

## Getting Out Of The Fog

By Mary McCave

I would like to begin with a true story about a woman named Florence Chadwick. In July 1952, on a foggy morning, Florence waded into the chilly waters off Catalina Island. Her goal was to swim the channel to the California coast. The water was numbing cold that day. The fog was so thick she could barely see the boats that were accompanying her. Several times, a rifle was fired to scare away sharks that approached her.

She swam more than fifteen hours before she asked to be taken out of the water. Her trainer tried to encourage her to swim on since they were so close to land. Florence wasn't a stranger to long-distance swimming. She was the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions. But that day, she was discouraged. When she looked, all she saw was fog. Florence gave up only one-half mile from the shore. Later, she said, "I'm not excusing myself, but if I could have seen the land, I might have made it."

You see, it wasn't the cold water or exhaustion she felt and not even fear of the sharks that caused Florence to fail that day. It was the fog! The fog was so thick she just couldn't see what was in front of her, the land! Two months later, Florence Chadwick swam the Catalina Channel and set a new speed record.

Unlike Florence, we are not in a physical fog, but we surely get at times in a spiritual fog, and that fog is as real as a physical fog in our minds. It stops us from seeing what is in front of us each day, and it also prevents us from seeing what is in front of us in the future. Our minds get cloudy, and our understanding gets muddled. When our minds are in a fog, we can't rightly discern the situation around us, and we just go through life on auto-pilot and stay immobilized.

How this happens is that we get overwhelmed with life, situations that we are facing, evil that's in the world, perhaps sad times, sickness, financial instability, and so on. We focus on these things and lose focus on the one thing that can help us, which is God's Word: His promises, His help, His mercy, His compassion, His future for us, and the blessings and abundance for our lives. It stops us from seeing clearly.

A great example of this is in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Luke 15:11-20. And He said, "A man had two sons, and the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me." So, he divided his wealth between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now, when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying with hunger! I will get up and go to my father and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." So he got up and came to his father, But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

The son finally came to his senses, got the fog out of his mind, and was able to see clearly the situation he was in. Then, finally acted and went home to his father for help. What a great record. What a great response from his father.

Just as a physical fog obscures our ability to see clearly, a spiritual fog clouds our understanding, leads us to confusion, and hinders our ability to act and think clearly. We need to clear the fog and see what is before us! We have an unbelievable gift! We have God Almighty's Word readily available to us all! We have His promises, blessings, help and mercy, compassion, forgiveness and strength, His never-failing love and assurance that our Father in Heaven will never abandon us nor forget us.

Our Father so loved us that He gave His only begotten son, our Savior Jesus, for our lives. He pulled us out of the darkness and into the light. He gave us a future that is waiting for us. The future Kingdom, to be with our Father, our Savior, and all those who love Him – Eternity!

Psalms 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Proverbs 3:5,6. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Psalms 119:18. Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

Matthew 7:7,8. Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

John 8:12. Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness but will have the Light of life."

Seek God's Word for a clear vision and this Word of God will truly enlighten us. When we put this Word of God in our minds, the fog doesn't take hold and allows us to see clearly the way we should go.

I John 2:25. This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

Ephesians 2:4-8. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loves us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace, you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

We have a tremendous gift of salvation. God so loves us and is rich in loving kindness to us! Salvation is a promise that we have by our faith in His Word.

Titus 1:1,2. Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to Godliness, In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.

II Corinthians 1:20. For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

WOW! God cannot lie, nor can He take away His promises. They are always yes to us. How much more reassurance do we need? God does not lie! His Word is true! The promises are ours! What abundance in our lives!

Isaiah 49:14-16. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child And have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My Hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

Jeremiah 23:23,24. "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

God is a Father who is near, never far from us. We can't hide from Him, nor does He hide from us.

Matthew 6:31-33. Do not worry then, saying, What will we eat? Or What will we drink? Or What will we wear for clothing? For then Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things, But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Our Father always has us before Him. He knows everything you need each and every day and what is going on with you. He understands our needs, and promises He will never forsake us nor forget us. What an awesome and comforting promise. It is such a blessing to us every single day. We are never alone to fend for ourselves.

Proverbs 4:25,26. Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you, Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established.

The Bible is filled with promises of God's vision and care for our lives now and also in the future. There will come a day that we, like all those who have come before us, fall asleep, and we will have the hope of salvation. And, as we wait, we have His abundance of help and mercy in our lives to help us not be in the "fog."

1. Pray – seek help from our Father. He will help you to see clearly.
2. Expect – God's help in our lives.
3. Search – the Scriptures and commit the Word of God in your heart.
4. Trust – God with your whole heart. Don't go halfway. Either you trust or you don't.
5. Act – Get going and walk in the light of His Word.

Ephesians 5:8. For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face."

The instruction of the Word of God removes the fog from our minds and allows us to see clearly the light of God's Word and the path that we should go.

Are you in the fog or walking in the light of God's Word?