

60 FAITH-BUILDING DEVOTIONS  
FROM GOD'S SMUGGLER



# Fearless by FAITH

HOW *to* FIGHT  
TODAY'S SPIRITUAL BATTLES

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BROTHER ANDREW  
AL JANSSEN

“Brother Andrew lived by a simple but potent creed: If you fear God, you need not fear any man. While I’m sad this is his last book now that the Lord has taken him home to glory, I’m so grateful this dear Dutch brother—and his steadfast colleague Al Janssen—wrote *Fearless by Faith* before it was too late. It’s an absolute gem. Encouraging. Inspiring. And so timely. As the world seems to spin wildly out of control and persecution against the Church intensifies, we urgently need to discover the lessons that Brother Andrew gleaned from the Scriptures, truths that gave him great courage to take the light of Christ into great darkness. I’ve learned so much from the biblical prophets and warriors that Brother Andrew studied and taught about—David, Elijah, Jonah, Moses and Gideon. I pray you will, too.”

Joel C. Rosenberg, *New York Times* bestselling author  
of such titles as *The Last Jihad*, *Epicenter*  
and *Enemies and Allies*

“*Fearless by Faith* is a book I wish I could have read as a new believer at age eighteen. The Bible-centered life of Brother Andrew plus the writing skills of Al Janssen masterfully center modern spiritual challenges squarely within the Word of God. My mentor reminded me endlessly, ‘Whenever you have a spiritual problem you cannot solve, what Bible story are you telling yourself that addresses your challenge?’ Brother Andrew and Al Janssen prophetically present us with a Bible that is in active present tense! Andrew believed the Bible was not only a record of what God used to do but a clear spiritual road map illuminating God’s demands upon His children. What a gift!”

Dr. Nik Ripken, founder and CEO, Nik Ripken Ministries

**Fearless**  
by **FAITH**

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**BROTHER ANDREW AND AL JANSSEN**



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*To God's Smugglers*

Thousands of faithful couriers who followed Brother Andrew's example and challenge by passing through the Iron Curtain to deliver desperately needed Bibles and other printed resources to our Christian brothers and sisters in Communist Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

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When you fear God, you fear nothing else.

Oswald Chambers,  
*The Pilgrim's Song Book*

Life without war is impossible in the natural or the supernatural realm. It is a fact that there is a continuing struggle in the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual areas of life.

Oswald Chambers,  
*My Utmost for His Highest*

# Preface

Brother Andrew was a warrior who was eager to rush in where others feared to go. When the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968, he loaded his station wagon with Bibles and drove 550 miles from his home in the Netherlands. As he pulled up to the Czech border, a long line of cars was departing the country. A shocked customs official stamped his passport and waved him through the gate. In Prague, he armed Christians with Russian Bibles and told them to go into the streets, climb on the tanks, tell the invaders that God loves them and hand them God's Word.

That is how you dismantle a superpower—with love, not bombs.

As Communism in the Soviet empire collapsed, Brother Andrew turned his attention to radical Islam. He made friends with leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah so they could hear the

Gospel. He invited himself to one of the world's most radical madrassas, observed hundreds of boys memorizing the Quran and arranged for them to hear a better, greater message. The school's founder and principal watched and listened in amazement, seemingly powerless to stop this Christian invader.

These stories might imply that the Dutchman known as "God's Smuggler" was unique in that he did not experience fear. Not so. His secret was that he knew how to overcome his anxiety. Approaching the Iron Curtain with a car that was loaded with hundreds of Bibles, he sometimes had to pull back and spend a day or two in prayer and fasting before he had faith to proceed. He said the secret was, "If you fear God, you need not fear any man." Brother Andrew was not fearless, but he learned how to *fear less*.

Why are most of us afraid to confidently live out our faith? I ask that question every time I get another email from a friend who is worrying about his or her First Amendment rights, the advancement of certain political ideologies or how the election of certain leaders proclaims the doom of our nation. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to have raised the decibel level of alarm. Instead of loving behavior, too many Christians bicker about wearing masks and shout at one another about whether or not to vaccinate.

