

SNAPSHOTS

*of Issues
and Answers*

Kimberly Kirk

Copyright © 2012 ★ Kimberly Coles Kirk
www.kimberlykirk.com

INTRODUCTION

I'm so glad you have decided to do this workbook! I know our Lord will bless you as you seek Him through it. The title of this study is *Snapshots* because that is exactly what it is: a glimpse or snippet of what God has to say about the issues and answers we will cover. It's not meant to be an exhaustive examination but one that will give us an understanding, from both the Old and New Testaments, of the Lord's view of these topics. It will also provide a framework within which we can place the Biblical truths about these issues and answers we discover as we continue to study God's Word, long after we have completed this workbook.

There are six weeks in this study, broken down into three sections:

- Fear vs. Faith
- Anxiety vs. Peace
- Despair vs. Hope

There are five lessons in each week:

- Day 1 - Defining the Issue or Answer
- Day 2 - Digging Deeper
- Day 3 - An Old Testament Example
- Day 4 - A New Testament Example
- Day 5 - Pulling it All Together

(Which is a review and also includes new material.)

There is also a section for *Further Study*, which includes the passage on which I will be sharing a message each week. It contains other Scriptures on the issue or answer we have covered.

Although this study can effectively be done by an individual, it also fits nicely into a small group setting. There are questions at the end of each week which can help facilitate discussion, or encourage someone doing the study on her own to go deeper. A *Small Group Leader Guide* is included in the final pages of the workbook.

May our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, bless, encourage and equip you as you study His Word!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE: FEAR vs. FAITH	6
Week One: Fear	7
<i>Defining Fear, Fear Not, A Frightened Twin, A Frightening Encounter, Conquering our Fear, The Upside of Fear</i>	
Week Two: Faith	16
<i>Defining Faith, A Doubting Disciple, A Widow's Faith, A Soldier's Astonishing Faith, Strengthening our Faith, Another Side of Faith</i>	
SECTION TWO: ANXIETY vs. PEACE	25
Week Three: Anxiety	26
<i>Defining Anxiety, Do Not Worry, Pharaoh's Worry, Oh Martha!, Letting Go of Anxiety, Borrowing Trouble</i>	
Week Four: Peace	35
<i>Defining Peace, Christ's Peace, David... A Man of Peace?, A Sleeping Servant, Claiming our Peace, A Different Kind of Peace</i>	
SECTION THREE: DESPAIR vs. HOPE	44
Week Five: Despair	45
<i>Defining Despair, Don't Lose Heart, A Desolate Princess, Devastation to Elation!, Done with Despair, Temporary Not Terminal</i>	
Week Six: Hope	54
<i>Defining Hope, An Anchor for the Soul, A Deathbed Promise, A Hope Fulfilled, Holding onto Hope, An Absolute Certainty!</i>	
Small Group Leader Guide	63

Section One:

FEAR vs. FAITH

We want to live by faith but what can get in the way? Fear. Although disbelief is the opposite of faith, it is fear that often keeps us from trusting God. To be afraid when something unexpected or dangerous comes our way is a natural reaction. But when we stay in that place and allow our fear to cripple or overtake us, it is the result of a lack of faith.



FEAR vs. FAITH

*Fear is so real and it grips at my heart
It keeps me from doing the things that I start;
Faith can't be seen but I know it is real
And has nothing to do with the way that I feel.*

*Fear vs. faith – which one will win?
Will I trust in the Lord, or fall down again?
God, strengthen my faith, help me more than just try
To always remember that fear is a lie.*

WEEK ONE: *Snapshots of...* **FEAR**

Day One ~ **DEFINING THE ISSUE**

What is fear? Record your thoughts below.

What does God have to say about it? Match each verse with its explanation.

_____ *When I am afraid, I will trust in you.* (Psalm 56:3)

_____ *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Deuteronomy 31:6)

_____ *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.* (Psalm 46:1-2)

_____ *Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. ... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."* (Exodus 14:13-14)

_____ *The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?* (Psalm 118:6)

_____ *When I saw him {Jesus}, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."* (Revelation 1:17-18)

_____ *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* (Isaiah 41:10)

- A. Why should I fear when the battle is the Lord's?
- B. Because Jesus rose from the dead, there is nothing to fear!
- C. Although there are times I will be fearful, my faith in God will get me through.
- D. With God on my side, there is no reason to fear the anger or schemes of man.
- E. I will not be afraid for my Lord is with me and will never depart.
- F. With God's presence and power, there is no need to fear.
- G. Although terrible things will happen, I won't be afraid because God will protect me.

See answers on page 14.

Day Two ~ **DIGGING DEEPER: Fear Not**

PRAY that God will speak to your heart... **READ** Isaiah 43:1-3... **RECORD** your thoughts and insights.

Answer the following questions about the passage:

1. How does beginning with the truth that God created and formed us (vv.1-2), help us not to fear?

2. What do the waters, rivers and fire in this passage represent in our lives?

3. What specific things does God say He will do in these verses that will allow us not to be fearful? How can these help turn your fear to faith?

These words were written by the prophet Isaiah to the nation of Israel, but the principles apply to us as well. We are God's. We belong to Him. He created us and knows exactly how much we can handle. He knit us together in our mother's womb (Ps. 139:13). He is the One Who spoke the world into being. He is in control and is able to carry us through whatever comes our way. *We are* going to go through difficult times. *We will* face frightening things. But we don't need to be afraid. Fear paralyzes. It keeps us from thinking clearly, acting rationally, and doing what needs to be done. This passage promises God's continual presence, that He won't allow our trials to overtake us, and that He will not let the things we fear destroy us if we trust Him. What more could we possibly need? The next time dread or terror begins to rise in your heart, turn to Isaiah 43. Claim the promises and watch your fear fade away.

Day Three ~ **AN OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE**
A Frightened Twin

BACKGROUND: *Abraham was the father of the Jewish nation. He had a son named Isaac who had twin sons: Esau and Jacob. Although Esau was firstborn, God told their mother, Rebekah, when she was pregnant that the older would serve the younger (Gen. 25:23). Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah favored Jacob. Instead of allowing God to fulfill His plans in His time, Rebekah conspired with Jacob to trick Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing of the first born (Gen. 27:1-29). When Esau discovered what happened, he was enraged and wanted to kill his brother. Rebekah sent Jacob away to her family. He was there for twenty years. When the Lord told Jacob to go back home, he was afraid of how his brother Esau would react.*

READ: Genesis 32:3-21 and 33:1-4

THINKING IT THROUGH:

- Jacob sent word to Esau that he was heading home. He was told Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men. In light of their history, were *great fear and distress* (v.7) reasonable responses? How might this look in your life?

- What did Jacob do in response to his fear (v.9)? He prayed. Take another look at his prayer (vv.9-12) and record some things you can take from it and add to your petitions before the Lord.

- In addition to praying, Jacob also had a plan. He then faced his brother (meaning, he faced his fear). How can the way Jacob handled the terror he felt help you deal with the things that cause you to be fearful?

- What are some other ways God spoke to your heart through this account of Jacob facing and conquering his fear?