



The Cowardly Lion

Most of us remember well the character of the Cowardly Lion from the film, "The Wizard of Oz".

At first glance, the lion, played by actor Bert Lahr in the timeless 1939 film, comes across as a mean and bullying "King of the Beasts" yet deep down inside – we later learn that this "King of the Beasts" is hiding a deep rooted fear of inadequacy caused by the conflict of his image of what a lion should be juxtaposed against his self image which is one of fearfulness and timidity. So, in search of "courage," he and the entire entourage set off to see the wizard.

How often have we too listened to the father of lies and accepted his odious comparison of *who we should be vs. who we see ourselves to be*? And how often have we found ourselves fearful to move forward in faith based on that condemning self image?

Stop Listening to the Father of Lies

In 2 Timothy 1:7 God's word tells us,

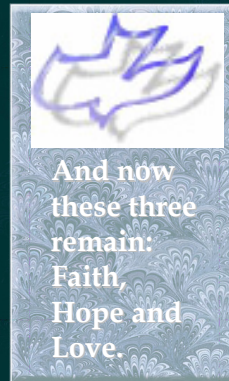
*"The fear of man brings a snare
But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe."*

- Proverbs 29:25

Faith, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Hope, For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. Psalm 71:5

Love, And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13



"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

When the cowardly lion finally meets the wizard he learns that he has been courageous all along – he just needed to hear it from someone he looked up to and trusted.

Let me encourage you today to stop listening to the father of lies and begin believing your Heavenly Father – the voice of truth. He is with you and He has already given you a spirit of *power and of love* so you can overcome any and all circumstances you are facing – no matter how daunting they may seem.

**Trust in God and the Word
He has given each of us.**