Make no mistake, fear is natural when battles rage all around. The antidote is supernatural. Scripture tells us that our earthly struggles are located in heavenly places (see Ephe-

sians 6:12). In the midst of all the clamor, one thing seems to be forgotten. There is an author of all this confusion. He is God's sworn enemy, and he brilliantly sows fear in our ranks. The Church needs to awaken to the real battle that occurs in the spiritual realm and spills into every conflict on planet earth.

God invites us to partner with Him in that struggle. To do that, we must overcome our fears. I had the privilege of working and traveling with Brother Andrew for twenty years. With typical Dutch bluntness, he often made statements to me like this: "I think we in the West—this is a personal confession—are cowards. Personal profit comes first. If that is at risk, we don't do anything." He referenced fellow countrymen who refused to stand against the German occupation and the deportation of Jews during World War II. "There were ten times as many people in Holland in the armed SS as there were in the resistance movement." He often challenged Christians around the world to become "people of guts. And courage. And strong convictions. Not counting our lives dear unto ourselves if only we can fulfill the high calling of God in our lives."

That is what this book is about. *Fearless by Faith* contains Brother Andrew's teaching over many years on spiritual conflict, drawing from the examples of five Old Testament figures. Jesus promised that each of His followers would experience trouble in this world. We most certainly do! Jesus also encouraged us, "Take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). That is a tremendous reason why we should not be afraid. Or fear less. Maybe we know that in theory, but in

the midst of our reality, it does not seem to help much. God's sworn enemy does everything in his power to blind us and thwart God's plan for our lives.

This devotional is designed to provide an antidote to fear. David, Elijah, Jonah, Moses and Gideon are going to teach us the essentials of spiritual warfare and demonstrate how to fight and prevail. The apostle Paul encourages us to learn from these great men. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

What can these trainers who lived some three thousand years ago possibly teach us today when we have such advanced knowledge and technology at our fingertips? Let's start with this observation: God placed these people in impossible situations. They were doomed to fail unless . . . unless God showed up and did the miraculous. We do not like that. We would much prefer to have the world's best resources in our hands when we face opposition. God may use worldly tools, but His methods are definitely otherworldly.

You will be surprised how relevant our five Old Testament teachers are. Sure, God called them to unique assignments—I doubt many of us will be called to lead two million people out of slavery, to preach to a huge major metropolis or to challenge an entire pagan culture to a duel. But you never know. Dig deeper and you will find that each of these warriors might truly understand our challenges today.

## *Preface*

While there is much these men can teach us, we need to listen for how the Holy Spirit would have us apply these lessons in our current circumstances and culture. We recommend, therefore, that you take your time reading through these teachings. Each devotional is short. You might choose to tackle just one per day. Take time to reflect and pray over the questions at the end of each reading.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on how we listen for God's instructions. Each warrior will provide six lessons. Part two concentrates on the spiritual battle. Again, each warrior provides six lessons. There will also be opportunities for you to articulate your own battle plan as you discern how God is uniquely calling you. Our fears are greatly diminished or even eliminated when we know what God has called us to do and understand that our conflicts belong to the Lord.

Al Janssen

# Meet Your Instructors

## **David: A Rosy-Cheeked Warrior**

We know the story. We learned it in Sunday school and enjoyed hearing it read from picture storybooks. It is the inspirational metaphor for the underdog sports team facing an undefeated opponent. It is the motivation for a startup company competing against a corporate giant.

Why revisit such a familiar drama as David and Goliath? Because when we stop and look closely, there are some things about this story that are relevant to fear and the spiritual warfare we experience today.

It is interesting how the two armies—Israel and the Philistines—are positioned for battle, yet no one lifts a sword. Not a single spear is thrown. No one is killed. There is just a lot of trash talk! Sounds like a big football match. Or election coverage in the media.



Here is the matchup. On one side stands a giant, a massively trained warrior. He is undefeated, impregnable and overconfident, and he issues the challenge: Send me your best man. We will fight. The loser serves the winner. No need for all of you to die in battle. Is it not better for one man to die for all?

Sounds reasonable, don't you think?

Meet our other contestant. No, not David. It is King Saul, the tallest man in all Israel. A trained soldier who is also undefeated. Saul versus Goliath. This is the match everyone anticipated. Saul's entire life had prepared him for this defining moment.

