

Sights & Sounds: Living in the Joy of the Lord Jesus: “Soldier” by Gavin Degraw

Did you ever notice a really little kid, like a toddler, playing in the park. They're so confident & fearless. They know that their parents are within a few feet, and to them, their parents are like 20 feet tall giants. They have to worries, and they have so much joy, do much fun. They're not worried about what they look like, what people think about them, what people say about them. They are secure in the love & protection of their seemingly giant parents.

Does anybody remember that? No, we can't remember when we were 1-1/2 yrs old. See, when we get older, everything seems to change. We start to become aware of our surroundings, of consequences, of words & others opinions, of dangers. We begin to lose that innocent joy that we experienced as little kids in the protection of our parents. The things people say take on a whole new level of importance. We begin to worry about things, we start to become fearful. We start to imagine the worst.

Growing up is something that just happens. We can't help growing up, we can't stop our brains from developing; we can't not notice the things around us. But do we have to accept the fears that seem to naturally come with getting older? Do we have to lose that innocent joy that we had as little kids? Does it have to be that way?

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to children such as these.” (**Mk 10:16**) He was basically telling us that we need to trust in Him totally just like a little toddler totally trusts in his or her parents. Jesus is saying we need to have that innocence and faith too. God's Word also says t, “For God did not give you a spirit of fear & timidity, but one of power, love & self-discipline.” (**2Tim 1:7**). That worry, that fear that you experience as an older kid didn't come from God. So where did it come from... It came from our great enemy, Satan. It came from the godless world.

Here's a big problem: we give the power to the wrong person. We give it to Satan, we give it to society, we give it to our so-called friends, to the crowd, to the haters, to the bullies. We basically tell all these groups: “It's ok, you can steal my joy, you can make me worried, you can make me afraid. You can control me...”

So, let's get honest here tonight. Do you want to live in that fear, insecurity and awful state of mind? Do you want to be controlled by these forces that are stealing your joy & making you afraid? Or do you want to recapture the joy that you had as a little toddler? I'm here to tell you that it is possible because of the power of God Almighty, the Maker of heaven & Earth!. No force on Earth can match the power & strength of God. And I'm here to let you know that it is possible to overcome fear & replace it with God's joy because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, dying for our sins & raising again from the dead, defeating sin & death itself! No one has ever done what Jesus did for you! So put your trust in Him, just as toddlers trust their parents. **Neh 8:10** *The joy of the Lord is my strength!* **Ps 34:7** (**NIRV**) *The angel of the Lord stands guard around those who have respect for Him. And He saves them.* (see **Ps 91:14-16**).

God is our mighty defender and Jesus proved His mighty power on the cross & when He rose again. I think the song “Soldier” really tells the truth about fear & God's power & joy so beautifully. *I'll get it if you need it. I'll search if you don't see it. You're thirsty, I'll be rain. You get hurt, I'll take your pain. I know you don't believe it, but I said it and I still mean it. When you heard what I told you. When you get worried I'll be your soldier. My aim is so true. I wanna show you. I'll try forever. I'm never gonna say "Surrender".*

Believe me, God is with you always (**Heb 13:5**). Trust in God & in Jesus to be your soldier, just like a toddler trusts in his/her parents (**Jn 14:1**). The more you trust in Jesus, the more He'll prove Himself to you. The more you trust God, the more your fears will fade. And your joy will grow, no matter the circumstance. God is more real than you can imagine, more real than the fears the enemy puts on you. So trusting in God to be your soldier isn't naive or foolish, it's liberating, it's freeing! So tonight, trust in Him who loved you so much He died & rose again **for you!** Trust in the mightiest soldier ever; trust in Jesus Christ!

Bible Verses

2Tim 1:7 (**NLV**) For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and of a good mind.

Ps 34:7 (**NIRV**) The angel of the Lord stands guard around those who have respect for Him. And He saves them.

Ps 46:1 (**NCV**) God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in times of trouble.

Ps 91:14-16 The Lord says, “If you love Me and truly know who I am, I will rescue you and keep you safe. When you are in trouble, call out to Me. I will answer and be there to protect and honor you. You will live a long life and see My saving power.”

2Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

Heb 13:5b ...for God has said, “I will never leave you, I will never abandon you.”

Neh 8:10b ...the joy of the Lord will make you strong

Jn 14:1 Jesus said, “Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in Me.”

Discussion Questions

1. Dan talked about the fearless joy of toddlers tonight. What are some of your earliest joyful memories?
 2. At some point, children develop worries & fears. What are some childhood fears that you had? Do you still have them?
 - 3a. Fears & worries aren't just the stuff of children. Do you have worries or fears now in your life? What are they?
 - 3b. Read **2Tim 1:7**. Take a look at your worries & fears. Honestly, where did they come from & where could they lead?
 4. Read **Ps 34:7**, **Ps 46:1**, **Ps 91: 14-16** & **2Thes 3:3**. What do these verses say about us & God? How can God truly help you overcome with fear & worry?
 5. The song “Soldier” truly describes us & Jesus. Let's look at the lyrics & discuss what they say about fear & how Jesus can help.
 6. Read **Heb 13:5** & **Neh 8:10**. Has God ever taken away worries & fears & replace them with His joy? Tell us about it.
 7. Read **Jn 14:1**. Do you want to be controlled by worries & fear or would you like to recapture the fearless joy you had as a toddler?
- Jesus wants to give you His eternal joy. Do you want to put your trust in Jesus, the only one who died & rose from the dead for you?

CLOSING PRAYER: Dear God, we trust in You & in your promises. Jesus, we trust in You & in your death & resurrection for us. Protect us & drive away the fears that hold us back. Restore in us the joy that we had as little toddlers. Thank you God, Amen.

---- Lyrics of “Soldier” on reverse side of this page ----

“Soldier” by Gavin Degraw

Where did all the people go?
They got scared when the lights went low.
I'll get you through it nice and slow,
When the world's spinning out of control.

Afraid of what they might lose
Might get scraped or they might get bruised.
You could beg them, what's the use?
That's why it's called a moment of truth.

I'll get it if you need it.
I'll search if you don't see it.
You're thirsty, I'll be rain.
You get hurt, I'll take your pain.

I know you don't believe it,
But I said it and I still mean it.
When you heard what I told you.
When you get worried I'll be your soldier.

Funny when times get hard,
At the last moment when you're supposed to charge,
Always on the longest yard,
Oh, they feel their feet getting cold.

Hiding here, hiding there.
Find them underneath the stairs.
People hiding everywhere
Trying to be still like a stone.

But I'll get it if you need it.
I'll search if you can't see it.
You're thirsty, I'll be rain.
You get hurt, I'll take your pain.

I know you don't believe it,
But I said it and I still mean it.
When you heard what I told you,
When you get worried I'll be your soldier.

My aim is so true.
I wanna show you.
I'll try forever.
I'm never gonna say "Surrender".

I'll get it if you need it.
I'll search if you can't see it.
You're thirsty, I'll be rain.
You get hurt, I'll take your pain.

I know you don't believe it,
But I said it and I still mean it.
When you heard what I told you,
When you get worried I'll be your soldier.

I'll be your soldier.
Well, I'll be—oh, I'll be your soldier
I'll be your soldier.