

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, March 30, 2007, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

For Fortitude

**God of grace and glory,
you have called us to take hold of eternal life.
Help us to run with resolution
the race that lies before us,
our eyes fixed on Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
May he always be to us
the pattern we follow,
the redeemer we trust,
the master we serve,
and the friend to whom we turn.
Keep us faithful 'til death,
and bring us at the last
into your eternal presence
to receive the crown of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

(from the Church of Scotland)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

(The Lord's words to Joshua in Joshua 1:9)

God suggests to the people through Joshua that taking Canaan will require faith, courage, and great effort. Is there a parallel to our spiritual lives today? Do we have to fight to possess what God has already promised? How do we wage such a fight? In what ways are we strengthened in our inner being by exercising faith in possessing the promises of God? In what areas of your life is God calling you to fight? This is God's word to you: “Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

(from The Spiritual Formation Bible, page 273)

“But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,” declares the Lord. “Be strong, O Joshua.... Be strong all you people of the land,” declares the Lord, “and work. For I am with you,” declares the Lord Almighty.... “Do not fear.”

(Haggai 2:4-5 Put your own name in the place of Zerubbabel and Joshua and let the word of the Lord be for you.)

Fear kills a mind and soul by slowly obliterating the visions we hold for our lives. That we should not fall prey to fear is a constant theme in the scriptures. God does not want us to succumb to the chilling and killing aspects of fear; God encourages people not to be afraid of the circumstances in which they find themselves. It seems that one of God’s favorite themes is “Do not be afraid” or “Do not fear.” Perhaps God repeats this theme so often because we so often fear circumstances that confront us in our lives and ministries.

(Norman Shawchuck, from A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God)

Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you.”

(Judges 6:14)

He responded, “But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

(Judges 6:15)

The Lord said to him, “I will be with you.”.... The Lord said ..., “Peace be to you; do not fear, you shall not die.”

(Judges 6:16, 23)

God, who touchest earth with beauty,
Make my heart anew;
With thy spirit recreate me,
Pure and strong and true.

Like thy springs and running water
Make me crystal pure;
Like thy rocks of towered grandeur
Make me strong and sure.

(Mary S. Edgar)

God be with you as you enter a new week.