So where is Saul? Hiding in his tent. He is afraid. He has no intention of fighting the giant. (Neither did David, by the way. He came to the scene on an errand for his father, Jesse.) Saul knew he could not win. No doubt he prayed for someone to save him—anybody but him. He would write a check for half his personal wealth to the one who killed the giant. He would give his prettiest daughter in marriage to the champion. What other incentive could he provide? Okay, no taxes for the winner's entire family for life. Surely those were enough inducements to recruit a champion.

No one, however, stepped forward. For forty days. Until a teenage boy showed up.

So that is the situation. You know the ending. This story has been told and retold until there is no surprise left. Yet we should be surprised, amazed even, at what happened on that

battlefield. Maybe David can show us how to confront and defeat the giants that we face. Consider this: David saw what everyone saw. David heard what everyone heard; however, David thought what no one thought. As a result, David said what no one said, and he did what no one did.

Are we going to cower in fear like Saul? Or will we step forward and trust God like the teenage shepherd? Before you start the devotions, read the full story in 1 Samuel 17.

### **Elijah: A Radical Warrior**

This was the ultimate mismatch. Las Vegas would never post odds on this “contest.” Four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal on one side. One lonely and reckless prophet of God on the other.

What was Elijah thinking? He could not have dreamed up such a contest—unless he had been divinely inspired.

Undoubtedly you recall the basics of this story. Elijah called for this match between the pagan god Baal and the Lord God of Israel on Mount Carmel. You also know the dramatic result. You may also think that it has little or no relevance to our world today. Actually, this drama has tremendous significance.

Consider, for example, the devastating implications of climate change. Elijah proclaims God’s judgment: There will be no rain. Who controls the rain? This was Elijah’s challenge to Israel. Are you going to place your trust in Yahweh, God, or the local counterfeit deity?

That should give us pause as we see the earth's temperature rising and the resulting increased ferocity of storms and fires raging through our forests. Where will we find the wisdom that we need to solve this problem?

Here is a bigger question: How can we deliver the Gospel to a hostile culture and radical extremists of various stripes without giving offense? Quick answer: We cannot. We live in trying times, and Christians must rise to the challenge. All of us need a large portion of Elijah in our lives. His story is extremely relevant to our present world situation.

We are going to examine how one great spiritual warrior fought a war—and won against impossible odds. To obtain the most from these teachings on Elijah, first read 1 Kings 17–19.

### **Jonah: A Rebellious Warrior**

Jonah had a problem. He could not in good conscience obey God's command.

To understand Jonah's struggle, it might help to frame his mission in a contemporary context. "Jonah, arise and go to Mosul. Go to ISIS and preach to them, because their wickedness has come up before me."

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, which was a town that was located in what today is northern Iraq, within the suburbs of Mosul. The Assyrians who lived in that great city were the most feared terrorists of that day. They hated Israel. They were making raids into the northern part of the country. Put it that

way and perhaps we gain some sympathy for Jonah. We might have run away from that assignment, too.

As we study this short book, we will see just how relevant this drama is to our spiritual battles. Like Jonah, God has issued a call on our lives. Are we listening? Are we willing to go wherever He sends us in obedience? Or are we going to run away and spend our hard-earned money on a Mediterranean cruise?

We like quick solutions. We prefer short-term missions rather than a longtime commitment. Better yet, we prefer to do missions from a safe distance. Let's use smart bombs like Facebook or Twitter that can reach any target—except the hearts and minds of men. But it is hearts and minds we must touch if we are to have any chance of winning this spiritual war.

Take some time to read the four short chapters of the book of Jonah. Our twelve devotions are full of challenging questions that force us to make hard choices. The consequences of our choices could affect the future of our world.

### **Moses: A Retired Warrior**

The history of Israel hinges on one old man who was retired from public service. Or so he thought.

The circumstances were dire. Injustice was rampant. There was forced labor, unfair working conditions, police brutality and ethnic cleansing. No question, the Israelites were in desperate straits. Protests were brutally suppressed. The people

desperately needed a hero, someone who could stand up against the cruel system that had crushed the spirits of these people for hundreds of years.

