

No Fear In Love

by Becky Stayton

Chapter One

Kelsey and Angie walked in the door of Kelsey's house, chatting and laughing. Their laughter died as soon as they walked in. They could sense something in the house. A heaviness was in the air. Something was not good. Then Kelsey heard the raised voices coming from the kitchen.

Her mom was saying, "But what if you get hurt?"

Her dad shouted, "I haven't gotten hurt on the job yet, have I? It's my job to help people! Do you want me to have work or not?"

Not again! Kelsey thought. But out loud she whispered to her friend, "They're just arguing because my mom is afraid my dad will get hurt fighting a fire, or something. It's fine. It happens all of the time."

Then they heard her mom wailing, "But I love you so much, I'm afraid for you."

Her dad said, "Well, it certainly doesn't feel like love! Whatever it is, I don't like it!"

Kelsey pushed Angie along the hall to her room and quietly shut the door. Then they turned on some music to try to drown out the voices.

Kelsey tried to act like nothing was the matter. She tried to have a good time hanging out with Angie, but to be honest, she was worried. Her parents were always arguing about her dad's job, or money or something. She was afraid for her parents. She was afraid for the future.

After a while, it was time for Angie to head home.

"Hey Kelsey," Angie said. "I could ask my mom if you could come over for dinner. I'm pretty sure she'd say yes. What do you think?"

Kelsey tried not to sound as happy as she felt. Kelsey hated being at home when her mother was upset. "Yeah, that would be great, if it's okay with your parents."

After getting permission from Angie's mom, Kelsey went down the hall to ask her parents if she could go. Her dad had gone to work and her mom was unloading the dishwasher with a scowl on her face.

"Hi Mom," said Kelsey as cheerfully as she could. "Do you mind if I go eat dinner at Angie's house tonight? I don't have any homework and I will do my chores when I get back."

Kelsey's mom barely looked up and said, "Yes, I mind. You need to stay home."

"But why, Mom? I'll be back soon, I promise."

"Because I said so, that's why!" her mom said. Then her mom softened and said, "You know I don't like to be home by myself, Kelsey. I need you to stay here — with me."

Kelsey understood. She didn't like it, but she understood. It was another one of her mother's fears. Her mom didn't like being alone. But she didn't like big groups either. It seemed like she was always afraid about something.

Discussion

Chapter Two

After Angie left, Kelsey went back to her room. Butterball, her cat, had made himself comfortable on top of her bed. As she walked over to pet the cat, her toe bumped something hard. Kelsey reached under the bed and pulled out a book. It was her daily devotional.

“Huh, I wondered where that went,” Kelsey said under her breath. She opened it up to the day’s page. At the top, it said, “Be Not Afraid.”

Well, this is interesting, she thought.

She sat down on the edge of the bed next to Butterball and read:

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear. I John 4:18

The Bible says Do not fear so many times that some people say there is at least one verse for every day of the year. It’s that important.

Wow, I need to show this to my mom, thought Kelsey. She kept reading.

When we fear, we block the blessings of God. Not only that, but fear grows stronger when we let stay.

“Yep, I know that’s right,” Kelsey said to Butterball. Butterball looked up at her and yawned.

When Peter was walking on the water, he looked down at his feet and became afraid. That was when He began to sink. The key is to keep our eyes and hearts on Jesus.

When the apostle Paul and Silas were locked in jail, you would think that they would be sad and fearful. But do you know what they did? They sang praise songs to God, and the jail walls crumbled!

So, whenever you feel afraid, focus on Jesus by praising Him or sing praises to Him and watch your fears get smaller and smaller.

After the devotion, there was a whole list of scriptures that she could look up about not having fear and focusing on God.

Kelsey was so excited about finding this devotion, that she looked up to Heaven and said, "Thank you, God! My parents need to hear this!"

Just then, a thought popped into her head. She had some of her own fears to deal with. She decided to do an experiment before talking to her mom. She knew she needed some help so she texted her friend Angie. They made a plan to meet after school and figure out what to do.

At first they just talked. The next time they prayed about it. After a couple of times praying together, Angie said, "I have an idea. What if we looked up those scriptures at the end of the devotion?"

When they did, they were excited by what the Scriptures said. Angie said, "Listen to this one: **Fear not: for I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.**"

"Awesome!" exclaimed Kelsey. "Here's a good one: **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?**"

Angie said, "Wow, that's a great one, too! I wish I could remember these all of the time!"

Kelsey agreed, "Yeah, I am not great at memorizing. But what if we put them on cards or posters to hang up in our rooms so we can see them all of the time? Maybe we could remember them then!"

Angie agreed, “I like that idea! We could even decorate them! Let’s get out your markers and get to work.”

Kelsey and Angie got busy making cards and posters. They made so many that they ran out of room on Kelsey’s bedroom walls so they hung them in the hall, the living room and even the bathroom. They also made some for Angie to take home. Then, they made cards to take with them in their pockets and their backpacks. If they ever had fearful thoughts, they were going to take the cards out to remind themselves to keep praising God and focusing on Him.

After a few weeks, Kelsey noticed a change in herself. She realized she was not fearful anymore. Or at least, not as often. In fact, she couldn’t remember her parents arguing lately. She said a silent prayer of thanksgiving as she walked down to the kitchen. There was her mom, singing along to a song on KLOVE and smiling.

Well, this is new, she thought. She also noticed a few extra cards of scripture hanging in the kitchen that she knew she hadn’t put there.

Her mom smiled up at her and said, “Are you going over to Angie’s today? Here’s some cookies to take with you. Come back around dinner time!”

Kelsey looked around to see if she was in the right house. Then she pinched herself to see if she was dreaming. Ouch! Yep. She was awake. She didn’t know how it had happened, but she was pretty sure God had been at work in her house. And she was pretty sure fear was on its way out of the door.

Discussion

Activity