



Ruby Bridges – “No Fear Zone”

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Day 14
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Scriptures for Mediation

Read Psalms 27:1,3

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ... Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.”

Critical Race Facts!

Racial terror lynching was a tool used to enforce Jim Crow laws and racial segregation – a tactic for maintaining racial control by victimizing the entire African American community, not merely punishment of an alleged perpetrator for a crime. Our research confirms that many victims of terror lynching’s were murdered without being accused of any crime; they were killed for minor social transgressions or for demanding basic rights and fair treatment.

Today’s Prayer:

Lord, thank You for taking from us that spirit of fear. Help us to face our daily existence with confidence, soundness of mind and Your supreme love. In Jesus Name, amen.

Ruby Bridges is known as the first African American student to integrate an all-white elementary school in the south. The decision to enroll Ruby Bridges in an all-white school was a hard decision for her parents to make. While Ruby’s father feared for his daughter’s life, the mother wanted their daughter to have an opportunity to receive a quality education that they did not have. So, the parents made the decision to enroll her in an all-white school. In November 1960,

Ruby Bridges entered Frantz Elementary School. This was a fearful time for Ruby Bridges and her parents. Federal Marshalls had to escort Ruby Bridges to school every day. She routinely experienced crowds screaming racial slurs. Ruby later stated that she was “undeterred but became frightened when she saw a woman holding a black doll in a coffin. Despite the tremendous fear she felt as a young child; she had the courage to keep going.

Sometimes when we’re trying to accomplish our goals, we are confronted with negativity from naysayers telling us that our goals are impossible. They say things such as, “You should have gone to college when you were younger.” “You’re too old and it’s going to take you forever to finish.” After listening to naysayers, you hear all of these voices in your head, and you become afraid and want to give up. Matthew 19:26 states that “with man [things] are impossible, but with God all things are possible.” It is necessary for you to understand that God did not give us a spirit of fear. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” God has equipped us with the power to do his will, to face obstacles and to overcome disappointments. God’s love is selfless and endures; through the Holy Spirit God has given us wisdom. As a child, Ruby Bridges pressed through her fear keeping focused on her calling. Let us do the same.

Questions to Ponder

Name a time when you had to stand alone. How did you manage it? Who were your unseen supporters? How are you an unseen supporter for others?