The man God chose for this mission was eighty years old. He was ready to relax and enjoy the grandkids. At one time, he had held a prestigious position. But that was ancient history.

There would be no nation of Israel without Moses. His faith, his resolve, his courage, and most significantly, his prayers made all the difference. In the process, he came to know God more intimately than anyone else in the Old Testament.

The determination of Moses is astonishing. He was so compelled to intercede for the Israelites that he fasted for forty days, not once but twice, with hardly a break in between. It nearly killed him, but he did not care. He would pay any price to achieve the salvation of his people.

That is why the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews could say that Moses thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt (see Hebrews 11:26). Moses did not know Christ, yet he embodied the spirit of our Savior. Jesus even insisted to the Jewish religious leaders that Moses wrote about Him. “There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me” (John 5:45–46). If Jesus lifts Moses up for our edification, we must examine his life.

Our study covers a lot of ground. For part one, read Exodus 2–4. For part two, you will want to read Exodus 5–7, 14 and 32–34.

You probably think you cannot possibly live up to the example of Moses. Do not be so sure. God loves inserting people into impossible situations, regardless of their age or circumstance. The higher the stakes, the more we see His involvement, and the more we learn what He is like.

At the very least, you can be a prayer warrior, which may be the most significant job of your life. Moses will show you why and how.

### **Gideon: A Reluctant Warrior**

There is no cookie cutter recruit for God's warriors. Sure, God uses similar spiritual practices to train us. But each person and each assignment is unique. You may be involved in a culture war or fighting social injustice—like Elijah or Moses. You could also be in some hidden or supportive role. Some of God's most important and effective soldiers are His intercessors. God invites us to influence our community, our nation and the world. We can literally direct history while we are on our knees.

There comes a time, however, when we are called to get off our knees and take action. Too many Christians say, "God has not called me." I would suggest that they have never listened for the call. Effective intercessors not only plead for people, but they listen for the heart of God. There likely will be a day when God invites you to be the answer to one or more of your prayers. So do not miss this critical point. Anyone can be a warrior in God's army.

Who, me?

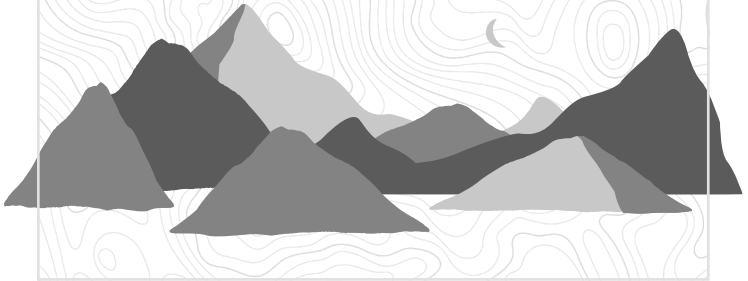
Yes, you!

How do I know this? Because the last warrior who will train us was the least of the least, and he knew it. When Gideon was called by God to save Israel, he rightly noted that his clan was weakest in the half tribe of Manasseh, and he was the lowest in his father's household. He was a nobody. He had no standing in his community, much less in his nation. Only God saw his potential.

So, meet Gideon, a very ordinary person who was called by God to do an impossible job. His story is recorded in Judges 6–8. This conflict is another mismatch. Gideon's special forces were not the Navy SEALs or the Army's Green Berets. They could never have bested the massive Midianite army without supernatural help.

PART ONE

Fearless  
LISTENING





# Introduction

There is a postcard in my office that reads, “Good morning, God. What are You up to today? I want to be a part of it. May I? Thank You, Amen.” That childlike prayer expresses my heart’s desire.

The danger for too many Christians is that we would rather go to war for God than wait before Him and let His Spirit reveal to us what to do.

We face an enemy that wants to destroy the Body of Christ. Earth is the only place where the devil can have his way. Not in heaven—he has been thrown out. Our prayer life is the first part of dismantling enemy powers that want to overthrow the Kingdom of God.

Knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly, we are either victims of the devil’s power or we are the subjects of the love of God. If we are subjects of the love of God, we are filled

with compassion, power and faith toward those who are causing the war, those who oppose the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The conflict *must* begin with prayer. Pray for those who oppose or persecute you. That is what Jesus said (see Matthew 5:44).

