You can remember how far you've come and trust your faithful God to fulfill every promise He's given you!

Day 14

Your God-Given Blessing

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV) gives us this wonderful promise...

And you will seek Me and find Me,
when you search for Me with all your heart.

That's the reward God promises to you. No matter what you're going through, no matter what you face, whether it's one thing this year and something altogether different next year, He promises you...

"When you seek Me, you will find Me. And I will reward you."

The reward is Him. The reward is His presence, the blessing of His goodness, the abundance of

His nature. He offers these to you fully when you seek Him.

King David, the Psalmist, continually encouraged himself, not in the seeming stability of his circumstances or his military might, but in his relationship with God. He valued it above anything else. And rightly so. No, David wasn't perfect, but his pursuit was continual and intentional. It's the reason God called him "*a man after My own heart*" (Acts 13:22, NKJV). And I believe the same can be true of you.

I know the giants you face may be bigger than you are. But don't measure your problems against yourself. Measure them against your God. It's been rightly said, we tend to talk to God about our problems when we should be talking to our problems about our mighty, faithful God.

I'm praying for you and so thankful you chose to spend these 14 days with me. There's a Hebrew blessing I often speak over my congregation at Free Chapel, and I want to declare it over you now. Receive it today in faith...

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you. May the Lord be gracious unto you. May He lift up His

**countenance upon you and may He give you
peace. In Jesus' name, amen.**



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