



The Emperor Has No Clothes!

“You both precede and follow me and place your hand of blessing on my head. This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe!”
King David | Psalm 139:5-6 (NLT)

Conceived in my youth, my fear of financial risk grew to become a Big Hairy Monster. Knowing just the right buttons to push, it quashed dream after dream in the bud. It dominated until I courageously confronted it head on. It had to be slayed... it was thwarting the advancement my Mission and suppressing my testimony.

You don't know how wimpy your Fear Monster is until you face it. When you confront it by resolutely focusing on your Mission, your adrenaline rises and everything else fades away. Once beyond, you realize “The Emperor has No Clothes!”

Reflect: What Fear Monster must I confront to advance my Mission?

Frankly, the thought of going go head-to-head with our Fear Monsters scares us to death. Though we know confronting them is essential, delay prevails. Attempting to garner courage, we talk of overcoming

them. Ironically as our thoughts dwell on them, we give our Fear Monsters credibility. In a twisted way, we even “make friends” with them. Think of those who have become comfortable with financial debt even though it ruthlessly steals their freedom. Crazy!

*Consider: **My Fear Monster is hungry.***

Fear is fueled by attention and is masterful at making itself your primary focus. Your enemy fans the flames and it grows bigger, and BIGGER and BIGGER! How could you ever face it then? It’s enormous – a Big Hairy Monster!

Here’s where it gets interesting. There’s magic in the principle “What You Focus on Increases.” It can either work against you or for you. What would happen if you focused on something else? What? ...Be careful!

Think of a dieter who determines, “I can’t eat chocolate.” Trying with all her might, she toils. The more she thinks about what she can’t do, the more she thinks about what she’s missing, only to crave it. She caves. Having created a negative focus on the same thing, she unknowingly fueled her monster.

*Imagine: **A one-two “Fear Monster knockout” punch.***

Ponder King David’s words... “You mean you are going ahead of me to arrange things? And you follow behind me and clean up the mess I made? This really is too good for me to know!” Think of the command God gave Joshua as he readied him for his Mission:

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” The

Lord (Joshua 1:9)

The Lord says loud and clear, "I am with you!" The focus of your first punch. Comforting, but to a skeptic, enough?

Your second punch yields victory. A resolute focus on your Mission and why advancing it is vital to God, will expose your Fear Monster. Your assignment was inspired by the supreme power of the universe, what can stand against him? Consider, "What else would I do? Do I want to hear 'Well done good and faithful servant' when that time comes?" God celebrates when his servants emulate his love and act for his kingdom.

Your life is too vital to sit in a self-inflicted prison, held hostage by a powerless Fear Monster. No match for this one-two punch, you'll realize...

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Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- How have I inadvertently been fueling my Fear Monster?
- Which of God's promises can I focus on that directly contradict the lies my Fear Monster spins?
- What can I do to increase focus on my Mission and the reason why completing it is vital to God?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Starve My Fear Monster.

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"

The Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)



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