Why do so many Christians wonder about God's will for their lives? Perhaps it is because we do not take the time to really listen for His instructions. There is so much noise in our world today, and so many demands, controversies and conflicts that compete for our attention. We see a need and decide we must act now.

But not every need is a call. If we try to fight too many battles, or the wrong battles, we will probably win none and wind up burned out—not to mention more anxious and fearful than ever.

The first step in dealing with fear is to gain God's perspective. To do that, we must create space where we can hear Him speak. In this secret place, we take the first steps to victory. Each of our five Old Testament warriors learned that lesson. Let's take some time to reflect on how these men of God heard the Word of God. In the process, expect God to speak to *you*.



## A Most Intimidating Opponent

There came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath.

1 Samuel 17:4

Look at him! This Philistine warrior:

- is nearly ten feet tall
- wears 125 pounds of armor
- wields a spear that looks like a fence rail with a spear tip weighing 15 pounds
- carries a bronze sword

Goliath is a terrifying sight. That is the way it is with giants. They want you to believe your eyes and ears. They want you to recognize the impossible odds. Why fight when you know you cannot win? But if all you do is rely on your physical senses, you miss the full picture.

The apostle Paul understood the real enemy, and he taught that we are not fighting against the giants we see, but we are fighting the single giant we do not see (see 2 Corinthians 10:3–5). Our true enemy is the deceiver, the one who inspires every argument and lofty opinion raised up against the knowledge of God.

No doubt you will protest that Goliath was a real flesh and blood threat to Israel. Today a Christian suffering in persecution feels real pain, prejudice and rejection. Real flames burn their churches and homes. Inflexible iron bars enclose them in very real prisons. For some today the end is a martyr's death that leaves behind the agony of a grieving spouse, parent or pastor. These are realities we cannot ignore.

If the real enemy is unseen, then what exactly is going on in the Valley of Elah? As long as we view any Bible story as an isolated incident, we can never gain insight into the real battle. Everything in Scripture is recorded to teach us the character of God, the nature of spiritual warfare and the way of salvation.

The ultimate spiritual battle began early in Genesis when the serpent (our enemy, the devil) tempted Adam and Eve, and they ate the forbidden fruit. The devil told the first couple that they would now know good and evil. That seemed so

attractive. He did not explain they would not have the power to do good nor would they have the power not to do evil.

God declared judgment on the devil. “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15). Here is the key to understanding all that follows in the Old Testament. The devil’s objective is to prevent the promised offspring, the Redeemer, from being born. If he can do that, he wins and can continue to rule over planet earth.

Listen to David shouting after he heard Goliath’s taunts. “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?” (1 Samuel 17:26). The question implies the answer. Goliath is a heathen. He has no part of the Kingdom of God. He is an instrument of the devil whose purpose is to subvert the human race and make the birth of Messiah impossible. If Goliath wins this battle, the genealogy of David is broken and Satan thwarts God’s plan.

Perhaps you think it is a different story today. Christ has come. He has redeemed us. He has established His Kingdom; however, the devil’s rebellion persists. He continues to try to thwart the advancement of God’s Kingdom throughout the world. He works constantly to prevent the return of Jesus so that He can claim what is rightfully His.

Do you recognize the spiritual warfare? The evidence is all around you. Just watch the news—you will see.

The devil has lost but he is not dead. He continues to take casualties.

Here is the point: A teenager filled with the Holy Spirit is more powerful than a monarch (Saul) God has abandoned. Unfortunately, Israel chose to trust in politics and found itself hopelessly adrift. When they were lined up against a superpower, they had no hope of victory. Is the situation any better today? Are not too many of us putting our hope in political solutions? We look to new laws, court decisions and charismatic leaders who shout simplistic promises over and over. Then we are disappointed when we do not get the expected results.

Do not worry. There is an answer. Those who understand the problem can make a difference. If you understand God's ways, *you* can be God's instrument to change the odds.

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**For Reflection**

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*What evidence do you see of Satan's rebellion today? How is he trying to thwart the advancement of God's Kingdom?*